

SPIRIT



St. Peter's Anglican Church, Campbell River
228 South Dogwood St. Campbell River BC, V9W 6Y7

Vision Statement:

**Inspired by God and the example of Jesus to serve our community
by offering love and acceptance to everyone.**

December 2016 Issue 4

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Notes from the Editor:

The snow falls silently outside my kitchen window while the aroma of my Grandmother's "Have-on-Hand Cake" (my version of Christmas cake these days) fills the house. The editing of this issue is almost complete.

Thank you to all who have contributed reports, articles and pictures to this issue of Spirit. We are a happening parish as you will read in "What's Been Happening" and "What's Coming Up" and there are many reflective pieces in "Articles of Interest" for you to enjoy.

I wish Blair and Jerryann all the best as they prepare to move to a new parish in the New Year. And, I wish all of you peace, joy and love at this magical time of year. Merry Christmas! Jane

Reports...

Blair's Blog



Dear Parish Family,

Who hasn't heard the comment these days 'What's happened to Christmas'? It's a familiar one particularly as our world is becoming more commercialized and people seem to be getting into the 'buying-spirit' for Christmas as early as October. Once we have made it through Thanksgiving it's as if someone has turned on a switch and told us that December 25th is just around the corner; so we had better increase our energy to get ready for the big day. Already the malls are packed and there is excitement in the air.

I appreciate the sentiment behind that comment because there is a longing within us, I believe, to make the celebration of the birth of Jesus as humble, yet as honourable as possible. We have a desire to move beyond the busyness of the world and come

again to the quiet stable at Bethlehem to behold the true beauty that has come into our world. Calmness and serenity are at the heart of this longing.

As I reflect on the story of Jesus' birth as told in the Gospels, I find it interesting that the time in which Mary and Joseph were arriving toward the stable was no less chaotic. People were busy in the market places and work carried on as usual for many of the common folk. Shepherds still had to tend their flock. Townsfolk still had to slave away in order to make a living. We are even reminded in Luke's Gospel that a census was taking place, suggesting that the government were carrying on *as usual*. Could the Gospels be telling us of a deeper mystery?

While many of us long for the opportunity to connect with the *real Christmas* I have to wonder if the greater mystery within the story of Jesus' birth is that in the midst of chaos, confusion, even uncertainty; hope enters. Jesus' birth in the midst of so many trials suggests to me that the very God who has created the world offers ultimate grace and hope within moments when life might even seem at its worse. The reality which life offers on so many levels is still pierced through whereby people can still know and believe that God is still in control of the world and that God's presence is still felt. Hence, Jesus comes to us in a stable and we can trust what that stable really means.

Yes, a lot has happened to Christmas but the beauty hasn't nor will it ever change. God has come into our world and has given us a new hope and promise for our lives. It is with this powerful gift that we can truly celebrate that joy of this season.

My friends, I want to wish all of you a very happy and blessed Christmas. Furthermore, I know that this will also be my last blog as Jerryann and I enter a new chapter in our lives moving to Mayne Island. The last several years have been filled with much joy and in the midst of change and transformation we have continued to feel God's presence, and we pray that same love will be with all of you.

Love and Blessings,
Blair and Jerryann

Chuck's Chatter: Can't Be My Twin, We're Not Related

No, he's not my brother. Remember the story about the lady named Walter? I did say that they were considered my family. If that is the case, then he is my brother. Not really. But he really is the senior brother of the lady named Walter.

Do we ever look alike! We look so much alike that people who have known us for decades, will strike up brilliant conversations with us thinking we are the other, even when we thousands of miles away from either of our homes. The confusion in his home church that arose when we both showed up at the same time for one of the sister's weddings was the source of much fun and merriment.

We do have fun with the situation. We both have somewhat the same warped sense of humour. We have been known to string people along for quite a while, letting them think it's the other guy to whom they are talking. In two particular instances it carried on for several days.

We were both in the military and served on the same bases together. Once we were even posted to same regiment at the same time. We have roughly the same build, the same moustache, the same glasses (issued), and the same lack of hair. We wear the same uniform but the cap badges are different. He ain't a chaplain. There was a time after being in the same unit, that we wound up posted in another city at the same time. We did not work anywhere near each other, but on occasions, people who knew one of us, would trip over the other one of us.

At one point I had to go down town on temporary duty. For a week, I took the same rush hour bus every morning. On this bus there was a young fellow who, I knew from his rank, had not been in the system too long. He was wearing the same cap badge as my "twin". I also knew, from the location that he got off the bus, that he worked in the same office as my "twin".

The first day I got on the bus, he stared at me as I walked to the very back of the bus. He had a regular seat about half way back. He did this for four straight days. If this carried on much longer, his neck was going to turn into a cork screw.

You could see the wheels going around. He wanted to ask, but he didn't dare. I found out later he was a little paranoid of rank, and since I was somewhat higher up the philo-genetic scale than he was, he wasn't about to open a conversation.

On Friday I decided I was going to have a little fun. As I walked down the aisle of the bus, I locked eyes with him. This was the first time I had done so. I had been deliberately observing him without looking him in the eye prior to this. I stopped beside his seat, still looking him straight in the peepers and said, "When you get to the office this morning, I want you to give Captain So and So hell for me, just on general principles." I did not give him a chance to reply as I hurried off to the back of the bus. He almost fell out of his seat as he swung around to watch me go.

My temporary duty finished that day and the following week I was in my own office on the other side of the city. I hadn't even finished my first cup of coffee when the phone rang. I picked it up and all I could hear was giggling followed by someone wheezing and trying to catch their breath. I was a little concerned, but decided it must be a joke worth waiting to hear. That was assuming the "giggling wheezer" lived long enough to speak to me. Caller ID had not been invented yet.

When the caller regained his composure, at least for a brief moment, he managed to blurt out, "I hear you were talking to one of my young fellows on the bus last Friday." I had to admit that indeed I had done so. My "twin" broke up laughing again. He was several ranks higher than the young lad. The lad, as I said earlier, was somewhat intimidated by rank. He had approached my "twin" with a certain amount of trepidation. He said something along the lines of, "Excuse me sir, but a senior officer ordered me, sir, to give you hell just on general principles, sir. I don't know who he is, sir. I didn't recognize the cap badge, sir, but he sure looked like you, sir. I'm not sure I should have really passed the message on, sir. I hope you're not angry with me, sir, but he was a senior officer, sir."

Apparently he was literally shaking in his boots. The fellow was assured it would not have any detrimental effect on his annual Personnel Evaluation Report. He was equally guaranteed that the individual who had given him the order was well known by the intended recipient of the message.

There are several other instances when we have been mistaken for each other. The Base Surgeon, with whom I worked at one base, who was a member of the congregation and knew me well, struck up a conversation with him some 3000 miles from home.

He had seen my "twin" and it was only after talking to him for several minutes that he realized it wasn't me. My "twin" of course, played along until the surgeon figured it out for himself. Neither of us was ever known for giving up easily.

On another occasion, a military police person, just posted to the base on which I was serving, had, in his previous posting, worked in the next office to my "twin". We were both at the Officers' Mess for lunch when he spotted me. Being new in the area, recognizing a face he knew, he came directly over to me and struck up a conversation with me thinking I was He.

Suddenly in mid-sentence, a very strange look came over him, he cocked his head to one side and said, "You're not _____, but you sure look like him. Who are you anyway?"

He had not told me who he thought I was. I beat him to the punch. I responded by saying, "Oh, you think I am So And So, don't you?" I started to laugh and assured him he was not alone in his mistaken identification.

Oh yes, my "twin" and I do have fun.

Spirit of Finance: A Report from your Treasurers - December 7, 2016

As we are reaching the end of the calendar year, we would like to commend all of the organizers and volunteers of our various fundraisers for a job so well done. The time and effort expended by each of you is so very much appreciated. Thank you.

Our finances at the end of October are not exactly what we would wish for but are the reality of the times.

Revenue = \$155,848.16

Expenses = \$172,474.33

Net Income (Loss) = (\$16,626.71)

Bank Balance at October 31 (includes book sale monies) = \$22,268.38

We did very well at the Bazaar with sales of over \$8,100! That revenue will be included in the November finances to be presented to Council on Dec 15.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best for a happy, healthy 2017.

Holly Finn and Jill Cook

Warden's Report

Much has happened since the last issue of the Spirit.

We are working towards a new church office computer. The central vac system in the church has been repaired and is in good working order again. Our heartfelt thanks to Rosalie Meier for purchasing two new stoves for our kitchen. What a blessing!

We are meeting with Blair on a fairly regular basis to ensure we are all in the know of parish happenings.

We are pleased that our Church Hall, Narthex and Sanctuary are being rented quite steadily. A great income for our parish!

We are presently looking for a "Kitchen Steward". This would entail care and maintenance of the kitchen. This volunteer would be in charge of making sure the kitchen is clean, that all dishes, etc. are available and that standard supplies are in stock (coffee, tea, etc.). A team could be recruited to make the load lighter. This ministry is important to keep and attract renters.

Elaine, our compost diva, has undertaken to clean up the garden surrounding the St. Peter's sign on Dogwood Street. Her goal is to open up the shrubbery a bit and to make the church more visible from the street. We are also planning on raising the canopy of fir trees that separates us from the Christian School next door. We want to clear the sight lines to ensure a clear view of activities can be had. It is possible that the same treatment may be given to the trees on the berm on Pinecrest Street.

Lynn Vogan continues to look after the counting and depositing of the Sunday offering. She is in urgent need of additional helpers. There must be at least two people present and Wardens cannot be involved. If you can volunteer some time and it does not have to be every Sunday, please get in touch with Lynn or any of the Wardens. Safe Church training is required.

The process for the search of a new incumbent will not commence until January 31, 2017. We will ensure the parish is kept up to date with proceedings. The Bishop will assign an interim priest.

Please come to us at any time with any questions or concerns you may have. Blessings,
Your Wardens,
Bill, Cathy and Pauline

Library Line

Catalogue: Have you used the new catalogue of our library to find a book? The black binder sits by the library window. To find a non-fiction book look for the title or author in the non-fiction section of the catalogue to find the call number e.g. 224.2 FEL. Then look on the shelf labels for that call number. For a fiction book, the title section will give you the author. All fiction is shelved by the author's last name and our labels will help you find your way to that book.

Christmas Reading: Many books are available to enrich you Christmas quiet times. Joan, Sandi, Roy and Martha recommend:

Carl Anker	Seek and Find Bible Stories (Children)
Max Lucado	The Christmas Cross (Adult Fiction)
Jan Karon	Shepherds Abiding (Adult Fiction)
Mortensen	366 Bible Stories (Children)
C. Woodsmall	The Sound of Sleigh Bells (Adult Fiction)
Fiona Boon	The Story of Christmas (Children – Board Book)

Thomas Kinkade: This wonderful man is well known for his art and writing, particularly the Cape Light series which he co-authored with Katherine Spencer. Since his passing in 2012, Katherine Spencer has kept the series alive. We highly recommend her Cape Light Songs of Christmas.

New Service in the Library - CD Exchange: Do you have good CDs that do not get played? We invite you to bring them in to trade, share or exchange. Check out the CD Exchange carousel.

Choir Notes

Since the fall, we have been practicing hard to sing at Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day services. Now we are all about Christmas tunes! We will be singing at Advent services and of course Christmas services, including Lessons and Carols and the Christmas Eve Family Service. We hope our voices will bring peace and joy to everyone this Christmas season.

Tomoko Bonner,
Choir Director

Syrian Newcomers to Canada Update

Our Committee is sponsoring ten people from Syria to enter Canada as UN Convention refugees. A family of five arrived in June and has settled nicely. We now are waiting for another family of three and the other family of two whose son made his way here in 2015.

We are hoping these members will be here by the end of this year.

We work under the umbrella of the Diocese of British Columbia and all of our committee members have attended meetings to help us with our task. We are committed to raising \$150,000.00 and have so far almost reached \$100,000.00 by fundraising and generous gifts from our parish members and others in the community.

As private sponsors for these ten refugees (newcomers to Canada) our responsibility is to provide housing, food, utilities, transportation and clothing (each arrived with one suitcase).

So how can we all help? By donating funds directly to St. Peter's and indicating on the memo of the cheque, "Syrian Refugees." Tax receipts are issued in the New Year.

Some contributors have organized fundraisers with their friends (a dinner, coffee or music party) and donated the funds. The committee has had several fundraisers: dances, dinners, booths at functions, garage sales.

Also anyone can join our group, (meetings are Monday night, 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall), to help us with planning, fundraising and decision making.

It has been a very great privilege for us to work together and get to know our newcomers.

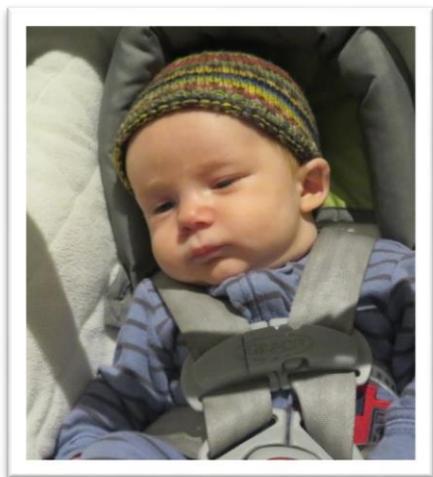
Campbell River Syrian Refugee
Committee



Merell Nassar Awad with her mom,
Samira Metias, nephew, Lion Barhoun
and sister Hudu Nassar attended the
Harvest Supper in October.

What's Been Happening...

St. Peter's Harvest Supper - October 15



Many thanks, Diana, for putting a new spin on the Harvest Supper! Roast ham, scalloped potatoes, "the three sisters" – corn, beans and squash, peas and pie were enjoyed by all, including the youngest, Jack's younger brother, Ethan, born July 31, 2016 and the oldest, Pat's husband, Ed. "The secret to longevity," says Ed, "is an Irish father and an English mother!"

St. Peter's Annual Book Sale - October 21-22

Like last year, St. Peter's Book Sale ran for two days. The week prior to the sale, set-up began with the Youth bringing all the books up from the basement and into the hall after coffee time. Thank you so much to the Youth for your help with this. Quite the cardio workout! Set-up of tables and the organization of books began on Monday morning. Thank you to the library ladies for taking time away from their library duties to help with this initial set-up. Many parishioners volunteered to help with the preparation of the sale by donating, sorting and organizing books, baking cookies for the customers, making muffins, scones or soup for the workers, working the days of the sale and cleaning up after the sale.

Attendance throughout both days of the sale was steady with waves of busyness as well as times of quiet. After the sale, the books were sorted; some were stored and some old paperbacks were recycled. Boxes of books were delivered around town to several thrift stores, the Food Bank and the blue "Discover Books" bin by the recycling depot. The Campbell River Museum and Comox Valley Rotary were also happy to receive books. With regard to profit, this year's sale was the second best we've had, realizing very close to \$3000.

Not all the shelves in the basement are filled with boxes of books allowing for donations of books to come in throughout the year. For safety reasons, please leave your donations, marked "book sale 2017" on the box or bag in the Narthex and I will make sure they are delivered to the basement. Next year's sale will be October 20-21 to, again, coincide with the School District Pro-D Day. Thank you so much for your support. Jane

Baby Shower - November 6

On Saturday morning, December 6, approximately 20 ladies attended a shower for two new baby boys in our parish, Tomoko's baby, Kento William, and Liz's baby Ethan Barrett. Liz and Tomoko were kept busy opening gifts while Ethan and Kento were given lots of attention by all in attendance. The ladies enjoyed sliced loaves, fruit and a piece of cake with their coffee or tea.

Congratulations to Tomoko and Liz for the new additions to their families!



Spaghetti Dinner – November 13

Many thanks to Hadley and his crew for another successful Spaghetti Dinner and fellowship!



St. Peter's Old Fashioned Christmas Bazaar – November 25-26, 2016

I would like to take time to thank the congregation and for all those who stepped up to the plate to make St. Peter's Bazaar 2016 another success. There were many new faces behind the booths as well as those behind the scenes who all contributed in their own quiet way. The total funds raised were in excess of \$9100!! If you are interested in continuing on with the bazaar theme, we will be looking at having one evening a month to learn a craft that can be sold at the bazaar next year (it also may give you some ideas for your own family). As well as sharing hidden talents, it provides another opportunity for fellowship as well as working together. I would welcome emails if we can count on your help for next year's event which will be held the last Friday and Saturday of November 2017.

Respectfully submitted, Lois Tirebuck, Convener Bazaar 2016 (e-mail:pcd138@telus.net)





St. Peter's Old Fashioned Christmas Bazaar pictures

Page 10 – Lois, our Bazaar Convener and the Knitting Table

Page 11 - Bake Table, "Santa and Mrs. Claus", the Boutique, Tomoko and Kento

Ladies' Breakfast - December 3, 2016

The muted sounds of conversation, laughter and piano music come from beyond the closed hall door. I stand in the hallway and listen for a while before reaching to open the door. I am greeted by the warmth of the smiles of women in conversation, the glow of tiny white lights hung as garlands and the aroma of breakfast. It is a lovely welcome home after being away for three weeks.

I have come to the breakfast as the Spirit editor, to take a picture and get on with my busy day. But such a welcome is too hard to leave; and the guest speaker is just about to come

forward. Frances, coordinator of the breakfast, stands up and introduces the mystery guest who grew up on the south shores of St. Margaret's Bay, in Fox Point, Nova Scotia, our very own, Jennifer Coolen.

Jennifer takes us back in time to her childhood church, St. James Anglican Church, built in 1907, "the vestry is the size of a closet and there's no bathroom," to the Sunday School Christmas Pageant. But, "tonight, the children are YOU." Jennifer preps tables with envelopes containing parts to recite and "if you don't get a part, you are the proud parent or grandparent." The flurry of preparation as the ladies decide on their parts is interrupted by the ringing of a school bell. Jennifer reminds everyone, "You don't have a microphone. You have to speak up. Readers, please stand when it is your turn." The concert begins.

"Welcome to the Christmas Concert, St. James Anglican Church; at some year in the past."

Jennifer begins with the recitation of "The Snowball" and calls on poem number one, "The Christmas Story." Jacquie Langdon reminds her fellow readers, "Now remember we have to

protect our voices." Poem number two, "Santa's Christmas Prayer." "That's us," says Barb Henshall. Poem Three, "The Politically Correct Christmas" is announced. The poem includes comments on vertically-challenged elves, reindeer being replaced with pigs and second-hand smoke from Santa's pipe. But the gift that doesn't offend; Peace on Earth! The ladies sing a verse of two Christmas songs and three more poems are recited. Jennifer



sums it up with, “Prizes and gifts are handed out” and the words which are repeated the world over; “Peace Hope and Love.”

And the breakfast, which I missed? It was prepared by the Royal Coachman; scrambled eggs, sausage/bacon, hash browns, pastries, fruit, coffee and tea. And served on hot plates!

Thank you, Frances, for organizing this event. Your last, you say, but we know you’ll be around to mentor the next one!

Advent 24-Hour Vigil – December 3-4, 2016

We held the third annual Advent Vigil on December 3 – 4. I’d like to thank the eighteen faithful intercessors who prayed throughout the day and night. Each pair prayed for a two-hour period mostly in our church Sanctuary and a few in their own homes. We the intercessors were blessed by this time apart from the hustle and bustle of Christmas season. The church and each member of the parish list were blessed by the prayers. We prayed for the future of St. Peter’s Church, our new leader and the process in choosing him or her. We also prayed for Blair and Jerryann’s future and the selling of their Campbell River home.

God was, as always, faithful in meeting us at that time and place and in hearing our petitions. One of our prayers was inspired by the following writing by Brother David Stendt Rast.

May you grow still enough to hear
the small noises Earth makes
in preparing for the long sleep of winter,
so that you yourself may grow
calm and grounded deep within.

May you grow still enough to hear
the trickling of water seeping into the ground,
so that your soul may be softened
and healed and guided in its flow.

May you grow still enough to hear
the splintering of starlight in the winter sky
and the roar of Earth’s fiery core.

May you grow still enough to hear
the stir of a single snowflake in the air,
so that your inner silence
may be turned into hushed expectation.

What's Coming Up...

Nine Lessons and Carols Service, Wassail Bowl - December 11, 7:30 p.m.

Following the service you are invited to join us for the Wassail Bowl and if you would like, please bring a small sample of your Christmas baking to share following the service.

Blue Christmas Service - December 14, 7:30 p.m.

Christmas time can be a very lonely, depressing, "blue" time for many people. Over the past year many have experienced the loss of loved ones and other losses in their lives. This is especially difficult particularly when others are partying and gathering with family members. As a way of recognizing this, this year's "Blue Christmas" Ecumenical Service will be held in cooperation with Campbell River United Church and St. Peter's Anglican Church at Campbell River United Church. All are welcomed to attend.

Sunday School Christmas Practice and Pageant - December 17 & 18

The **practice** is Saturday, December 17, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Healthy snacks will be provided on dress rehearsal day. This year's Christmas **Pageant** is Sunday, December 18 at the 10:00 a.m. service.

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Family Service	December 24, 4:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	December 24, 11:00 p.m.
Christmas Day Service	December 25, 10:30 p.m.

St. Peter's Family Christmas Dinner - December 25 at 5:00 p.m.

You are invited to St. Peter's Family Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day at 5:00 p.m. Many of us who attend look forward to a large family dinner at Christmas but do not have extended family in the area. This will be the eighth year that we have enjoyed Christmas dinner as one large family - singles, couples and families with children.

We have a lot of fun, great conversation, and a lot of very good food. This is an organized meal with everyone contributing something. The menu features turkey with stuffing, mashed potatoes, carrots, peas, yams, and Brussels sprouts (and great desserts). If dinner with the family of St. Peter's appeals to you, a sign-up sheet is posted. When you sign up we will contact you so you can let us know what you would like to contribute or if you would like to help with set-up, decorating or clean-up. If you would like more information, please contact Greg Goldstone at 250-850-1520 or email Greg_Goldstone@telus.net

Articles of Interest...

Ausie's Gift

Here we are again, heading into Christmas-time once more, looking forward to when we celebrate the arrival of our Lord Jesus the Christ in our earthly world.

And once again, for some of us it's going to be very different this year from what it's been in the past, because of a change in our circumstances – hopefully, for most of us, for the better; but unquestionably, for some others, not so good.

For Bev Lawrence and for others of us who knew him as a very much cherished, warm and

wonderfully kind, outgoing and humorous friend, there will be a big gap in the form of Austin "Ausie" Lawrence, who from many years ago sprouted an amazing and beautifully developed white Santa Claus beard and moustache and well-filled a bright-red Santa suit.

For some 12 years he went down to the Ironwood Mall (now called The Common) and played Santa for kids and adults alike, who wanted to have their picture taken, telling Santa what they wanted for Christmas. He also did that for many years for the St. Peter's Christmas Bazaar.

Towards the later years, Bev also used to don an outfit to act as his helper, and they did it more for visitors to the Driftwood Mall in Courtenay.

When I visited Bev at her home a few weeks ago, she told me they used to do that every day from late morning until about 5:00 p.m. for 22 days, from December 1 to 23. On Dec 24, they used to tell everyone, of course, Santa would be far too busy delivering gifts.

And that truly was Ausie's gift in that role. Bev told me he always approached it far more from the point of view of Christianity's St. Nicholas than the commercial point of view of Santa.

And that really helped, because some of the requests from quite small children, some of whom were very, very scared by this big red figure and bushy beard and moustache, were for a happy or healthy Christmas, or for no more fighting between the adults, and in full knowledge that they were not going to be getting much in the way of presents or toys, if any at all.

Bev told me some very touching and marvelous stories about how Ausie managed to coax some very reluctant people to visit with him, and he always got down from his seat to their level, even for mentally challenged adults or physically disadvantaged ones in wheelchairs.

Bev also told me that he absolutely never promised they would receive what they asked for, only saying that he was making a mental note and hoped their wish would come true. That took the pressure off the accompanying parents, aunt, uncle, grandparents etc.



And always, always he went along with them in whatever they said about him. When they asked if he really was Santa, he would always reply (as Jesus did), “Well, who do you think I am?” If they said, “Oh, I think you’re Santa!” he’d say, “Well, then it must be true.” Or if they said, “I don’t think you’re Santa!” he’d reply, “Well, I guess I can’t be then.”

Two of Bev’s best stories were about the journeys down to Courtenay or coming back. On one occasion, she said, she was driving down, with Ausie already arrayed in his red uniform. When they drew up to the lights to turn left onto the Inland Island Highway, a truck drew up alongside to go straight ahead to the airport. The driver glanced to his left and his eyes nearly popped out of his head when he spotted Santa in the passenger seat of the vehicle. Needless to say, he was delighted to be able to tell his young passengers, who was sitting in the car next to him and smiling towards them.

The other story was about Ausie driving Bev home one night while still in his outfit. They were stopped in an RCMP roadblock and an officer came up to the driver’s window. He had to ask, “Have you been drinking at all tonight?”

“Not at all, officer,” said Ausie in full truth.

“Very good, sir,” said the officer. “On your way; and be good!”

Ausie was certainly that; he was very good, at a task and a mission he adored doing, and bringing pleasure and even comfort to hundreds of people every year that he donned the Santa gear.

I have no doubt that he would join me in wanting to wish everyone A Very Good Christmas.

Quentin D.:



O God of Every Moment

In this cold, dark season
of bare branches,
of long shadows,
of frozen earth,
we make our Advent pilgrimage.
Behind us, dormancy -
before us, life-eternal.

And so we pray,
that like flint struck against stone,
you will set our shivering hearts ablaze.
May each one of us be counted
as bearers of your light.
so that, in walking together,
we become a beacon in the darkness,
and true reflections
of the warmth of your embrace.

Janice Halstead

A Morning Resolve

I will try this day to live a simple, sincere and serene life, repelling promptly every thought of discontent, anxiety, discouragement, impurity, and self-seeking; cultivating cheerfulness, magnanimity, charity, and the habit of holy silence; exercising economy in expenditure, generosity in giving, carefulness in conversation, diligence in appointed service, fidelity to every trust and a childlike faith in God.

In particular I will try to be faithful in those habits of prayer, work, study, physical exercise, eating and sleep which I believe the Holy Spirit has shown me to be right.

And as I cannot in my own strength do this nor even with a hope of success to attempt it, I look to thee, O Lord God my Father, in Jesus my Saviour and ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Unknown

Acquire the habit of speaking to God as if you were alone with him.

Speak with familiarity and confidence as to your dearest and most loving friend.

Speak of your likes, your plans, your troubles, your joys, your fears.

In return, God will speak to you – not that you will hear audible words in your ears,
but words that you will clearly understand in your heart.

Saint Alphonsus Liguori

Mary - Then and Now

When I ponder the advent of bearing a child,
The mystery, the hope and the promise
Of God.

Excitement, and joy and wonder abound

But...

I wonder how Mary would actually be
As she journeyed with Joseph
To fulfil Augustus' decree?

Regardless of condition
It was time to go,
Trudging over hills
And sand storms a blow.

Have we not romanticized the birth of the Christ Child
As he was wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a manger?

Is this not what is happening
To the "Marys" of today?
Torn from their homes,
Escaping without delay
Oppressions and war
-they just won't go away!

Seeking an inn, a stable or manger
But - there is none...

Oh! Why can't this world:

Be kind

Be respectful

Be protective

Be peaceful

Be trustworthy

Love and care for creation?

Love one another!

Let there be peace on earth and good will to all mankind!

May your Christmas be filled with peace, hope and love everyone!

Barbara Henshall, December 2016

Announcements...

Multi-generational Lenten Fair Proposed; Volunteers Needed!

The council has been approached with the proposal of having a Lenten Fair. It is to be a three hour session, on a Saturday afternoon, about two weeks before Easter Sunday .

Focus is Lent: It would have a selection of activities that help participants focus on the meaning of Lent and on the events of Jesus' passion.

Purpose: To bring members of the parish together for some creative experiences that will enhance their understanding and observance of Holy Week and Easter.

Please speak to Diana Hicks if you are interested in helping with this event.

Pearl Schram's new address:

Berwick on the Lake
3031 Ross Road, Room 136
Nanaimo, BC

OR you can mail:

c/o to her daughter Sharon
1391 Rose Ann Drive, Nanaimo V9T 3J6
250-585-7440



Deaths

John Davis

October 17, 2016

Lorna Hastings

October 28, 2016

I shall pass this way but once: any good that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being; let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

Etienne de Grellet

Weekly Schedule at St. Peter's

MONDAY:	9:30 a.m. – Noon	Library
	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Bible Study
WEDNESDAY:	10:00 a.m. – Noon	Prayer Chain
	10:00 a.m. – Noon	ACW
	10:30 a.m.	Lectionary Bible Study
	3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Mindfulness as Spiritual Practice Group
	12:10 p.m.	Noon Day Eucharist
SUNDAY:	after 10:00 a.m. service	Choir Practice

Other Monthly & Occasional Activities at St. Peter's

1 st Tuesday of the Month	Eucharist at Yucalta Lodge at 3:00 p.m.
1 st Wednesday of the Month	Eucharist at Berwick at 1:30 p.m.
1 st Thursday of the Month	Hymn Sing, Evergreen Seniors Home at 10:30 p.m.
3 rd Thursday of the Month	Parish Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
2 nd Sunday of the Month	Service at St. Saviour's, Cortes Island
4 th Sunday of the Month	Service alternating between Yucalta (2:00 p.m.) and New Horizons (2:00 p.m.)

Event Calendar: 2016 Notable Future Dates (Mark your calendars)

Nine Lessons and Carols Service	December 11	7:30 p.m.
Blue Christmas Service	December 14	7:30 p.m.
(This year held at Campbell River United Church.)		
Sunday School Christmas Pageant	December 18	10:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve Family Service	December 24	4:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	December 24	11:00 p.m.
Christmas Day Service	December 25	10:30 p.m.
Christmas Dinner (Parish Hall)	December 25	5:00 p.m.

