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Stained Glass window depicting Joseph, Mary and Jesus during the flight to Egypt, located in the Cathedral of St. Rumbold in Mechelen, Belgium. IMAGE Jorisvo (iStock 622439754)

THE ESCAPE to Egypt

*“Now after they had left,
an angel of the Lord appeared
to Joseph in a dream and said,
‘Get up, take the child and his mother,
and flee to Egypt, and remain there
until I tell you; for Herod
is about to search for the child,
to destroy him.’”*

• Matthew 2:13

Diocesan Council • Synod Resolutions Follow-Up & New Westminster Property Development

RANDY MURRAY (PREPARED WITH FILES FROM DOUGLAS FENTON)
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On Wednesday, October 30, Diocesan Council gathered in the Trendell Lounge at the Synod Office for what would be the last scheduled meeting of the year. Council members met at 6pm for dinner, followed by a 6:30pm meeting start. Caterer, Bette Geddes, ODNW had prepared a scrumptious spread of Slavic-themed food: Cabbage Roll Casserole and Perogies with salad.

As is often the case there was a full agenda that was subsequently augmented by more items prior to approval.

Among the tasks to be completed at the October 30 meeting were motions dealing with changes to diocesan regulations; the results of the ongoing work of the Working Group on Constitution, Canons and Regulations. The changes in the regulations are primarily around wording and their current relevance given the changes in diocesan polity and structure in recent years. The Motion agreeing to these revisions was Carried.

Also discussed were the Motions regarding new Terms of Reference for the two Standing Committees of Council: Management, Finance and Property (MFP); and Mission and Ministry Development (MMD). Although the new Terms of Reference were passed by Council, MMD's request to change their name to simply "Mission and Ministry" will need to wait for the next diocesan Synod.

There was also a presentation by a group advocating for direct diocesan funding for Hospital Chaplaincy, specifically the chaplaincy at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) and the ministry of current chaplain, the Rev. Bryan Rivers. Rev. Rivers was supported by the Reverends Liz Hamel and

John Stephens and Archdeacon Stephanie Shepard. Rev. Rivers gave a compelling address and circulated copies of a brochure that he distributes in order to raise awareness about Anglican Chaplaincy at VGH. Council suggested that the group take their funding requests to the Anglican Initiatives Fund (AIF) for the next funding cycle as that would supply funds for a minimum of two years; a more definite option in terms of continued funding for the ministry than as an annual line item in the diocesan budget. The Motion drafted by the chancellor, George Cadman, QC, ODNW to forward the request to AIF was Carried.

The two major agenda items involved Diocesan Synod 2019 Resolutions and the proposed sale of property at Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster.

RESOLUTIONS

There are three resolutions from Diocesan Synod held May 24 and 25, 2019, that were referred to Diocesan Council for action and two for further debate:

Resolution 5

A request to Diocesan Council to direct funds from property sales, "in a gesture of reconciliation," to projects, places and Indigenous communities. Diocesan Council appointed an Advisory Group: Diocesan Treasurer, Bob Hardy, ODNW; Missioner for Indigenous Justice Ministry, Jerry Adams, Tegan Smith, Susanne Stockdill, ODNW, and Archdeacon of Fraser, the Ven. Louie Engnan. Following discussions, it was agreed that this group should have permission to co-opt two others if needed. The Advisory Group's initial report will likely be received by Council in January 2020.

Resolution 8 • Climate Change

Council referred the Resolution to the Mission and Ministry Development Committee, to provide guidance to Council and report back at the March 2020 meeting. Prior to the Motion being Carried, and in the process of referring Resolution 8 to MMD, the Rev. Tellison Glover, Director for Mission and Ministry affirmed that MMD is in the process of establishing a working group to move forward with strategies to address the climate crisis within the context of diocesan ministry.

Resolution 9 • Insurance coverage for non-stipendiary clergy

This available insurance coverage has been reported out with a document on the diocesan website and to the Deacons' Day that took place October 26, 2019.

Resolution 11 • Develop and enact a policy on gender equality with a goal of having gender diversity better reflected in the leadership in our diocese

Diocesan Council appointed a Working Group to develop a document to aid further discussion at the January 2020 meeting of Council. Members are: Lily Groves, the Reverends Eileen Nurse (Rev. Nurse was the Mover of the original Synod Motion) and Robin Ruder-Celiz, and Granville Archdeaconry lay rep, Sharon Grove.

Resolution 12 • identify ways of sharing the L'Arche Model of intentional community

This resolution was tabled until the January 2020 meeting.

More information about the progress of Resolutions 5, 8, 11 and 12 will be communicated through the diocesan

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Diocesan Council • Synod Resolutions Follow-Up & New Westminster Property Development

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

communications vehicles (website, electronic newsletters, future issues of *Topic*) as it becomes available.

The 2019 Synod Resolutions List is available on the diocesan website at www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/synods.

HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL SALE OF PROPERTY

For the past 12 years, the leadership of Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster have been pursuing a development deal in order to obtain the financial resources to restore and seismically upgrade the Cathedral building, and continue the mission and ministry of the parish with congregational growth and development part of those ministry goals. There have been a number of attempts but the current negotiations with Conwest Development have been encouraging and the process is moving forward.

In summary, Conwest will build on a section of the HTC property footprint a 30 story tower that will consist of affordable housing, market housing (rental and ownership) and a new parish hall and offices. Property transactions and development are the purview of Council and the purpose of the Motion moved at the October 30 meeting was to request that Council delegate the authority to act on the property sale agreement to the Property Sales Committee which consists of the archbishop, the executive archdeacon, the treasurer and one of the legal officers.

Prior to the discussion on the motion, the chancellor, George Cadman excused himself and left the room because his law firm represents Conwest Developments. Chancellor Cadman does not actually work directly with Conwest. The other piece regarding legal representation on the Property Sales Committee is that diocesan registrar, Donald Paul, ODNW represents the Parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral in the ongoing negotiations with Conwest. Diocesan legal advisor, Jennifer Dezell, ODNW will likely consult on the project.

Vicar of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Archdeacon Richard Leggett in support of the Motion told Council that New Westminster City Council and other agencies that require input into the project do not meet around the schedule of Diocesan Council and often decisions need to be made from the diocesan perspective within a narrow window of time. Delegating this authority to the Committee would really help with the process.

The Motion was Carried.

For more information about the Holy Trinity Cathedral project please refer to Archdeacon Leggett's article on page 10 in the November 2019 issue of *Topic*.

The next scheduled meeting of Diocesan Council is January 15, 2020. For more information about the October 30, 2019 meeting please visit this section of the diocesan website at www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-council/meetings-minutes.



Archdeacon Leggett presents to Council information about the progress of the Working Group on Constitution, Canons and Regulations.



Two of the legal officers, Chancellor, George Cadman, QC, ODNW and Registrar, Donald Paul, ODNW.



The Reverends Eileen Nurse and James Duckett during Evening Prayer, prior to the meeting.



LEFT Archdeacon Leggett updates Council on the Holy Trinity Cathedral development project. RIGHT The Rev. Bryan Rivers displays the brochure, on his right (our left), is the Rev. John Stephens and the Ven. Stephanie Shepard. Behind we see Interim Chief Financial Officer of the diocese, Shailene Caparas.

Deadline for *Topic* Submissions

Due to the 50th Anniversary of *Topic* issue in February, the next submissions to *Topic* will be accepted for the March 2020 issue; the deadline is January 17, 2020

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



Published ten months a year as a section of the *Anglican Journal* by the Archbishop and Synod of the diocese of New Westminster.

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Designer Jennifer Ewing, BDes

Issue This is the 1st issue in the 51st year of publication

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Subscriptions Go online to www.anglicanjournal.com/newsubs to subscribe to the *Anglican Journal* & *Topic*.

Address changes in writing to:
Topic c/o Anglican Journal,
80 Hayden Street, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 3G2
or visit www.anglicanjournal.com/subscribe.

Printed & Mailed By
Webnews Printing Inc., North York, Ontario

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A global community of 80 million Anglicans in 64,000 congregations in 165 countries.

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



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Thank you!

Thank you to care + share supporters

LAUREL DYKSTRA

Gathering Priest, Salal + Cedar Watershed Discipleship Ministry

Salal + Cedar equips Christians to respond to climate emergency—I hope you've heard of us, we're the church that meets outside. Our community was chosen to receive care+share funds in 2018 and 2019. As a new ministry project that serves the whole diocese rather than a single parish these funds have been a huge benefit to us.

We have a small but growing donor base and we aren't sponsored by a parish. In recent years ¼ to ½ of our revenue has come from non-diocesan grants. Virtually all of those are project-specific, so funds are intended for tasks or concrete purchases, like native plants or transporting kids to go to camp; they do not cover staff hours. It seems like some funders forget that you can't have quality programs without people.

care + share funds made sure that my hours were covered and that our education, conservation and climate justice activities had the supplies we needed. In 2018, our education events included: a film screening, a book launch, and two “Wild Church” experiences for kids; our conservation work focused on a habitat restoration project on Coleman Creek located on the property of St. Clement, North Vancouver; and our climate justice work included a 200 strong Faith Day of Action on Burnaby Mountain in support of Tsleil-Waututh members and Watch House Keepers in opposition to the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion projects. For people new to justice work, seeing our banner and a friendly face made public demonstrations seem like a place where they belonged. We attended more than 20 events in 2018, including a number of events initiated and led by Indigenous people.

In 2019, we decided to shift our focus a bit to a smaller number of higher impact events. These included a musical showcase and fundraiser for the Indigenous land defenders at Unisto'ten Camp and the Tiny House Warriors on Secwepemc territory. Our work party and project celebration on Coleman Creek included parishioners, Girl Guides, neighbours and Salal + Cedar members planting ferns and hanging bird houses. Over the course of the year we held a community-led retreat and workshop series exploring the relationship between our ecological values and what we do with money. In October 2019, we spent an intensive week hosting a group of students from Villanova University in an ecological justice learning experience.

Salal + Cedar was chosen for care+share because our work on ecological justice matched up with the diocesan strategic priority *Caring for God's Earth* and that is something I am really proud of. care+share is not a grant but a giving stream; it represents support that comes from all around the diocese and it is based on our common values.



We don't have to be geographically near a project to participate meaningfully in its ministry. Over the past number of years, I have seen care+share infuse life into a range of important projects like Street Outreach Ministry, Sycamore Commons Permaculture Garden and the Mobile Care Unit.

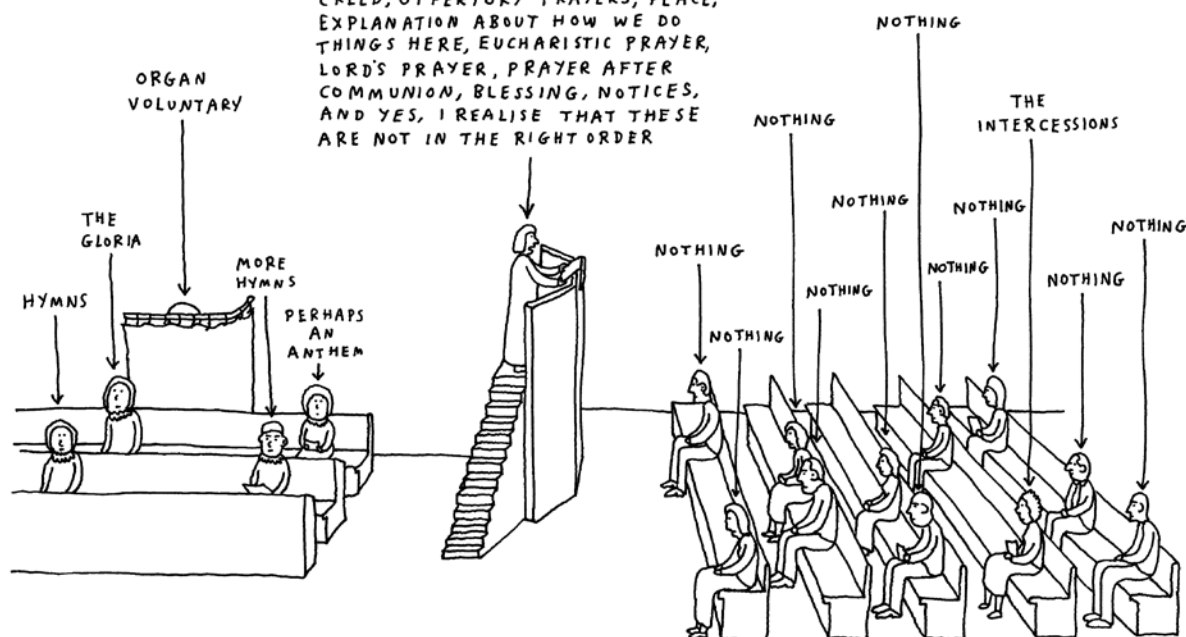
In 2017, when we applied to the care+share program one of the desired outcomes that we identified was “increased credibility with Indigenous groups.” At the close of 2019, we are pleased to work alongside the Wild Salmon Defenders and the Kwekwecnewtxw Watch House Keepers. We have made medicines with two Indigenous herbalists and have learned from leaders caring for their territories in Turtle Valley, Sutikahl and Nlaka'pamux. So, it makes us particularly happy to endorse both the care + share giving model but also the 2020/2021 recipients, Urban Aboriginal Ministry (UAM). I know that with support from around the diocese they will do amazing work for vulnerable Indigenous people in the city. ✠



WHO DOES WHAT?

HOW RESPONSIBILITIES FOR LEADING DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE SERVICE ARE DIVIDED UP

WELCOME, PRAYER OF PREPARATION,
PRAYER OF PENITENCE, REASSURANCES
TO PARENTS OF ROWDY CHILDREN,
COLLECT, GOSPEL READING, SERMON,
CREED, OFFERTORY PRAYERS, PEACE,
EXPLANATION ABOUT HOW WE DO
THINGS HERE, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER,
LORD'S PRAYER, PRAYER AFTER
COMMUNION, BLESSING, NOTICES,
AND YES, I REALISE THAT THESE
ARE NOT IN THE RIGHT ORDER



CartoonChurch.com



PHOTOS Laurel Dykstra



Michael Dirk as Count Dirkula is shocked to hear the opening four bars of Johann Sebastian Bach's *Toccata and Fugue in D Minor*, emanating from the Hallman organ with nobody present at the console. PHOTO Randy Murray



Is that a demon approaching the keyboards? PHOTO Randy Murray



Angelique Po. PHOTO Randy Murray

The 14th Annual Hallowe'en Organ Spooktacular

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Witches, warlocks, vampires, ghosts, demons and more populated the pews of St. John's, Shaughnessy (SJS) the evening of October 25, 2019 for the Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO) 14th Annual Vancouver Hallowe'en Concert.

The default venue for this event is the majestically cavernous St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church in downtown Vancouver, however that building is in the midst of a major renovation, therefore neither the nave for the audience or the organ for the artists was available for 2019.

Not a problem, as the 1968 Hallman Organ at St. John's, Shaughnessy has just undergone a major rejuvenation and update. The beautifully reconditioned and remodeled four manual console took centre stage in the choir section of the chancel surrounded by seasonal decorations: spiders, scary statues and of course a large jack o' lantern.

The 2019 event was organized by Michael Dirk, organist and director of music at SJS and Angelique Po, organist and director of music at Vancouver's Central Presbyterian Church. RCCO advisors for the event were Sam Balden and Rachel Alflatt and they were supported by: technical expert, Steve Miller; organ tuner and technician, Marianne Huestis; promotions point person and organist, Tama Genossar; the staff of SJS; a cadre of volunteers staffing the donation and program distribution stations; and of course, the volunteer performers.

The good-sized audience were treated to a great programme of well-known organ favourites: Johann Sebastian Bach's, *Toccata and Fugue in D Minor*, *BMW 565* and *Prelude and Fugue in E Minor, BWV 533*; Felix Mendelssohn's, *Prelude in C Minor, Op. 37 no. 1*; Edvard Grieg's



Organist, John Mitchell who closed the programme section of the recital is in character. PHOTO Randy Murray

iconic *Death of Ase* and *In the Hall of the Mountain King*, from *Peer Gynt*; H. Clough-Leigher's arrangement of Chopin's *Marche Funebre* from *Piano Sonata No. 2*; John Pals performed his arrangement of Stéphane Delplace's, *Prelude and Fugue on a Theme* by Henry Mancini; Hector Berlioz' *March to the Scaffold*, from *Symphonie Fantastique*; Josef Rheinberger's *Scherzoso*, from *Sonata No. 8*; Theodor Kullak's, *Witches Dance*; Léon Boëllmann's *Introduction—Choral and Toccata*, from *Suite Gothic*; and a stellar encore of organ and percussion interpretations of music from *Star Wars*.

The RCCO regularly stages an impressive line-up of local events. Visit their website at www.rcco.ca for more information. ✦



The Cast. PHOTO Courtesy of Michael Dirk

Happy 50th Birthday to Topic, February 15, 1970

In the 1950s and early 1960s, *The Anglican News* brought news and information of the diocese of New Westminster to thousands of Anglicans. Things changed, it ceased to be published, but soon, in early 1970, out of that void and at the request of the late Archbishop David Somerville there appeared a four-page printed communique delivered along with the eight pages of the Christ Church Cathedral newsletter *Contact...* and that was the birth of *Topic*.

In order to properly commemorate this historic diocesan event, the February 2020 issue of *Topic* will be dedicated to a celebration of our diocesan publication.

We will still accept your content submissions, but they will need to wait to be printed until the March issue. Deadline for the March 2020 issue of *Topic* is January 17, 2020.

Originally, we were hoping to create a "stand alone" publication, however, our planning began just prior to the communications leadership of the Anglican Church of Canada beginning their analysis of print media in the church and its future. There was a great deal of uncertainty about the outcome, and that would impact distribution and budget for a "special" 50th issue. To some degree "the dust has settled" and the national paper, *The Anglican Journal* with *Topic* will be published for the foreseeable future and delivered to those who have intentionally subscribed, parishes and diocesan offices. In fact, this January 2020 issue that you are reading right now is the first one to be circulated to only those folks who have intentionally subscribed.

We don't want to disclose too much information about what's in store for the special anniversary issue. Suffice it to

say that there will be offerings from former editors, photographers, editorial board members, clergy and more. ✦



Book Launch • Conversations With A Painting

CLIFF CAPRANI

All Saints' Ladner; Diocesan Communications Videographer/Reporter/Consultant

The list of authors who have had work published posthumously is extensive. From A all the way to X, according to *Wikipedia*: Douglas Adams to Malcolm X, to be specific. Under the Gs, you'll find Federico Garcia Lorca and William Golding. You can now add Donald E. Grayston's (well-known by many in the diocese of New Westminster as Rev. Dr. Don Grayston) name to that list.

On Saturday, October 26, a few days after the second anniversary of his death, a group of Don's family and friends gathered at St. Faith's Anglican Church in south Vancouver, to launch his memoir *Conversations With A Painting*. The framing device for the book is Don's ongoing relationship with a painting that he bought some 40 years before, while living in Trail, BC. Titled *The Holy Man*, it was painted by Canadian-Czech artist Velenka Fanderlik. In the book, Don recounts how, when he first set eyes on the painting, he immediately decided that he had to have it. No ifs, ands, or buts. And this before he was close enough to see the price tag. He got the painting for \$130. It has been a constant part of his life ever since.

Don appointed three people—David Chang, Doug Christie and Rev. Angus Stuart—to be his literary executors. (SCRIBE'S NOTE: they DO sound like a firm of literary agents, don't they? *Chang, Christie & Stuart*). It is their job to ensure that his work will be published.

Conversations With A Painting is their first project. There are two other titles in the works, I'm told.

About 60 people attended the launch. It began in the sanctuary, where a number of presenters read from the book and shared personal reflections about Don. His daughter Rebekah introduced each speaker. We heard from David Chang, who spoke of his deep affection for Don; Angus Stuart told us a little about the publishing process, and read from chapter 9, *Assisi & St. Francis*; Don's sister, Helen Williams read a reflection supplied by Doug Christie, who was unable to attend; Judith Hardcastle, a Merton scholar, read part of chapter 13 — *Envoi*; after which Vancouver comedian Charlie Demers shared stories about Don's long relationship with the Demers family. Singer Anna Baignoche provided occasional musical interludes and

concluded by leading us in a three-part round.

Rebekah wrapped up this part of the event by asking for reflections from anyone sitting in the pews. Two people offered comments.

We then left the sanctuary and gathered downstairs in the parish hall for food, fellowship and photos.

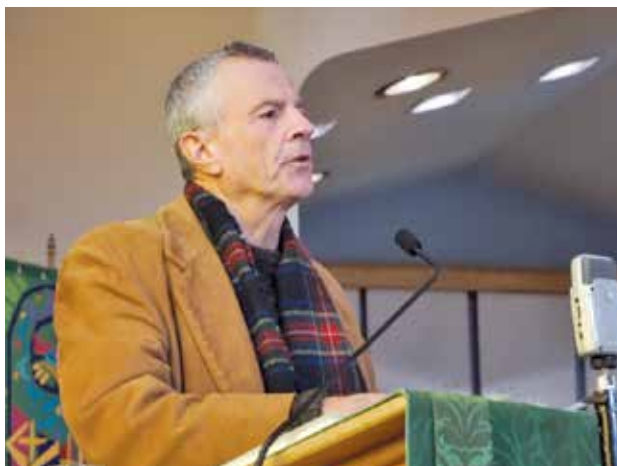
Don's book is available through Amazon and Chapters in both Kindle and paperback editions. ♦



Anna Baignoche singing, painting is on the left. PHOTO Cliff Caprani



Helen Williams holds the book. PHOTO Cliff Caprani



Rev. Angus Stuart reading. PHOTO Cliff Caprani



Charlie Demers and Lini Hutchings. PHOTO Cliff Caprani



Claudia Montpelier reading. PHOTO Cliff Caprani



Laura Tompkins and Megan Grayston. PHOTO Cliff Caprani



Pam Chang, Dave Chang, and Judith Hardcastle. PHOTO Cliff Caprani



Rebekah Grayston and Angus Stuart. PHOTO Cliff Caprani



Archdeacon Fenton leads the applause of welcome for the new rector of All Saints', Ladner, the Rev.Fr. Robin Ruder-Celiz. PHOTO Cliff Caprani

All Saints', Ladner Welcomes Father Robin

CLIFF CAPRANI

All Saints', Ladner; Diocesan Communications Videographer/Reporter/Consultant

Approximately 100 parishioners and well-wishers were at All Saints', Ladner on Thursday November 7 to celebrate the Eucharist and witness the induction of the Rev. Fr. Robin Ruder-Celiz as the new rector of the parish.

A number of attendees were delayed in traffic including the Regional Archdeacon, the Ven. Richard Leggett who was ultimately unable to attend. The preacher, Archdeacon Kevin Hunt arrived with 15 minutes to spare. The evening got off to a bit of a rocky start when the lectern microphone failed. It could not be repaired in time.

At 7pm, organist Rod Asher struck the opening chords of the Processional/Opening Hymn, *Blessed Feast of Blessed Martyr*, and the assembled clergy, choir and wardens processed into the sanctuary.

All Saints' parishioner, Dr. Richard Vedan delivered the territorial acknowledgment and welcome.

The Executive Archdeacon of the diocese of New Westminster, the Ven. Douglas Fenton officiated at the Induction and the Covenant in Ministry, Archdeacon Fenton also presided at the Eucharist. During Archbishop Melissa Skelton's November and December study leave, Archdeacon Fenton was Bishop's Commissary.

The readings were: *Jeremiah 1:4-9*, read by Carolyn Dodds; *Romans 12:1-18*, read by Brenda Straker; and Deacon, the Rev. Karin Fulcher proclaimed the Gospel, *John 15:9-16*.

The sermon preached by the Ven. Kevin Hunt, Rector of St. James' and Archdeacon of Burrard was brief but comprehensive. In less than ten minutes, Fr. Kevin combined elements from all three readings. He transposed Paul's epistle to the present day, suggesting that the letter could easily have been addressed to "God's beloved in Ladner, called to be saints." And while Archdeacon Hunt did not envision the congregation having to endure the travails that had befallen Jeremiah, he did caution that All Saints', Ladner might have its share of challenges in the years to come. He encouraged God's beloved in Ladner to abide in Jesus' love.

The liturgy continued with members of the parish presenting the Symbols of Ministry: Bible; prayer books; Canons of the diocese; keys to the buildings; Communion elements, bread and wine; water for baptism; and oils for healing and blessing. It was fitting that Fr. Robin's daughter Charlotte was one of the presenters.

At the conclusion of the Covenant in Ministry when Archdeacon Fenton presented the Rev. Ruder-Celiz to his new flock, there was sustained applause.

The Rev. Paul Woerhle, Rector of St. Cuthbert, Delta and Regional Dean of Richmond/Delta gave a short address, welcoming Fr. Robin to the Deanery. He quipped that Robin and the parish will be a good fit, given that they both have hyphenated names: Ruder-Celiz and All-Saints.

Peter Bayley led the prayers of the people, after which the Eucharist was celebrated. The service concluded with an

enthusiastic rendition of *Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah*. A reception followed in the parish hall: food and fellowship in the Anglican tradition. Your scribe noted that a number of

.....
If you are interested in seeing the Induction of the Rev. Robin Ruder-Celiz homily please view the podcast online at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2019-11-07-induction-of-the-reverend-robin-ruder-celiz>.



The Font is filled following the presentation of water by Tia during the Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry. PHOTO Cliff Caprani

About the Reverend Fr. Robin Ruder-Celiz

During the week of the Celebration of a New Ministry Eucharist, Topic sent Fr. Robin some interview questions to help our readers find out a little more about the new rector at All Saints', Ladner. Many thanks to Fr. Robin for taking the time to participate. • Editor

Q. Please tell us a little bit about your background, how you came to faith and your call to the priesthood?

A. My sense of call to ordained ministry happened when I was in high school in South Africa. I remember sitting in Religion class on a particularly hot afternoon. On the wall hung a picture of a priest vested in cassock and surplice with Bible in hand. He was striding from the bottom of the frame towards the top where an armed tank was coming towards him. At first I thought the priest had completely lost his mind, but that image sat with me for awhile until I realized that this was exactly what the priest was sup-



Rev. Ruder-Celiz reads the Oath during the Covenant in Ministry. PHOTO Cliff Caprani



Preacher, the Ven. Kevin Hunt although initially focusing on *Jeremiah 1:5* for his text, included elements of all three readings in his homily. PHOTO Cliff Caprani

former All Saints' clergy were in attendance including the Rev. Graham Witcher and recent interim priest-in-charge, the Rev. Liz Hamel. ✠



Fr. Robin's daughter, Charlotte presents the Oil of Chrism during the Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry. PHOTO Cliff Caprani

posed to be doing. The tank was of course representing the establishment, power and government. The priest was representing the oppressed, marginalized and powerless.

Q. Did you know much about All Saints', Ladner before applying for the position?

A. I first got to know more about All Saints' through the Parish Health Ministry. At the time we were looking to start a similar program at St. Martin's and across the Region of North Vancouver. The planning team and I met several

All Saints' Ladner Welcomes Father Robin

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

times with All Saints' as we learned what worked and what didn't through their experience.

Q. Which is your favourite Hymn?

A. My favourite hymn is Common Praise 114, *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*.

Q. Which is your favourite season of the church year and why?


A. Related to my favourite hymn, my favourite season would be Advent—although I also love Holy Week—so I often have a hard time choosing between these two. Advent is a time when the Church can focus on the relationship between God and Mary. This is also a time of transition. There is heightened anticipation in the air as noted in many of the Advent Scripture readings where God's promise of liberation and a new day, new world order is about to dawn. Advent is incarnational in nature where heaven and earth meet in a thin space.

Q. Is there a particular passage or quote from scripture that supports your vision for ministry?

A. *John 21:15-19*. "But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go" (*John 21:18*). We are always faced with circumstances that we would rather avoid or feel ill-equipped to deal with effectively. But God calls us to be the People of God, the Church in the good times as well as the challenging times. God calls us not only to be comfortable and to remain within our comfort zones but to also reach beyond and to be present in times of trouble, hurt, oppression and pain. ✠



His Grace, the Most Rev. Douglas Hambidge and the preacher, the Ven.Fr. Kevin Hunt. PHOTO Cliff Caprani



Help protect human rights.

MODERN SLAVERY – HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

PROTECT OUR CHILDREN IN BC

Cathy Peters

A Champion Against Human Trafficking

February 29, 2020
1:30 pm

Refreshments provided at break
St. Dunstan Anglican Church
3025 264 St. Aldergrove, BC

Sponsored by Diocese of New Westminster ACW
acw@vancouver.anglican.ca



Brenda Straker and the Rev. Liz Ruder-Celiz. PHOTO Cliff Caprani



Dr. Richard Vedan and the new rector. PHOTO Cliff Caprani



The Reverends Robin Ruder-Celiz and Graham Witcher. PHOTO Cliff Caprani

All Saints' Day High Mass with Fauré's Requiem

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor



The chancel with the sanctuary party during the Offertory. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Mother Lucy preaching. RIGHT The Ven. Kevin Hunt during the Eucharistic Prayer. PHOTO Randy Murray

High Mass for All Saints' Day at St. James' Anglican Church celebrated early in the evening of November 1 included one of French composer Gabriel Fauré's most famous pieces, *Requiem*. Instead of a performance of the well-known piece, the music was incorporated into the liturgy and the result was prayerful and moving. There has been much written about this very famous piece of music but perhaps one of the more appropriate observations was made by Fauré himself:

"It has been said that my *Requiem* does not express the fear of death and someone has called it a *lullaby* of death. But it is thus that I see death: as a happy deliverance, an aspiration towards happiness above, rather than as a painful experience."

Given that All Saints' Day is devoted to the memory of those who have gone before and are now incorporated into the Kingdom of Heaven, Fauré's explanation of his piece is relevant to its use in a liturgy on this, one of the most Holy Days of the church year, when Christians celebrate their belief that death is not something to be feared.

In the notes included in the pew bulletin, the writer points out that Fauré's work "is not a complete liturgical Requiem (moreover, the *In Paradisum* comes from the Burial Service); Fauré made a personal selection of texts, laying emphasis on the idea of rest and peace and omitting the Day of Judgment altogether. Of all seven sections, the *Pie Jesu*, *Agnus Dei* and *In Paradisum* emerge as the most glorious, filled with rich, soulful melodies. The work garnered the praise of many other composers — not

the least was Camille Saint-Saëns—who thought it divine. It was performed at Fauré's own funeral in 1924."

Interestingly, Fauré's *Requiem*, this staple of the choral music canon was not performed in North America until 1931 and not performed in the UK until 1936.

There was a good-sized congregation for High Mass which included a thoughtful homily preached by St. James' assistant curate, the Rev. Lucy Price.

The mixed voice choir and organ were under the direction of organist and choir-master, Gerald Harder. Soprano soloist for the *Pie Jesu* was Nubia Martens, who has studied voice and choral direction, and has been actively involved with choirs, and leading music programs in churches, communities and schools. She joined the St. James' High Mass Choir in 2003. The baritone soloist was Matthew MacTavish, an alumnus of two of Canada's premier vocal ensembles: the *Vancouver Chamber Choir* and *musica intima*. He joined St. James' choir in 2008, to work with the choir's director, Gerald Harder, who shares with him a deep interest in liturgical chant.

Fauré's *Requiem* is often performed with the full orchestral score, written by the composer himself, however, the organ version is superb and in many ways is a better way to experience the music. Fauré was an organist and that is apparent in his voicings and registrations. At St. James' the organ was augmented with harp and violin. The balance between the choir and instruments was perfect and the acoustic of St. James' carried the sound throughout

Music at St. James for 2020

St. James' continues with an exciting and varied program of music for 2020.

Laudate Singers | Timeless Treasures

Sunday, March 1 at 7:30pm

As North Vancouver's only professional chamber choir, Laudate Singers have been enriching the cultural fabric in the lower mainland for over 25 years. The choral ensemble has recorded several critically-acclaimed CDs, including *Christmas Journey*, *Songs of Heaven and Earth*, *A Baroque Christmas*, *Celtic Journey*, *Voice of the Tango*, and *Mystics & Lovers*. For this lively concert, Laudate Singers have picked and polished their favourite musical gems from sacred Renaissance works to popular modern hits.

Loreto Aramendi | The Virtuoso Organist

Friday, April 24 at 7:30pm

Internationally renowned Spanish musician Loreto Aramendi, organist of *Basílica de Santa María del Coro*, brings to Vancouver the music of her favourite composers: Sergei Rachmaninoff, Franz Liszt, Charles Tournemire, and Camille Saint-Saëns. Loreto has given recitals around the world; her transcendent technique and compelling musicality create an unforgettable experience. This concert is not to be missed.

The Choir of Jesus College Cambridge

Saturday, July 11 at 7:30pm

The Choir of Jesus College Cambridge, directed by Richard Pinel, has gained an international reputation for its music-making. Performances around the globe, worldwide broadcasts, highly praised recordings and regular services in the College's ancient chapel are just some of this group's numer-



Loreto Aramendi, the Virtuoso Organist. PHOTO Submitted

ous offerings.

It was nearly eight years ago that their West Coast tour filled concert halls in Seattle, Portland, and San Francisco and drew standing ovations at every performance. Since then, the Choir has toured Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Malta, India, and South Africa.

The Choir returns to the West Coast in 2020, beginning the Canadian leg of their tour in British Columbia.

The choir will also lead music in worship at High Mass on Sunday, July 12 at 10:30am.

Tickets for each concert are \$30 and can be purchased from St. James' or online through the St. James' Music website at sjmusic.ca.

All concerts will take place at St. James (303 East Cordova Street, Vancouver). ✦



The Choir of Jesus College Cambridge. PHOTO Submitted

the nave and chancel.

A bonus for all gathered for the liturgy was the Postlude, *Méditation (Thaïs)* by

Jules Massenet a piece written for solo violin and orchestra but in this case solo violin
CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



The Rev. Lucy Price chants the Gospel, *John 11:21-27*. PHOTO Randy Murray

Christian Formation Around the Diocese

JESSICA SCHAAP
Missioner for Christian Formation, diocese of New Westminster

In the last few months the diocese witnessed many seeds of Christian formation sewn into the soil of our life together. Below are a few highlights. As winter evolves and spring approaches, we're excited to see what blossoms in our growing into Christ.

Youth Ministry Training

In November, 55 people, including a dozen adult mentors and over 40 youth aged 12 to 18, spent a full day learning relationship-building skills. Participants came away encouraged in our ability to look outward in our schools, churches, and neighbourhoods. We learned how to start a conversation with anyone, take steps to genuinely help someone facing a big choice, challenge or change, offer prayer for others, and explore bible stories in an imaginative and practical way. Our facilitator was Lyle Griner from *Peer Ministry Leadership Training*, an organization rooted in the Good Samaritan story and dedicated to empowering youth to be caring, committed, confident ministers of Christ's love.

The workshop was held in partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. The Diocesan Youth Movement (DYM) leadership will be teaching and incorporating what we learned at the upcoming DYM Winter Retreat to expand our growth in these skills.

Advent Email Calendar

Over the month of December, over 300 subscribers received daily reflections emailed to them over the season of Advent. The contributors, spiritual directors from around the diocese and Archbishop Melissa Skelton, chose an image, a poem or a hymn that evoked Advent themes and offered a brief reflection to help us observe the season. This is the second year the diocese has prepared an Advent resource like this and we saw a 75% increase in the number of subscribers. We're excited to see what next year's Advent may hold.

Renewing the Life of Prayer • The Vita Retreat

The Vita Retreat (formerly known as *Pro Vita Mundi*) has generated new life as a one-night parish-based retreat. A team of dedicated leaders from all over the diocese gathered at St. Mark's, Ocean Park last November to offer an introduction to creative and contemplative prayer practices along with the daily office of the Anglican tradition. Over 25 parishioners attended and came away refreshed and renewed in different forms of prayer. There were small group discussions in which they could safely and confidentially share their experiences of prayer and encounters with the Holy Spirit. This new format for the Vita Retreat seems to be catching a spark. The team will be leading three more parish-based retreats throughout the diocese this year. Check out the webpage to see retreats coming to a parish near you at www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/the-vita-retreat

The Children & Families Christian Formation Committee

This newly formed committee dedicated to fostering the growth of Christian formation for children and families in



Lyle Griner of Peer Ministry with youth of the diocese last November.
 PHOTO Lauren Odile Pinkney

the diocese completed its first project in January. Over 90 epiphany home blessing "kits" were assembled at a work party and distributed to parishes. The "kits" included an infographic on the practice of chalking the door and offering home prayers, a simple liturgy, a piece of blessed chalk, and a candle. The committee is now looking to develop an easy-to-use and accessible resource for parishes for baptisms in time for Easter.

Ministry Training • Lay Eucharistic Visitors Workshop

A pilot project to offer training to lay ministers who bring home communion was held in the Archdeaconry of Lougheed in late 2019. The Rev. Laurel Dahill, Vicar of St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge and I designed a half-day interactive, practical, and prayerful workshop. The workshop included the steps to preparing for a eucharistic visit, to practicing a visit with a home communion kit, to reporting to priests and teams on pastoral issues. Seventeen people from four parishes took part in this first workshop. The feedback from the project was positive and plans are in place to offer the workshop in each of the archdeaconries over this year. ✚

All Saints' Day High Mass with Faure's Requiem

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

accompanied by organ and harp. It was beautifully played by the ensemble.

The harpist was Elisa Thorn. Elisa is a 2011 graduate of the UBC School of Music, where she studied with Heidi Krutzen. Since then, she has become a sought after addition to the Canadian creative music scene, known for her use of extended techniques, electronic effects, and unconventional

uses of the harp.

The violinist was Samuel Tsui, Principal second violin with the Vancouver Island Symphony Orchestra, member of the Rose Gellert String Quartet, and violin instructor at the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra School of Music. He holds a Master of Music degree in violin performance from UBC, where he studied with Jasper Wood. ✚



LEFT Director of Music, Gerald Harder conducts. PJ Janson is at the organ console. RIGHT View of the gallery with choir and instrumentalists. PHOTOS Randy Murray



DIOCESAN SCHOOL FOR PARISH DEVELOPMENT

The Week-long and Weekend Programs return in 2020

The Week-long Program dates are: June 14 – 20, 2020

at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale located at 2490 West 37th Avenue

The Weekend Program dates are:

April 25 – 26 • May 29 – 30 • September 25 – 26 • November 13 – 14, 2020

at the Synod Office located at 1410 Nanton Avenue

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



Diocese of New Westminster
 ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA



Indigenous Ceremony. PHOTO Courtesy of Emilie Smith



Emilie and Daniel Lima, Anglican representative in the Synod. PHOTO Courtesy of Emilie Smith



Co-Presidents of the International Christian Network in Solidarity with the Peoples of Latin America (SICAL), Emilie and José Raúl Vera López of Saltillo, Mexico. PHOTO Courtesy of Emilie Smith



Emilie and Juscelino, community leader from the Amazonia. PHOTO Courtesy of Emilie Smith



Selfies with the Itinerante Team of Missionaries, from Manaus, Brazil. PHOTO Courtesy of Emilie Smith

The Time of Radical

EMILIE SMITH

Rector, St. Barnabas, New Westminster; co-President of the Oscar Romero Christian Network

This past August, the Amazon basin flashed through our news cycles, and for a few weeks our eyes were focused on the fires, the deaths, the burning, the ruin. The moment which finally broke my heart was a photo of a dead anteater lying stiff in the ashes.

The Amazon is embedded in the imagination of the whole world, an indescribably wild place: the great, wide snaking river, the thick tropical rainforest, the exotic animals, the Indigenous peoples. We hope, maybe, that this last place will live on untouched by the ravages of human devastation.

Yet the machines chug on. The fires—started intentionally by expansionists desperate to make money and supported right up the chain of power to Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro—rage on. Exposed in the fires is the seemingly unstoppable march of a colonialist, capitalist, mercantile worldview where everything on earth, and the earth itself, is a product to be taken, packaged and sold.

The Amazon basin, report scientists, is in danger of tipping into a point-of-no return “savanaization,” where the damage done is greater than the rainforest’s ability to regenerate and recover, and the jungle becomes a dry, treeless plain. The burning of the Amazon has become a symbol for the whole world as we look into the aching, unbearable face of climate devastation. Who can stand up to this power of destruction? Can anyone put a stop to it?

In October 2017, Pope Francis announced that the Catholic Church would host a Special Synod on the Amazon Region, and in January 2018, he travelled to Puerto Maldonado in the Peruvian Amazon to initiate a process of consultation with the communities that live in the bio-region that stretches across nine South American countries. The communities were asked: what are the greatest challenges you face in your region? Where do you find hope? How can the Church come alongside the fight to preserve the river and her peoples?

Then two years later, in October 2019, after the consultation which reached out to around 85,000 people living in the Amazon basin, thousands of attendees were invited to Rome to participate in the Special Synod on the Amazon Region. In September, I received an invitation to come as a special guest in the parallel activities to the Synod.

My story with *America Latina* starts at the beginning: I was born in Argentina. And since 1984, I have walked with the peoples of Guatemala, living there on and off throughout my adult years. I lived there most recently from 2009 to 2013 as a Volunteer in Mission from the Anglican Church of Canada, sent and supported from my home diocese of New Westminster. During my years in Guatemala I participated in an active Liberation Theology network, Oscar Romero Christian Network in Solidarity with the Peoples of Latin America (SICAL) and—to my everlasting surprise—in 2012 was elected co-President of this historic organization. That is how I ended up in Rome, together with my beloved *abuelo*, SICAL’s other co-President, Monseñor Raúl Vera, the fiery bishop of Saltillo in Northern Mexico.

On the morning of my arrival, after settling in with my hosts, the Missionary Sisters of Mary, I caught a tram and then walked up to a side gate in the tall walls of the Vatican. A small group was gathering. I knew no one. It was October 4, the Feast Day of St. Francis. We were heading to the interior gardens, to plant a tree to commemorate the launching of the Synod. More and more people arrived, many Franciscan brothers and sisters, and also those from other orders. And Indigenous community members, the principal interlocutors of the Synod. Before we moved in beyond the walls of the Vatican a young man asked if he could mark my face with *achiote*, a temporary dye paste made from a red-coloured seed. “We are in celebration,” he explained. I said “yes,” and he marked me as one with the community, and together we entered the grounds, singing and dancing. In the heart of the garden Pope Francis and Endamar Oliviera planted an oak tree.

After the ceremony, conducted in Spanish, Portuguese and Italian, we dispersed, and I walked away by myself into the vast precious gardens. Around curving paths and waterfalls, ancient statues and yet-older glorious trees I wandered for more than an hour, wondering if a Swiss Guard would apprehend me at some point and escort me to the door. But no. I had the gardens to myself, and in

al Change in the Church... & in the World

Christian Network in Solidarity with the Peoples of Latin America

the shadow of the great dome of St. Peter's I sought repose and quiet. I believe I found myself praying.

I sat on an old stone bench laughing a little. I am a bundle of contradictions: an Anglican in the Vatican, a female priest in a sea of ordained men, wearing black, brown, purple, red and white robes, a European-heritage woman, hanging out with, making friends with, building home with the people of the Amazon, in all their complexity. I am an ardent anti-capitalist, some sort of anarchist, in the green garden of tradition. Above all I am a believer in local communities and a despoiler of systems of power—economic, political, spiritual—that destroy all things of beauty on this earth in the filthy pursuit of money. But somehow all of us here gathered loved the earth so much, despite our widely varied faith traditions. I sat for a while and then I saw myself out, walking all the way home to the Sisters where I tried to sleep my way out of jet lag and sorrow.

For the two weeks that I was in Rome I moved from knowing almost no one (though I knew very well two men who the day after St. Francis' Feast were turned into Cardinals—fiery Guatemalan anti-mining bishop, Alvaro Ramazzini, and lovely, smart Canadian Jesuit, Michael Sherny) to falling in love with everyone. Bishop Raul and I spent most days in the Casa Comun, a gathering place for the supporters of the Synod, in the church of Santa Maria Traspontina, down the causeway from St. Peter's Square. Here we opened each day in prayer, in song, dancing, with testimonies and embodied symbolic actions. The community leaders from the Amazon, the Indigenous and afro-descendant people, the people of the riverbanks and deep forests, together with their loyal Christian collaborators and defenders had organized each day, and we sank into each other's stories and lives.

Our anthem was: *Tudo esta interligado como se fosse*

um: over and over again. Everything is interconnected, we are all one. All creation is holy, the trees, water, animals, the people too. We all belong to one another. We cannot harm one part of ourselves without harming the rest of our body. Money buys nothing of real value. There are massive threats to this holy earth. Sorrow and grief can be crippling. The weaving of connections is crucial. We are all friends.

One afternoon Bishop Raul and I went out for lunch with an old friend: Fr. Eleazar Lopez Hernandez, a Zapotec Indigenous leader and theologian, founder of the Teologia India movement in the 1970s. He laughed telling us he had been hauled to Rome a couple of times before, but always to give account for his tradition-bending theology. Now

*"All of our land is sacred.
(Watching the fires)
is like seeing a bomb explode
in the Vatican."*



Pope Francis and Ednamara Oliveira plant an oak tree in the Vatican garden. PHOTOS Courtesy of Emilie Smith



Sisters in the Casa Comun. Emilie with Brazilian Roman Catholic Sisters, Suave and Antonieta. PHOTO Courtesy of Emilie Smith

he had been invited here as a special consultant.

He said: "Our traditions, the Indigenous stories of the Americas, and our bible stories share a story of an older and younger brother. The older one is the keeper of order, tradition, the maintainer of equilibrium and peace. But the younger brother has gifts and knowledge too. His vision matters. He is a disrupter, a bringer of new things. What has happened with the Amazonian Synod is that the younger brothers—and sisters—have come to Rome. The time has come to be church—and world—in a radically different way. The Indigenous peoples have knowledge that today the whole world needs to hear."

The significance of what happened at the Special Synod on the Amazon Basin is bigger than can first be imagined. On Sunday, October 20, two days after Bishop Raul and I had left for our respective homes, 50 Bishops from the Synod, and other supporters and friends went early in the morning to the ancient Christian burial grounds of Domitila where they signed the Pact of the Catacombs of the Common House. The original Pact of the Catacombs was signed in 1965, a few weeks before the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council. The 1965 Pact was the fertile seedbed of the origins of Liberation Theology where the signatory Bishops promised to divest themselves of all trappings of power and wealth, and to embrace the poor of their regions as God's own beloved. The new Pact confirms this commitment to the poor but extends the promise to the earth itself. The Church, with Pope Francis embracing all, is standing up to a worldview that is destroying the planet. As it is with the Amazon, so it will be with the rest of the planet.

Fr. Eleazar said clearly: It is time for the church to stop being diplomatic. It is time for the church to embrace its prophetic mission. Words to consider. A call to act. ✦



Emilie and Indigenous leaders, Francisco, Ednamara and Jesus. PHOTO Courtesy of Emilie Smith



The most moving moment of Emilie's Rome visit: Francisco Chagas places his ceremonial crown on Emilie and invites her to visit his community, 24 hours by motorboat from Manaus, Brazil. PHOTO Courtesy of Emilie Smith



All are in place at the conclusion of the Opening Hymn, *In the Name of Christ We Gather*. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Ven. Allan Carson was the preacher. He took the Gospel, *John 21:15-17* for his text. PHOTO Randy Murray

Christ Comes Among Us, Not to Shut Things Down — But to Open Things Up

A Celebration of a New Ministry in Chilliwack

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor



Cathy Hutchinson reads *Isaiah 26:1-9*. PHOTO Randy Murray



The wardens, Jennifer Gagne and Jan Guretzki present the new vicar. PHOTO Randy Murray



Fr. Allen signs the Oaths and Subscriptions. PHOTO Randy Murray

The Rev. Allen Doerksen is no stranger to the diocese of New Westminster. He was appointed Rector of St. Matthew's, Abbotsford and Missioner to the Valley (now Yale) Deanery in 2011. Over the years his ministry evolved, the focus changed and about a year after the retirement of St. Thomas, Chilliwack's longtime rector, the Rev. John Sovereign in the spring of 2017, Fr. Allen began his new ministry as interim priest-in-charge of the parish.

This arrangement has worked very well for both the parish and the priest and it seemed only fitting that Archbishop Skelton with the counsel of the parish leadership would work to create the opportunity where Fr. Allen could continue his ministry half-time at St. Matthew's and also take on the "without term" posting as half-time Vicar of St. Thomas. Although this shared ministry of priest and parish has been in process for some time now it was officially celebrated on November 12, 2019.

There was an excellent turnout for worship on the bright clear Tuesday night in the Fraser Valley. A good cohort of clergy from the region and beyond were also present to participate in a liturgy that included the Covenant in Ministry, which is the official recognition by the archbishop, the diocese and the parish that Fr. Allen is the ordained leader of their shared ministry.

As Archbishop Skelton was on study leave, the officiant was the executive archdeacon of the diocese, the Ven. Douglas Fenton and the preacher was the Ven. Allan Carson, Archdeacon of Lougheed and Rector of St. John the Baptist, Sardis, the Anglican parish located about ten kilometres to the southeast of downtown Chilliwack which is where St. Thomas' is located.

Archdeacon Carson took the Gospel, *John 21:15-17* for his text. In his sermon he focused on the concepts of friendship and community and Jesus's command to Simon Peter to "feed my lambs." Toward the conclusion of the sermon he said:

"To change the world, we have to be a true friend. To build an alternate community, a city on the hill, which is what the Church is called to do, we have to be a true friend. To invite people to live in this new community, this new realm, we have to be a true friend. When Jesus is on the beach and calling out to them as ones that he cares for, he calls them friends. ... He (Jesus) is telling them what is on his heart and that he is going to lay his life down for them. A true friend always lets you in and never lets you down.

Are you open? Are you unconditionally there for others or do you use them? Is your friendship for what you can get out of them or for what you can impart to them? When we hear the word friend we automatically think of those whom we have let into our lives. Those who are already our friends. Those whom we have chosen to be friends with. Jesus tells Peter — 'feed my lambs.' Feed. The relationship is not to get fed but to feed. Feed my lambs — the

needy, I don't know of anyone who has a lamb for a pet, lambs require a great deal of care. Feed my lambs. Feed the ones I send to you not just the ones you choose. We know how to make friends with people that we are attracted to and who are interested in the things we are interested in and who have relatively low levels of need. Jesus is saying to us 'don't only look at the people you have chosen but look at the ones chosen for you.' The ones the Lord brings into your lives. Are you willing to welcome his lambs?"

After the sermon the Covenant in Ministry began with the new vicar reading and signing the Oaths and Subscriptions after they had been administered by the executive archdeacon as required by the Canons of the Ecclesiastical Province. The Archbishop's License of Institution was also read aloud.

Next was the Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry. Near the beginning of this section (following the presentations of the Bible, prayer books, water for the font and blessed oils) of the liturgy a member of the congregation tripped and fell. There was a pause in the service as they were made comfortable by others, 911 was called, and emergency medical care providers dispatched. As Holy oils had just been presented to Fr. Allen by one of the deacons, the Rev. David Koe, Fr. Allen gathered the community in prayer and applied the oil to the head of the injured worshipper. When all were satisfied that the injured party was cared for, the liturgy continued and soon, within minutes the EMT team arrived. The injured person was cared for by the EMT professionals and was taken to hospital. Although suffering a nasty cut to the face, the follow-up reports were all positive and the victim of the fall is doing well.

The Rev. Paul Bowie, Regional Dean of Yale and Rector of All Saints', Mission welcomed Fr. Allen to the deanery. Of course, Fr. Allen has been a clergy member of the deanery for more than eight years so that irony was not ignored. Rev. Bowie did make an astute observation about this ministry post. He said that as interim priest-in-charge, Fr. Allen had had a role in discerning the parish's future, its vision for ministry, and its plan for mission. But now that he is vicar he will have substantial responsibility for implementing those mission and ministry plans. This comment was met with smiles and laughter from the congregation and the new vicar.

Following the Prayers of the People, the Peace, and the central focus of our worship, the Eucharist, the liturgy concluded and the majority of those gathered reconvened in the parish hall for refreshments, a celebratory cake and to spend some time together.

Please keep the Parish of St. Thomas', Chilliwack and their vicar, the Rev. Fr. Allen Doerksen in your prayers as the embark together on this new ministry. ✠



LEFT Jollette Moeliker begins the presentations of the symbols of ministry, giving Fr. Allen a Bible. RIGHT The keys to the buildings are presented by the wardens. PHOTO Randy Murray



Regional Dean, the Rev. Paul Bowie welcomes Fr. Allen. PHOTO Randy Murray



Archdeacon Carson welcomes Fr. Allen. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Eucharistic Prayer, the Ven. Fr. Douglas Fenton and Deacon, the Rev. Jennifer Burgoyne. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Procession out. PHOTO Randy Murray

About The Reverend Allen Doerksen

Although no stranger to the diocese of New Westminster, Topic thought it might be a good idea to find out a little bit more about the new priest-in-charge of two Fraser Valley parishes.

Q. Please tell us a little bit about your background, how you came to faith and your call to the priesthood?

A. I grew up in a Mennonite family. We were “practicing Mennonites” in every sense of that term; there was the gardening, the food, and, of course, the distinctive church practice and theology of the Mennonites which focuses on a non-violent and peaceful “way of being” in our society and culture.

When I was 19 years old, and after my first year of university, I went to the Middle East to work with an interdenominational and ecumenical youth mission. There, befriended by people from all the over the world and from all kinds of theological perspectives, I felt like I connected with God and the Church in a new way. There were other firsts as well: In the “old city” of Jerusalem I had my first experience of Anglican worship and on the island of Cyprus I met my soul mate!

Through many twists and turns which included a church-planting experience in a different tribe of Christians, I eventually came to a spiritual and theological realization that the Eucharist needed to be the touchstone of worship, spirituality and mission. Within a few years of this awakening I was ordained as a priest and served in Saskatoon for approximately three years, followed by a seven-year stint at St. Aidan, Moose Jaw, a newly amalgamated parish. During my time in Moose Jaw I taught several courses in Biblical Theology at a local Seminary and College.

Q. How would you describe your liturgical style?

A. I enjoy allowing the service to unfold without too much commentary; however, sometimes, there’s an opportunity to bring warmth and direction through humour or by clarification of the liturgy. I enjoy periods of silence and at St. Matthew I’ve come to rely on a chime before and after the homily as ways of drawing us into a deeper reflective space. I try to lead with a certain level of formality without being stuffy; at least that’s what I aim for.

Q. How would you describe your management style?

A. Working at a 50% capacity in two parishes is a stretching experience. I’m learning to rely on a “team leadership” approach in which I challenge “learned incompetence” by insisting that canonical roles be respected and lived into. For instance, I take seriously the roles of wardens and council members as fellow trustees whose ideas and approaches to problems and opportunities have as much legitimacy as my ideas. My role is not to prescribe, but to teach, advise and encourage. There are times of course, where core principles are at stake and the parish, as well as the archbishop (one would imagine) would like the priest to state with relative clarity what’s at stake and what are or are not acceptable options within our ecclesial traditions.

Q. Have you with parish leaders developed any mission and ministry priorities for the parish?

A. It’s been eight years since I was inducted at St. Matthew! In that time, it’s safe to say, we’ve gone through several iterations. By God’s grace the congregation has finally reached the level of self-supporting, albeit at a 50% level. My experience through this process has taught me that a parish will likely go through an ongoing visioning process because congregations rarely develop in a linear fashion. Now that the archbishop and the congregation of St. Thomas’ has called me as their new vicar, we will be seeking an approach to visioning that takes into consideration the gifts and talents of our group, a healthy dose of “let’s experiment,” as well as a continuing focus on developing a dynamic and engaging Sunday morning liturgy.

We are living in a liminal time and space in the Anglican Church. People don’t automatically connect with “church” anymore, so we need to live together in compelling ways that cause visitors and the surrounding community to ask questions. There is a lot of anxiety in our culture and, frankly, in the Church. One of the great opportunities that lies before us is to live into a community vision that is less reactive and more hopeful, even given the extraordinary challenges that face our world.

Q. What are your Sunday’s going to look like?

A. I try to arrive early at St. Thomas’ to greet parishioners before the service which begins at 9am. I then bundle off to St. Matthew’s for the 11am service. So far it’s working out; both parishes have been gracious in their encouragement and flexibility which bodes well for the future!

Verger Retires After 25 Years of Service

JANE DITTRICH
Christ Church Cathedral, Diocesan Communications Reporter/Photographer

On Sunday, October 27, the Parish of St. Mary's, Kerrisdale (SMK) celebrated the outstanding service of their verger of 25 years, John Taylor. John retired in mid-October.

During worship, rector, the Reverend Lindsay Hills and SMK's associate priest, the Rev. Christine Rowe requested that John join them in the centre of the chancel for prayers of gratitude for his work and ministry, as well as prayers for the next chapter of his life in retirement. At the conclusion of the liturgy, an emotional John Taylor processed out with the clergy and servers.

After the Eucharist, a reception followed in the parish's

large gymnasium. A spectacular potluck lunch was served by lay leaders (most notably, Judith Pike and Marg Lemire) and the gym was transformed into a venue fit for celebration, beautifully decorated with balloons. During the reception a slideshow of photos chronicling John's tenure at SMK cycled on a large screen. The now retired verger greeted folks and exchanged hugs and warm words with members of the congregation as they entered the venue for the lunch and festivities.

Parish clergy and leadership offered words of appreciation for John, and shared special memories of their time

working with him. It was soon time for John Taylor to speak and he thanked all involved for the special day and the generosity and thoughtfulness of all those gathered. His address concluded with his sincere thanks for "the best 25 years of his life." He was presented with gifts from Rev. Lindsay Hills, and from lay leaders. When asked to share a quote or two for inclusion in this article, Rev. Lindsay Hills and Rector's Warden, Diana McHardy Schmidt offered the following:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



SMK clergy offer prayers in the chancel.



Posing with organist Susan Ohannesian.



Rev. Hills presents a gift.



Greeting the folks as they arrive for lunch in the gym.



A standing ovation from many gathered in the gym.

IN MEMORIAM

Gordon W. Dominey, Priest September 8, 1952 – November 7, 2019



Rev. Gordon Dominey in 2016. PHOTO Randy Murray

The Rev. Gord Dominey, priest, died in palliative care at Burnaby Hospital on Thursday, November 7, 2019. He is survived by his husband, Emerson Pua.

Gord grew up in St. Catharines, Ontario. He earned a Diploma of Applied Arts, Radio and Television Arts, from Niagara College, a BA from the University of Guelph, and a Master of Divinity from the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad in Saskatoon.

He was ordained to the Diaconate on May 20, 1982, and to the Priesthood on May 17, 1983. He transferred from the Diocese of Edmonton to this diocese in 1990. Gord had a particular calling to interim ministry and chaplaincy. He served as a Correctional Services Chaplain in Edmonton and Chilliwack.

Gord served many parishes in the diocese of Edmonton and here in the diocese of New Westminster including: The Mission of Battenburg, Bon Accord, Gibsons, Redwater, in Alberta; Holy Trinity, Edmonton; St. Paul, Vancouver; Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver; All Saints, Burnaby; St. Hilda, Sechelt; St. Faith, Vancouver; St. Michael, Broadway; St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby; St. Edward, Bridgeport; All Saints, Mission; St. Catherine of Alexandria, Port Coquitlam; St. Columba, Maple Ridge; and St. Catherine, Capilano.

The Requiem Eucharist for the Rev. Gordon Dominey was celebrated on Saturday, November 30 at Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster. ✠



John prepares to cut the cake at the post worship reception.

Council of General Synod Report

MARNIE PETERSON
Pastor for St. Brigid's & the Maundy Café, Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver

I have recently returned home from my first Council of General Synod (CoGS). This is the council that was elected at our last General Synod here in Vancouver, and the first meeting chaired by our new primate, the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls.

I've done a lot of things in the church, but I've never served on a national council. To be honest, I wasn't sure what this council does.

We spent three days in meetings together with the theme: *A Changing Church. A Searching World. A Faithful God.*

We sat together in Bible study considering the *Road to Emmaus* story from three different perspectives including an Indigenous telling of this story. We talked about where God surprises us, where God shows up unexpectedly and where we find hope.

We created norms for how we want to be together as a council, including how we want to handle disagreements. We practiced consensus decision making. We did the normal council things including a conversation on and approval of the budget. We heard various reports and various presentations including conversations on the work of Kairos and PWRDF and the work that is being done in our church on modern slavery and human trafficking, to name a few.

But as I reflect on our time together, what I am taking away is how many ways that our church is showing up in our country. I was struck by how much people love our church and their communities and the many signs of hope in various forms that were expressed.

I left feeling grateful to be a part of the conversation

and the work that will come.

I feel grateful for the voice of our new primate. I am grateful to be learning about work of establishing the self-determining Indigenous church and the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples (ACIP). I am excited for what will come.

I invite you to hold in your prayers this council, the work that we are doing and the staff of General Synod who

support us and are on the ground for many of these things. I look forward continuing this work and telling you about it! ✠

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If you would like to read the official overview of the meeting, you can do that online at www.anglican.ca/news/a-word-to-the-church-from-the-council-of-general-synod/30025338.



The Rev. Marnie Peterson offering a reflection as a new member of CoGS at the end of the meeting. PHOTO Melanie Delva

Verger Retires After 25 Years of Service

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

"Working with John has been such an incredible gift. His commitment and selfless service to the people and parish of St. Mary's over the past 25 years is a testament to both him and to the legacy he leaves behind. John's modeling of discipleship, of transforming a position into vocation, evangelism in the best of ways, and sacrificial love and care for our buildings, grounds and people alike is a part of that great legacy. I know that I speak for all of us when I say that we will be forever grateful for his modeling discipleship, and for encouraging us individually and corporately to shine our light in all that we say and do. We are a stronger, healthier and more faithful community because of his ministry among us"

• The Rev Lindsay Hills, *Rector, St. Mary's, Kerrisdale*

"It has been a privilege and pleasure to work with John Taylor during his 25 years as the Verger at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale. His phenomenal organizing skills, his meticulous attention to detail and his deep compassion have enriched our parish community. His institutional memory and knowledge of the congregation has held us together through the many changes of the last few years. I have learned from him, laughed with him and shared frustrations with him and will miss working with him so very much"

• Diana McHardy Schmidt, ODNW, *Rector's Warden* ✠



#retired.



During the tributes, the Rev. Christine Rowe speaks about John.



Enjoying the cake with some friends.



Christ Comes Among Us, Not to Shut Things Down — But to Open Things Up

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Q. Which is your favourite Hymn?

A. I really enjoy modern hymnody; I find most John Bell lyrics resonate with me; *Today I Awake* (Common Praise #9) always works well to orient me to the extraordinary gift of life in Creation and new life in Christ.

Q. Which is your favourite season of the church year and why?

A. I like Epiphany season with its focus on light spreading, sometimes in surprising ways, throughout the world. Perhaps because it coincides with the days beginning to lengthen and promise of warmer days ahead — at least in the northern hemisphere — I find it one of the most beautiful ways that the imaginary of the Church year works as weft to "secular" time's warp.

Q. Is there a particular passage or quote from scripture that supports your vision for ministry?

A. I still find *John 10:10* compelling, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." Christ comes among us, not to shut things down, but to open things up, to creatively work with us towards the fullness of human flourishing. I find great comfort, but equally challenge in these words that invite me, that invite our parishes not to "settle down," but to "ante up" our common life together in a renewed risk of exploration and growth.

Q. Is there anything you would like to add?

A. If you're reading this in the vicinity of Abbotsford or Chilliwack and don't have a church home, come check out St. Thomas' or St. Matthew's; let's explore God's beauty, truth and goodness together! ✠



The cake (seen). PHOTO Randy Murray

LEFT Fr. Allen cuts the cake (not seen). PHOTO Randy Murray

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Concerts at St. Bart's, Gibsons •

Many thanks to John Roper for sharing these stories and images that were published in the Coast Reporter.

Saturday, October 5, Valerie-Anne Rutter performed in Gibsons. The audience enjoyed music on piano and recorders in the sanctuary of St. Bartholomew's by the Sunshine Coast-based international performing and recording artist on her theme of *Giving Thanks*. Rutter's selections included classics by Bach, Beethoven and Handel, well-known pieces by Cohen, Lennon and McCartney, British folk tunes, and an African-American spiritual.

On Saturday, October 19, St. Bart's

was again the venue for a concert featuring *The J-Tones Trio*: Joan Verson, Jan Gillis and Joy Germaine. These three vocalists were backed by guitarists, drummer Sacha Fassaert, and keyboardist Barry Taylor. The concert was produced by Nikki Weber.

Since the construction of the new sanctuary in 1995, the fine acoustics, coupled with its recently restored lighting and sound, continue to make this Gibsons venue a favourite of musical performers and their audiences. The upgrades were done by retired electrical engineer John Roper, who designed the original systems 24 years ago. ✚



Valerie-Anne Rutter. PHOTO John Roper



The J-Tones. PHOTO John Roper

• Archbishop Skelton Dedicates Renewed Wood for a Renewal Centre •

SUBMISSION Lorie Martin

Renewed wood for a Renewal Centre! Lorie Martin, Associate Director read the



Archbishop Skelton at the altar at St. Dunstan's. The wooden items are visible on the left beside the altar. PHOTO Submitted

On Sunday, October 27, The Parish of St. Dunstan, Aldergrove celebrated a glorious Spirit-filled dedication and blessing by Archbishop Melissa Skelton for St. Dunstan's Centre for Spiritual Renewal. The blessing was included in the Celebration of the Eucharist during Archbishop Skelton's scheduled archiepiscopal visit.

The Centre has completed a one year program cycle of gatherings and practices and is now into the second year. The dedication included Renewal Centre lead team members bringing in a four foot wooden stand with the Centre's Benedictine Cross logo etching. There is also a table-top version of the wood and cross and many candle holders, all made by Ron Isaak from the pews that used to be in the nave of the former church building.

• Farewell Lunch for Rob Dickson •

"A warm and friendly presence in the office."

"Always ready to help out."

"He made everyone feel immediately welcome at the Synod Office... he is sincerely interested in people and is ready to help."



LEFT Rob smiles as he tackles a BC Burger. TOP RIGHT The Cake. BOTTOM RIGHT Rob listens to the tributes. PHOTOS Randy Murray



High spirits and laughter at the farewell lunch. PHOTO Randy Murray

"Rob's unconditional enthusiasm and support helped make our diocese a leader in communications in the Anglican Church of Canada."

"I will miss the conversations and quick info sessions we would have at the beginning of each day as I brewed my morning cup of tea in the coffee room across from his office."

"His knowledge of business and property was an asset to the property development initiatives of the diocese."

Included above were just a few of the tributes paid to the outgoing Director of Finance and Property, Rob Dickson at the farewell luncheon held in his honour at the Synod Office on Wednesday, October 30.

After 13+ years, Rob would leave Synod Staff the next day, retiring from this role but eager to see what new opportunities life has in store.

For lunch, Rob had requested one of his favourite meals: White Spot BC Burgers (topped with bacon and cheddar), White Spot coleslaw, Caesar salad, and fries. There

were of course some vegetarian options.

Following the eating of burgers and prior to the cake cutting, Archbishop Skelton asked the group to share some thoughts about Rob and the tributes flowed.

Prior to the cutting of the cake, Archbishop Skelton presented Rob with a gift specifically chosen for his wife Mary Pat and a card containing gifts from Synod Staff.

With Rob's departure there has been a reorganization of the Finance Department at the Synod Office, with the former diocesan comptroller, accountant, Shailene Caparas appointed Interim Chief Financial Officer and the hiring of Prashanthi (Shanthi) Yadavalli as Accounting Clerk. Shailene's work schedule is Monday to Thursday, from 8:30am to 4:30pm, and Shanthi will be in the office, Tuesday to Thursday from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

Rob continues in his roles as a lay leader at the Parish of St. Christopher, West Vancouver; elected Lay Member of Diocesan Council from the Capilano Archdeaconry; Delegate to General Synod from the diocese of New Westminster; and at the national church, as a member of both the Anglican Foundation Board and the General Synod Pension Committee.

More coverage about Rob Dickson is available in the December 2019 issue of *Topic* on pages 8 and 15.

Please keep Rob and his family in your prayers as they transition into this new phase of life and ministry. ✚

mission of the Centre and asked for the archbishop's Prayer of Blessing.

We rejoice at this special occasion and God's presence and action in this ministry. We are thankful for the Rev. David Taylor, Rector and Executive Director for sharing his dream, support and inspiration of the Centre and the many gatherings!

St. Dunstan's
CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL
A ministry for Christian Transformation.

All who desire to follow Christ and grow more in the image of God are welcome.

All who are on a spiritual journey are welcome.

All who are curious are welcome.

All who are tired and need rest are welcome.

All are welcome. ✚

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• All Souls Day at Christ the Redeemer, Surrey •

SUBMISSION Annie Smith

On November 2, 2019, the Parish of Christ the Redeemer, Surrey (CtR) held their first community All Souls Celebration. The purpose of the event was to make the church and cemetery available for everyone, of every faith tradition who may be seeking a place to remember those close to them who have died. Many people come to the Surrey area from all around the world leaving their dead behind, CtR offers a gathering place for everyone.

CtR is located at the geographic centre of Surrey and is home to Christ Church,

the oldest church and graveyard in Surrey (1882). CtR members were inspired by a similar event held in Vancouver at Mountain View Cemetery.

As this was the “test run,” organizers were very pleased at how this All Souls celebration drew the CtR members together and also attracted folks from the wider community.

The parish plans to continue with this new tradition in the years to come and will work to promote the celebration more broadly. ✠



LEFT The Sandwich board sign. RIGHT The entrance to historic Christ Church, Surrey. PHOTOS Submitted



Candlelit walkway. PHOTO Submitted

• Bells of Peace 2019 •

SUBMISSION Jean Davidson

Inspired by the response to the November 2018 bellringing event, Holy Spirit in Whonnock again invited our neighbours to help ring the steeple bell on Remembrance Day. Last year, we rang it 100 times to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. This year, 57 people rang it 101 times as a plea for peace.

Everyone took a turn ringing the bell after various folks representing different aspects of military service had been introduced and had their opportunity to ring the bell.

Those currently serving were represented by two men, ages 20 and 23, the ages of so many who left Whonnock to enlist in World War I.

We were privileged to have the participation of a 92 year-old World War II veteran representing those who served during wartime. She was a member of the Canadian Women's Army Corps and part of her duties included driving wounded soldiers between docked troop ships and hospitals in Halifax.

People who participated in resistance movements were represented by a member of Holy Spirit parish whose mother and

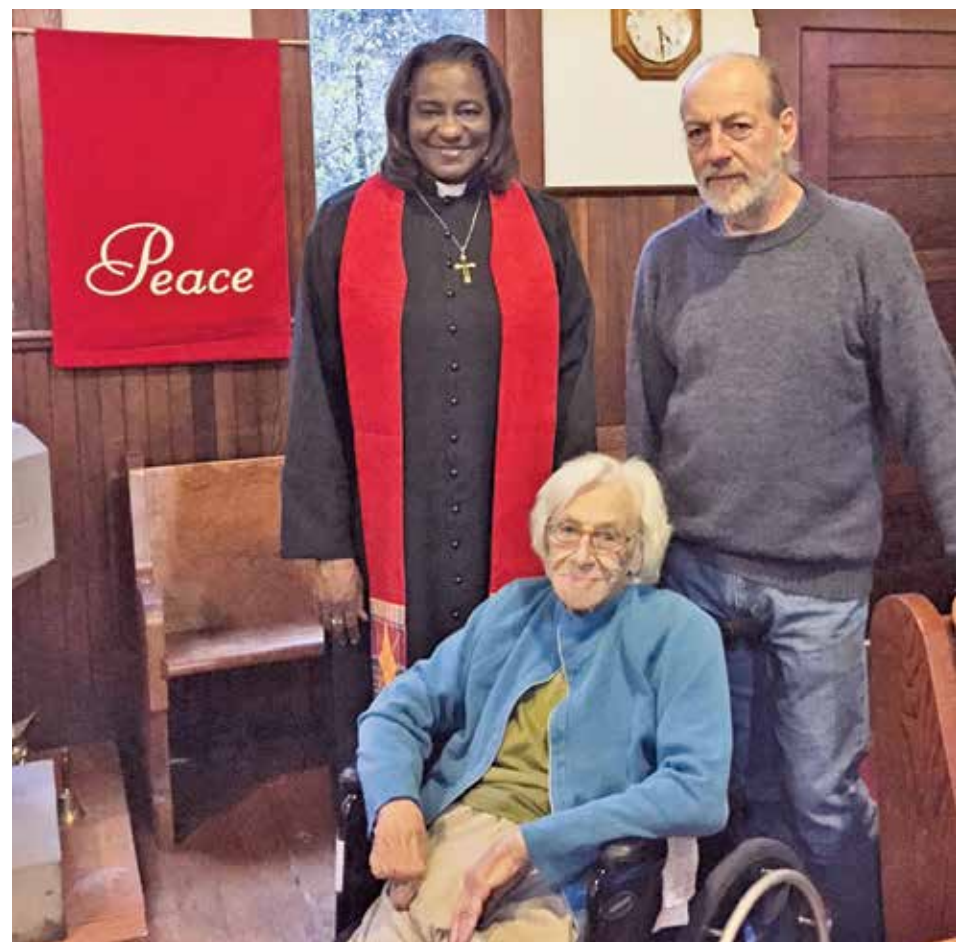
grandmother had been couriers in the Polish Resistance in Warsaw and were imprisoned.

Representing both innocent children caught in war and also the hope that reconciliation can happen even in very difficult circumstances was a man whose childhood memories included planes in the air and tanks on the streets in Germany. Part of his story was the journey he made from east to west just before the Berlin Wall was erected, little imagining it would come down in any of our lifetimes.

We were honoured to have the imam and the president of the mosque next door come and ring with us as a gesture of peace.

The newly appointed vicar at Holy Spirit, Rev. Miranda Sutherland lead a plea for peace saying, “Let there be peace on earth” and the people replied, “And let it begin with me.”

A talented young musician from Holy Spirit played reflective violin music during the silence which followed the 101 bell rings. After this time of quiet reflection, those gathered left silently in peace. ✠



The Rev. Miranda Sutherland, Vicar of Holy Spirit with long time Christ Church Cathedral parishioner Jackie Hooper, who was a Private in the Canadian Women's Army Corps in World War II, and her son Randy. PHOTO Annie Moss

• Clergy & Synod Staff News •

Prashanthi Yadavalli has been appointed Accounting Clerk at the Synod Office. She began on October 28. Prashanthi's current work schedule is Tuesday to Thursday from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Prashanthi's email is pyadvalli@vancouver.anglican.ca and her phone number is 604.684.6306, ext. 212.



Prashanthi Yadavalli. PHOTO Randy Murray

Lauren Odile Pinkney was appointed Administrative Assistant/Receptionist at the Synod Office and began on November 1. Lauren's work schedule is Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm. Lauren's email address is lpinkney@vancouver.anglican.ca and her phone number is 604.684.6306, ext. 210.



Lauren Odile Pinkney. PHOTO Submitted

The Archbishop has appointed Ms. Shailene Caparas as Interim Chief Financial Officer effective November 1. Shailene was formerly the Diocesan Comptroller. Shailene's office hours are, Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Shailene's email address is scaparas@vancouver.anglican.ca



Shailene Caparas. PHOTO Randy Murray

and her phone number is 604.684.6306, ext. 214.

Archdeacon Stephanie Shepard has concluded her work as Interim Priest-in-Charge at St. Faith's, Vancouver. She began as Interim Priest-in-Charge at St. Martin, North Vancouver on December 1. ✠



The Ven. Stephanie Shepard. PHOTO Wayne Chose

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Parish Development Grants for 2020 •



Receiving the award at St. John's, North Vancouver: Warden, Yasmin Mia; Choir Director and co-grant applicant, Christie Smith; Rector of St. John's, Rev. Patrick Blaney; and Parish Development Grants committee rep, Sarah Andrusco. PHOTO Margaret Ellis

The parishes of St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver and St. John the Divine, Squamish each welcomed a special guest for worship during the main Sunday celebration of the Eucharist on November 17, 2019. These were the first two grants presented for the recently completed grant cycle.

Parish Development Grant committee member, Sarah Andrusco, a parishioner at St. Francis-in-the-Wood, Caulfeild visited the North Vancouver parish and presented them with the award certificate indicating that they will receive \$5,000 to use toward the parish's marketing plans. St. John's,

North Vancouver will be refreshing and augmenting their digital presence in an intentional effort to continue growing the parish.

Director for Mission and Ministry Development for the diocese of New Westminster, the Rev. Tellison Glover, the Synod staff person responsible for Parish Development Grants made the trip up the Sea to Sky highway to Garibaldi Highlands, the northern section of the City of Squamish. During the liturgy he presented the award certificate indicating that St. John the Divine, Squamish will receive \$9,000 as seed capital to establish Children's, Youth and Young Families ministry.

Parish Development Grant committee member, Colleen Butterley, ODNW, a parishioner at St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby presented the certificate to the Parish of St. Mary's, Sapperton signifying that they will receive \$8,000 to be used toward their children's and youth ministry initiatives. Rev. Tellison Glover was the guest preacher and presider for the Eucharist and diocesan Missioner for Parish Development the Rev. Tasha Carrothers made the short trip over from Holy Trinity Cathedral (where she is currently assistant curate) to facilitate a

parish ministry planning session.

At St. Dunstan's, Parish Development Grant committee member, Tony Sauder visited the Aldergrove parish and presented the certificate to Reverend David Taylor who is Rector of St. Dunstan's and Executive Director of the St. Dunstan's Centre for Spiritual Renewal. The certificate affirms that they will receive \$10,000 in support of the Centre. This is the second installment of a three-year grant.

More award certificates and grants were presented during the months of November and December and they included:

- St. George, Maple Ridge of \$10,000 towards their Music and Youth Ministry
- St. Stephen's, Burnaby of \$20,000 for their *Shifting from Scarcity to Abundance* program
- Holy Trinity, White Rock of \$15,000 for their *Making a Positive Difference* campaign
- St. Barnabas, New Westminster of \$11,000 for their *Singing Our Love Out Loud* project

Coverage of some of these presentations were shared through the diocesan communications vehicles, website, electronic newsletters and social media platforms. ✦



LEFT The St. John's, Squamish folks with Rev. Glover: Warden, David Hildreth; Associate Warden, Karen Brumpton; Warden, Trevor Mills; and Rev. Tellison Glover. PHOTO Randy Murray RIGHT Christie, Sarah and Patrick prior to cutting the celebratory cake. PHOTO Margaret Ellis



A group shot of the parish ministry reps with Rev. Carrothers after the planning session. PHOTO Courtesy of Ceasar Castro



A group shot including the two guests in the narthex after worship at St. Mary's, Sapperton on November 24. PHOTO Courtesy of Ceasar Castro

OPINION

Psalm 102:1-11 • Part 2 The View from the Mountain

STEPHEN BLACK
Christ Church Cathedral

"But you, O Lord, are enthroned forever;
your name endures to all generations.
You will rise up and have compassion on Zion,
for it is time to favor it;
the appointed time has come.
For your servants hold its stones dear,
and have pity on its dust.
The nations will fear the name of the Lord,
and all the kings of the earth your glory.
For the Lord will build up Zion;
he will appear in his glory.
He will regard the prayer of the destitute,
and will not despise their prayer.
Let this be recorded for a generation to come,
so that a people yet unborn
may praise the Lord:
that he looked down from his holy height,
from heaven the Lord looked at the earth,
to hear the groans of the prisoners,
to set free those who were doomed to die;
so that the name of the Lord
may be declared in Zion,
and his praise in Jerusalem,
when peoples gather together,
and kingdoms, to worship the Lord."
(Psalm 102:12-22)

If the problem is personal, is the answer

communal? The woes and troubles narrated in verses 3-11 all pertain to individual problems of various sorts. They aren't speaking to communal concerns, such as famine, plague, or captivity, but individual ones such as bad personal health, and interpersonal trauma. With this in mind, it is striking that the focus of the Psalm changes so dramatically.

The change is so dramatic that it causes me to wonder if verses 1-11 were originally from a different Psalm that was later joined to verses 12-22 to form a new combined longer Psalm? But as it is, we move, without preparation from considering the problems of an individual to the fate of Zion as a community.

The emotional shift is also striking, moving from lamentation and woe to celebration and anticipation. It is almost as if the writer stands on a mountain top which has completely different views if one looks to the east from what one sees looking west. On one side of the mountain it is all wasteland, but on the other it is paradise and beauty. On one side God hears the prayers and frees the prisoners (verses 12-22—in verses 3-11, prison was not mentioned as a problem). So, looking down on one side

of the mountain, all we see is personal woe, but looking down on the other we see collective struggle and liberation. God is on the move here, but seemingly absent there. It is a contrast of horizons.

The problems articulated in verses 3-11 are not resolved. It is rather as if the psalmist merely looks away from them to see a completely different narrative playing itself out. In the first narrative, all was private defeat, but in the second narrative, there is struggle, but there is also victory: God is on the move. The problems of the first part of the Psalm are not resolved, but the problems in the second, more collective narrative are. It's as if we are offered a choice of narratives—an individual one which is really a litany of tragedy, and a collective one, which has its share of trouble, but also hope. The Psalm offer us a choice as to which vista to look at and to live into. Look this way or that way; live into your own personal tragedy, or into a struggle unto victory with God.

He has broken my strength in midcourse;
he has shortened my days.
"O my God," I say, "do not take me away
at the mid-point of my life,

you whose years endure throughout
all generations." (Psalm 102:23-24)

The psalmist seemingly turns his attention back to the more private woes of verses 3-11—unto that side of the mountain (as it were). He summarizes the experiences of verses 3-11—they are like being broken in the middle of one's way. One expects to be broken—or at least to have one's body break down in later years—but not in the middle of one's days: that is too soon! This setback does not occasion self-pity, but rather a philosophical reflection...

Long ago you laid the foundation
of the earth,
and the heavens are the work
of your hands.
They will perish, but you endure;
they will all wear out like a garment.
You change them like clothing,
and they pass away;
but you are the same,
and your years have no end.
The children of your servants shall live secure;
their offspring shall be established in
your presence. (Psalm 102:25-28)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

OPINION

The Road Not Travelled A reflection on providence in human life

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL
Retired Priest of the diocese of Calgary, former Dean of the diocese of New Westminster & Rector of Christ Church Cathedral

In our early years there are many people who have hopes for our lives. Those who are nearest to us and who love us will try to point us in certain ways, hoping that we will choose a particular path. But unknown to us, there may also be those who have hopes for us. It must have been the same for Jesus before he made the decision that changed everything.



IMAGE Pict Rider (iStock 1173796845)

For over 30 years Tobias had been rabbi in the village, caring for and guiding his people. The time had come for stepping back, but who would take over from him? He had tried to bring the subject up with his people, but out of affection for him they would not hear of his stepping back.

There came a day of particular weariness. There had been a great deal of sickness in the village. He had been called hither and yon to comfort and to advise. For some reason he found himself thinking of the great rabbi Hillel who he remembered when he himself was very young. Tobias wished the great man were still alive so that he could ask him for advice. However there was one piece of Hillel's wisdom that Tobias could easily recall in this present time of weariness.

*If I am not for myself, then who will be?
and if not now, when?
If I am for myself only, then who am I?*

It was at that moment that he found himself thinking of one of his own congregation, the young man named Jesus, son to Mary, who had lived in the village all her life. He remembered when her husband Joseph had

lost his life in an accident on a building over in the neighbouring city of Sepphoris.

Memories about the family began to form. There had been some doubt at the time about Joseph being the father of the child. With time such talk had faded. Other children had followed. After Joseph's death Jesus had stepped into the role of the eldest son to continue the business.

Such memories brought to Tobias thoughts about recent years. The young man had always been faithful to the synagogue. He had a quiet disposition, one that showed kindness and sensitivity, a natural caring for others. Some spoke of him as having a wisdom beyond his years. Tobias remembered a Sabbath when he had asked Jesus to read from the scroll. He could not recall the passage of scripture itself but he did recall the young man speaking for a moment or two and quoting the well known statement of Hillel, "What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow: this is the whole Torah."

Was it possible, thought Tobias, that the person he had been praying to find had been seated Sabbath by Sabbath in his own synagogue? Swiftly his mind moved from possibility to certainty. It all seemed so clear! Surely this was the Lord's pointing him to where he had never thought of searching!

As quickly as his aching knees would carry him Tobias headed for the young man's home. Over the years since Joseph's death the small house had been given a name by the village. They had come to call it the *House of the Just Man*, expressing their respect and admiration for Joseph. As Tobias toiled up the slope of the dusty road he felt more and more certain that he had received a revelation! There was not a moment to delay.

When he reached the house he realized that Mary had company. Two of the extended family, one of them James, Jesus' brother, were with her. Tobias saw to his consternation that she was weeping. He asked gently why she wept. When she told him, he felt a great wave of disappointment.

James helped Tobias to a chair. The old rabbi listened as he was told of Jesus' decision to leave for the south to where his cousin John was attracting crowds as he spoke compellingly of a more just society. Each time he spoke, John would call people to prepare and commit themselves to such a future by accepting the simple but profound rite of baptism in the Jordan.

As Tobias listened to James, who himself expressed deep regret at his brother's choice, the old man bowed his head and tried to gather control of his feelings. He had had such hope, such confidence that the Lord had pointed him to this moment. Now it had been snatched away. But then the faithfulness and the wisdom of years made it possible for Tobias to hear the words of the prophet Isaiah, hearing them as if they were being addressed to himself at this moment.

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord."*

When James had finished telling Tobias of the family's regret, they began to speak of other things. After a while, having accepted some simple hospitality, the old rabbi rose, gave the family his blessing, and left.

Far to the south a solitary figure stood in the Jordan, fell back into the supporting hands of John the baptizer, then rose again. Turning away from the crowds, he waded across the shallow water to the opposite bank and went into the desert. ✠

Psalm 102:1-11 • Part 2 The View from the Mountain

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

The trouble narrated in the first part of the Psalm could lead to despair. Yet that is not where the psalmist wants to take us. Rather, he would have us reflect on our mortality—and on God's immortality. There is

comfort in God's abiding nature. There is even a strange comfort in knowing that our time is fleeting. Heidegger, an important 20th century German philosopher, argued that we only truly become our real selves

when we deeply consider our impending deaths. Death has a way of cutting away the trivial things and bringing us closer to that which is really important. He believed the anxiety that often accompanies this deep meditation upon death is a key that unlocks a courage to live more deeply and truly. The psalmist may have come to think something like this as well. But for him, our mortality is only part of the story—he encourages us to consider the "mortality" of the whole created order—even of the stars! When measured against our brief lifespans, they seem as if the stars are immortal—but they aren't. Even if they may exist for many billions of years, the day is coming when each of them will burn out and cease to be. We live in a mortal universe. Only God is immortal.

The psalmist ends not with hope for his own post-mortem survival—but with that of his community. In Christ we hope for more, but I think there is wisdom for us in the psalmist's perspective. Do we have hope for the future generations? Hope is a precious thing, and hard to find, especially in this time of the climate crisis. How is hope possible given the mortality of everything? Yet we have an immortal God...

The Psalm takes the form of a sandwich. It starts and ends with private suffering, and in the middle is struggle with victory. As the psalmist puts us on the mountain top with two rival views of two rival narratives stretching out on either side of the mountain, again, it is as if we have to choose between one view or the other view. But by turning back to the former more private view of suffering in the final verses of the Psalm, the psalmist seems to be saying that this isn't really the choice before us. It is not this way or that, but both. We never fully escape our private suffering, just like we never get away from the good hand of God. We have to bear both our private suffering and our part in the community's struggle, and not forget one for the other. We need to honour the private suffering of the many (including ourselves), and not forget the redemptive work of God. ✠

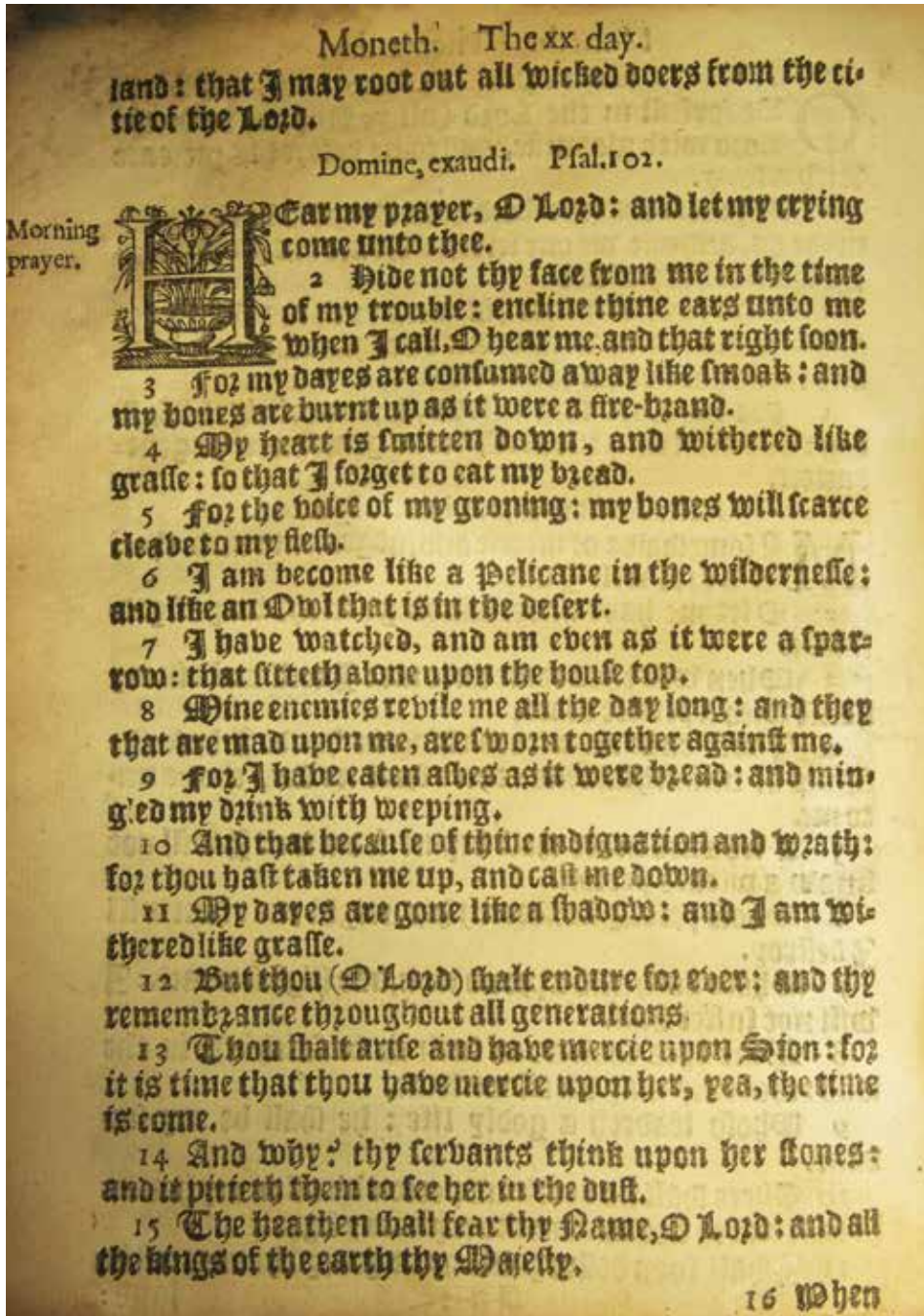


IMAGE Lukbar (iStock ID 1176208205)



First Notions

NII K'AN KWSDINS (AKA JERRY ADAMS)

Indigenous Justice Ministry Coordinator, diocese of New Westminster; Parishioner, St. James'

Everybody Matters, Everybody Belongs

Bill 41, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, was introduced in the BC legislature a few weeks ago. It made, and will continue to make, an impact on how Indigenous people will be considered in our province. It will mean that Aboriginal Peoples will for the first time be “equal decision-makers at the table where decisions are made that impact our lives.” (Cheryl Casimer, a First Nations Summit political executive in an interview on CBC Radio’s *On the Coast*.)

Equality is such a powerful word to us. In previous blogs I’ve talked about the absolute authority the Indian Agent had over us—something I observed in the fear felt by my mother and grandmother whenever he made an appearance in our home village of Aiyansh. That sense of powerlessness was felt in the way that it was well-known that he could send us children to residential school without my mother even being able to question him on his actions. The emotional impact made us feel like we were not citizens in Canada, because we had no voice in anything we did.

We had no ownership of our lands, our children, or our freedom. And most of all we did not have a voice to talk about our concerns. Equality for our people was nonexistent.

The destruction of our spiritual belief was another form of inequality, and yet the Indigenous people of Canada have worked with the Anglican Church to achieve this equality. “People often misinterpret what we’re doing as an attempt at independence, away from the church,” National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop Mark MacDonald says. “We really wish to become an Indigenous expression of the church, and we are only asking for the freedom and dignity that other Anglicans already enjoy.” Our equality was finally recognized on July 11 when General Synod passed a resolution to give Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples (ACIP) full voting membership at General Synod 2019.

It was wonderful to see our equality recognized, but more importantly to see it enacted. It was a very significant day, seeing others recognizing our own Aboriginal belief in God and love of God.

Introducing legislation on Bill 41

implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) is another step toward making us equal. UNDRIP has 47 articles and covers many different areas, such as self-determination, education, language, culture,

sacred sites, and the right to lands, waters and resources. Article 12 states that Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practice, develop and teach their spirituality and religious customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect and have access to privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.

There are 47 articles and it is not in any way a veto power over the work and governance of British Columbia. We are just looking to finally have equality in our nation and province. The government and Indigenous people must work together in a government to government relationship to agree on the outcome of anything affecting the human rights of Aboriginal Peoples before it is brought before parliament.

My grandparents, and my mother and father will rest peacefully knowing that first the Anglican Church, and now the provincial government are working to make us all equal, and give us the better lives that in their hearts they’d always wanted for us. ✙



National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop Mark MacDonald addresses General Synod prior to the Synod voting on the motion that called for the formation of a self-determining and self-governing Indigenous Anglican Church.

PHOTO Anglican Church of Canada / Milos Tomic

*“Everybody matters.
Everybody belongs,”
he said.
“We have to find a way
to get all these everybodies
to start talking to each other
so we can quit
hurting each other.
That’s what’s kind of
driven me to this work.”*

Chief Bobby Joseph



Members of the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples (ACIP) celebrate the historic moment of attaining self-determination and self-governance within the Anglican Church of Canada. PHOTO Anglican Church of Canada / Milos Tomic



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