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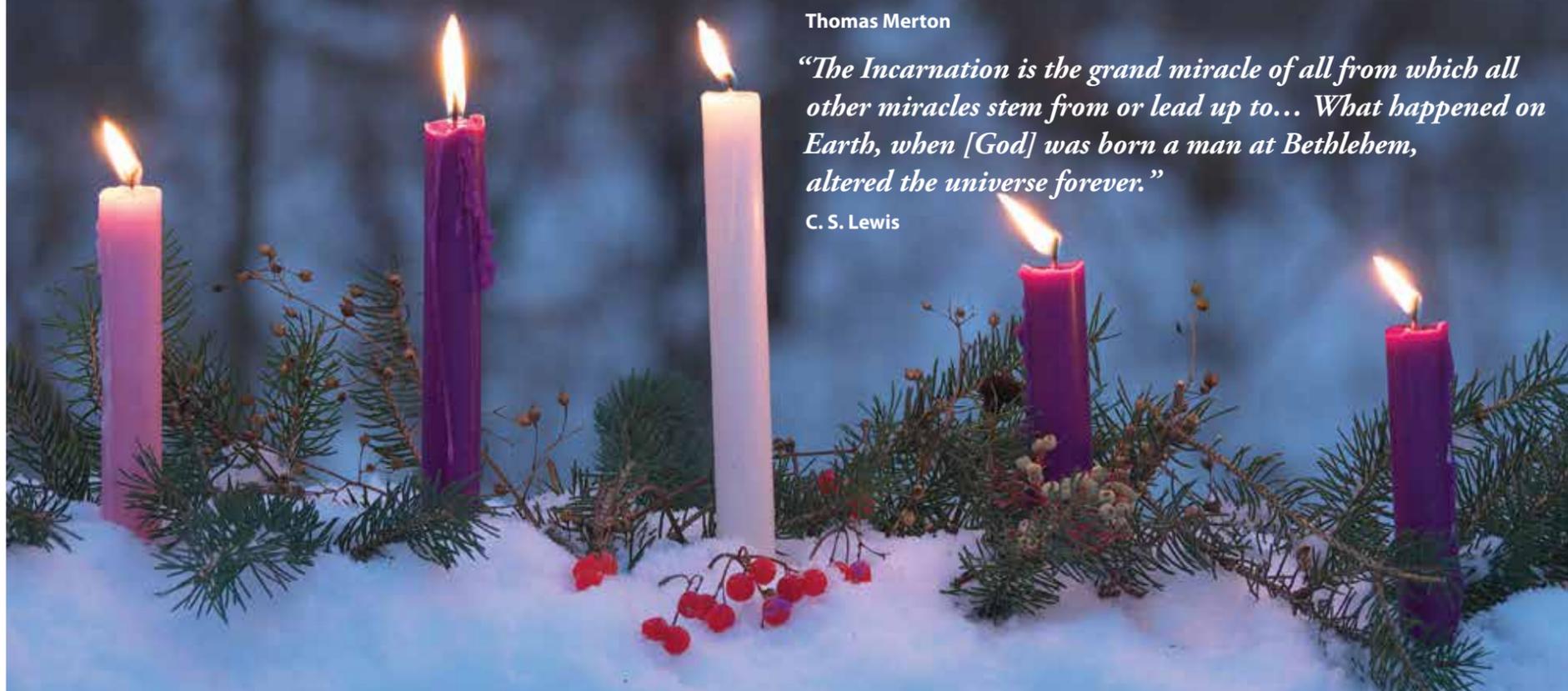
Advent, the season when we wait, watch & hope

“Into this world, this demented inn in which there is absolutely no room for him at all, Christ comes uninvited.”

Thomas Merton

“The Incarnation is the grand miracle of all from which all other miracles stem from or lead up to... What happened on Earth, when [God] was born a man at Bethlehem, altered the universe forever.”

C. S. Lewis



We Are All Meant to be Mothers of God

Archbishop Melissa Skelton's Christmas Message

Some years ago I began to collect crèches. Of particular interest to me were representations of some collection of: the Holy Family, the animals, the wise men, the shepherds and the angel, created and manufactured in places other than North America. One year after seeing a friend's Peruvian crèche—a tiny nativity set in which all the figures were attired in native dress—I decided to order one of my own. And so I went online, found what I thought was the perfect one, and ordered it right away, all in the hopes that it would arrive before Christmas. Two weeks later right at the beginning of Advent a box arrived. I opened it, and this is what I unwrapped:

First came two animals: an ox and a donkey. Then came three wise people. Then came Joseph, and then came

Jesus—an infant with wonderful large hands—along with the modest animal trough in which he was to lie. And then came... absolutely nothing else!

At first I was thunderstruck—unable to wrap my mind around the possibility that there was no Mary in the box. I just couldn't believe it. And so I scratched around looking for her, pawing my way through the Peruvian newspaper the figures were wrapped in. But she was not there. No Mary.

And as I sat there looking at the figures pretty much as you see them in the first photo (*below left*), a theological thunderbolt arrived from on high: Without Mary, there would be no nativity, no infant Jesus, no three wise people bringing gifts. Without Mary there would be no God being born into the world. Without Mary, there would be no story of a human being who said “yes” to God becoming flesh in her and through her for the sake of the world.

And so this Christmas as you look at my incomplete nativity and feel as frustrated and as confused as I did when I first looked at it, when you ponder how there could even be a nativity without Mary (after I contacted the vendor I received the Mary figure seen in the photo on the right), remember that in the Christmas story, *you are she*. Remember that there can be no birth of a God who comes in humility, no birth of a God who comes to reverse the fortunes of the weak, without you there, without your willingness and without your participation in God becoming flesh through you for the sake of the world.

The Medieval mystic, Meister Eckhart said it this way:

“We are all meant to be mothers of God... What good is it to me if this eternal birth of the divine son takes place unceasingly but does not take place within myself? And what good is it to me if Mary is full of grace if I am not also full of grace? What good is it to me for the Creator to give birth to the Son if I do not also give birth to him in my time and my culture? This then is the fullness of time: when the Son of God is begotten in us.”

May the fullness of time this Christmas bring the Son of God begotten in you ✠



Responding to God's Call

Vocations Day 2018

RANDY MURRAY (PREPARED WITH FILES FROM BRUCE MORRIS, DEACON, ST. HILDA, SECHELT, ARCHDEACON FOR DEACONS, DIOCESE OF NEW WESTMINSTER)
 Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The fourth annual diocesan *Vocations Day* was held in the Trendell Lounge, the space shared by the Synod Office and St. John's, Shaughnessy on Saturday, October 20, 2018. The title for the event, which is likely to be an enduring one, is *Responding to God's Call*.

A dozen seekers attended the five-hour event and two parish clergy were also present accompanying seekers that they had invited and encouraged to attend. The day was facilitated by: the Ven. Bruce Morris, Archdeacon for Deacons, deacon at St. Hilda, Sechelt; the Ven. John Stephens, Archdeacon of Vancouver, rector at St. John's, Shaughnessy; and the Rev. Sharon Salomons, Director for Diaconal Formation, priest-in-charge at St. Augustine, Marpole.

The basic format for the day consisted of plenary presentations led by the three facilitators, together with small group sessions as participants discussed their sense of vocation. Some members of the group of seekers have already identified the nature of their call and approximately half have yet to determine to which order, diaconate or priesthood.

During the morning plenary session, Sharon Salomons presented the formation process for diaconal candidates, as well as sharing her own story of call.

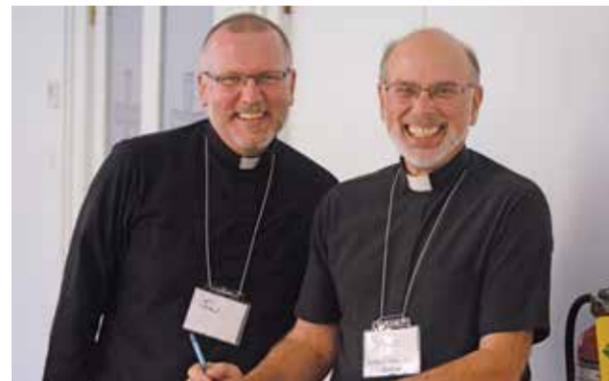
Vocations Day in the diocese of New Westminster has evolved over the four years from an event open to anyone, which according to Bruce Morris, "tended to have people attend whose sense of call was very unformed" to the current process which involves receiving an invitation to the



LEFT The Rev. Sharon Salomons facilitates a plenary session. MIDDLE & RIGHT Small group discussions. PHOTOS Randy Murray



The Ven. Bruce Morris facilitates a plenary session. PHOTO Randy Murray



Two of the event organizers, Archdeacons John Stephens and Bruce Morris. PHOTO Randy Murray

event from parish clergy. Archdeacon Morris went on to say the following about the current format, "we have a smaller number of people (than the initial version), who are serious enquirers, often already started in the discernment process."

The questions asked by seekers varied widely—some had questions about process, some asked, "How do you know?" regarding divine call and some asked if our diocese would consider ministries that are "out of the box."

When asked to share his thoughts about the day, John Stephens offered the following reflection:

"This event creates a safe and encouraging place for people to talk about a potential call to ordained ministry. It is not easy to find places to simply explore whether this is a legitimate call from God and whether this calling makes sense in the context of ordained ministry in the Church. This event is a place to ask questions, wonder aloud, hear the stories of others, name your own concerns, and voice your feelings about it all.

When one is wondering if one has a call to ordained ministry there are few places to discuss it without sounding odd or strange but this event allows people to explore, wonder and continue to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit on their pilgrimage and journey. It was a great joy for me to be part of it."

When asked to comment on what he thought worked well during the 2018 version of *Vocations Day*, Bruce Morris echoed John Stephen's response particularly regarding it being a safe time and place to share:

"Maintaining an atmosphere of open discussion works really well, even through the plenary presentations, in which any question could be asked (and most answered) and everyone's call to Christian ministry is affirmed."

Please visit the *Ordination* section of the diocesan website for introductory information at www.vancouver.anglican.ca/programs/ordination

Dear Topic Readers

You can help communicate the Good News of the arrival of the Light of the World by passing on to friends, family, and neighbours the web location of the diocese of New Westminster's Find-a-Church pages at www.vancouver.anglican.ca/find-a-church.

There are 66 easy to access parish pages grouped in 11 deanery sections with regional location information on the entry graphics and detailed location information for each parish. Many of the parish pages will also include specific listings for Advent and Christmas worship and events, inviting everyone to participate. All are welcome!

It is our privilege to produce Topic and we are extremely grateful for our readers and the wonderful support we receive from Around the Diocese.

To you and yours the merriest of Christmas's and many blessings for 2019!

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

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



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Thank you!

Bringing the Light & Peace of Christ

Anglican Chaplaincy at Vancouver General Hospital

BRYAN RIVERS

Vancouver General Hospital Chaplain

As the recently appointed part-time Anglican Chaplain at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) I often feel caught up in an endless episode of *Mission Impossible*. Working with my colleagues in the Spiritual Care and Multifaith Services Department, I provide pastoral care to an ever-changing population of patients, families, visitors, medical and support-staff, in six different buildings, spread over four city blocks.

This ministry takes me into every ward, including: emergency, burns, trauma, ICU, pre and post operative, step-down, transplant, surgical, long-term care, day-patients, cancer treatment, psychiatry, dementia, geriatrics, cardiac and palliative care. In these settings I meet patients from every conceivable cultural background, speaking a variety of different languages. Some are unable to speak due to their medical condition, feeding tubes, medications, or other factors.

I try to console patients, spouses, parents, and concerned family members; often in confined spaces, seemingly designed intentionally as an obstacle course, with cables, monitors, medical equipment, walkers, wheelchairs, hoists, fans, IV poles and feeding-trays, with the distracting sounds of buzzers, alarms and bells, and constant interruptions. Frequently, the rooms have multiple occupants, no privacy, and nowhere to sit. Occasionally, to prevent infections, I do this while wearing a gown, a mask (which fogs up), and rubber gloves...

I interact with an incredible variety of people who are often physically, mentally, relationally and spiritually suffering. They are living through great stress, experiencing powerful emotions such as: fear, anxiety, rage, shame, guilt, loneliness, depression, abandonment, despair, helplessness, loss and an oppressive uncertainty about their chances of recovery.

God's timing and grace is often clearly evident in this ministry. I had the privilege of sharing the Gospel with one gentleman in the hospital, baptising him at his request, and giving him Communion for the first time in his life; he passed away a few days later. His sister called me to say how much peace she had knowing what had transpired spiritually for her brother during his stay at the hospital.

VGH is like a large, ever-changing international congregation. Patients come from all over British Columbia, and hospitalisation can be particularly traumatising for those urgent cases flown in by helicopter from remote locations. They have been abruptly plucked from all their support systems of family, church, community, language and culture, and often feel lonely, disoriented and vulnerable. Because BC is also a major tourist destination, patients and their families stem from all parts of the world. I have ministered to families from Texas, Ireland, New York, Ontario and Quebec who have fallen ill or been involved in accidents during their vacations here.

The hospital is a living, dynamic organism with a life of its own, suffused with the drama of life and death 24 hours per day, seven days a week. As I move through its corridors, enter the wards, take the elevators, negotiate labyrinthine tunnels or just sit in the cafeteria, I meet people from all walks of life. Illness knows no societal, cultural or financial boundaries and strikes everyone, from the wealthy to the homeless. I am also reminded that, at any moment, I too could be in one of those beds, in need of spiritual care.

Chaplaincy requires supportive, empathetic presence and attentive listening. I hold hands, literally and metaphorically. I pray with and for people, anoint them for healing, bring them communion, make phone calls on their behalf, occasionally follow-up with them after they have



VGH Chaplain, the Rev. Bryan Rivers. PHOTO Randy Murray

been discharged, and try to speak words of grace, love and life into their difficult circumstances. Basically, I journey with them as far as they need, or will allow. Before I can do any of this, of course, I have to win their trust. Sometimes the little things are the most significant. Recently I visited an elderly lady and asked her: "Is there anything I can do for you?" Her smiling spontaneously positive reply was, "Your presence is enough."

As we move through the season of Advent, I treasure the Song of Zechariah in the Gospel of Luke. There, the elderly Zechariah, close to death, proclaims Jesus to be the light which will "shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace." Many of the people I meet are caught up in their own unique darkness and some are indeed living "in the shadow of death." As a hospital Chaplain my goal is always, if possible, to bring them the light and peace of Christ. As one terminally ill lady on the palliative care unit told me: "I am not afraid anymore, because God is in control."

I deeply appreciate the encouragement, prayers and financial support of all those who have a heart for this

ministry, and the very practical and insightful help and advice of our dedicated volunteer visitor, Kate Walker, from Christ Church Cathedral.

Unfortunately, this vital ministry is itself presently on life-support as it is funded entirely by donations from concerned individuals, the diocesan ACW and a few local Anglican parishes which collectively share a common vision for its pastoral mandate. Funds will be exhausted by the end of 2018 and so, on behalf of all who are caught up in the struggle of life at VGH, I invite you to invest financially and spiritually in this ministry which helps transform lives both now and for eternity... May God richly bless YOU today, especially with the precious gift of good health.

Donations can be made through the diocesan website at <https://pushpay.com/g/vancouveranglican?src=hpp> or visit the diocesan website at www.vancouver.anglican.ca and click on the "GIVE" button located in the header, next, under "GIVING TYPE" select, "Anglican Chaplaincy to VGH."

If you would like to contact me please send me an email at bryan.rivers@vch.ca.

THIS MONTH IN TOPIC HISTORY
From the Diocesan Archives

20 years • 1998 Several parishes in the diocese of New Westminster begin offering special services for those who find the Christmas season difficult — called *When Christmas Hurts/Blue Christmas*.

35 years • 1983 Jim Cruickshank named Dean of New Westminster.

51 years • 1967 The Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys announces a tour of Great Britain.

SACRED ITEMS

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

PLEASE DO NOT MOVE THE PORTABLE LECTERN

WALKING ON THE NEW CARPET IS FORBIDDEN

LEAVE THIS TRAY UNDER THE BOILER TO CATCH DRIPS

THE CHURCH KITCHEN TOASTER MUST REMAIN WITHIN THESE LINES

THE NATIVITY CAN ONLY BE PLACED IN THIS SPOT

THIS IS HOW WE PARK THE VACUUM CLEANERS

CartoonChurch.com

Let the Light of Christ Shine In All We Do

The Celebration of a New Diaconal Ministry

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor



A new diaconal ministry was celebrated with a Eucharist for the Feast of St. Luke (transferred to October 17) at St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver. The Rev. Juanita Clark, a cradle Anglican recently retired after more than 36 years working for the government in Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, has been very much on a path to ordained diaconal ministry in recent years.

Raised up through discernment by the Parish of St. John the Evangelist, educated at Vancouver School of Theology (VST) and welcomed as an intern at St. James' for nine months under the guidance of the Ven. Kevin Hunt, Juanita was ordained to the diaconate by Archbishop Skelton, June 23, 2018, and began her new role as Deacon at St. John's.

Juanita and St. John's rector, the Rev. Patrick Blaney proposed the idea for this liturgy in conversation with Archbishop Skelton, and the worship that took place on October 17 was the product of those discussions.

The liturgy was quite similar in form to the installation of a priest as vicar or rector of a parish. It included the

Covenant in Ministry, which began with the new deacon being presented by the wardens, Yasmine Bia and Chris de Beaupré and "certifying that the required oaths and declarations have been made, and that the letter of appointment, parish covenant and license are in order." The Covenant in Ministry further contained an examination of the new deacon and the congregation by the Archdeacon for Deacons, a presentation of symbols of diaconal ministry (a Gospel Book to hold the Scriptures that the new deacon will proclaim, a basin, a towel, sandals) participated in by members of the parish who offered the following prayer prior to the Archdeacon for Deacons presenting Juanita as the parish's deacon:

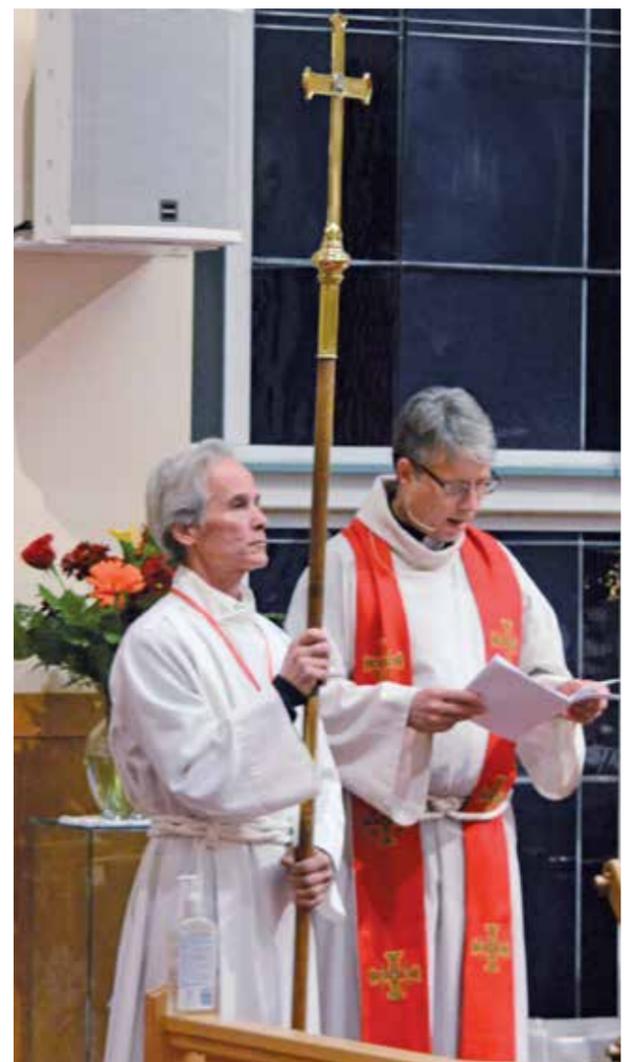
Juanita, we look to you to help us interpret to the Church the needs, hopes and concerns of the world and to inspire us to make Christ's redemptive love known to those outside our walls.

Be among us as one who leads us into the world for Christ's sake.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



LEFT The Archdeacon for Deacons of the diocese of New Westminster, the Ven. Bruce Morris presents the new deacon, the Rev. Juanita Clark and invites welcoming applause. RIGHT President, the Ven. Stephen Muir offers the prayer of welcome.



LEFT The preacher, the Rev. Neil Gray. MIDDLE The Ven. Bruce Morris asks the Rev. Juanita Clark, "Do you, in the presence of this congregation, commit yourself to the responsibilities entrusted to you?" On the right are the wardens Chris de Beaupré and Yasmine Bia. RIGHT Beginning the Gospel Procession.



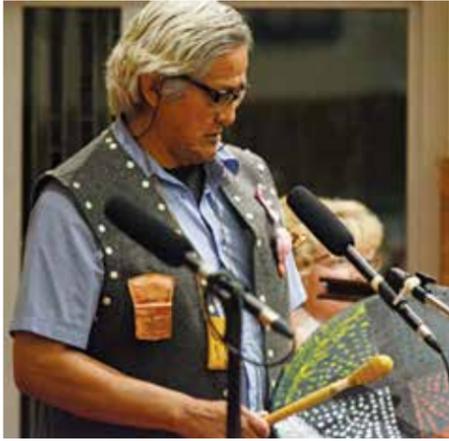
Members of the community present symbols of diaconal ministry.



The deacon prepares the table for the Eucharist.

Let the Light of Christ Shine In All We Do

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4



LEFT Kelvin Bee, ODNW offers a song during Communion. MIDDLE The Choral Quartet. RIGHT The group photo taken following worship. From left to right in the front row: Jerry Adams, Glenn McDonald, Rev. Patrick Blaney, Rev. Juanita Clark, Rev. Judith Hardcastle, Kelvin Bee. Left to right in the back row: Ven. Bruce Morris, Ven. Stephen Muir, Fr. Neil Gray, and Rev. Sharon Smith, Vicar of St. Catherine, Capilano.

There was an excellent turnout of parishioners from St. John's, along with others from the North Vancouver Deanery, and a large contingent from St. James'. Along with the Ven. Bruce Morris as officiant; the Archdeacon of Capilano, the Ven. Stephen Muir presided at the Eucharist; Indigenous Justice Coordinator for the diocese of New Westminster, Jerry Adams gave the territorial acknowledgment in the language of the Nisga'a; parishioner, Carol Iker, ODNW was the intercessor; Kelvin Bee, ODNW of St. James', an Elder of the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nation and member of St. James' offered a song during Communion; Rev. Fr. Matthew Johnson read the Epistle; and the Rev. Judith Hardcastle shared the Old Testament reading.

The preacher was Juanita's rector during her time as a member of St. Paul's, the Rev. Neil Gray. Fr. Neil, recently retired from full time parish ministry as Rector of Holy Trinity, White Rock is currently an honorary assistant at St. James' and Christ Church Cathedral. In his diocesan role he is one of two chaplains to the retired clergy of the



The vestments of a deacon throughout the liturgical seasons, and the symbols of diaconal ministry displayed in the chancel.

diocese. In his sermon he joyfully admitted that Luke the Evangelist is his "favourite" and he connected Juanita's journey to ministry to the Gospel passage proclaimed that evening, *Luke 4: 14-21*. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor."

Music in worship was led by a quartet of excellent singers all members of St. John's Choir led by the choir director, Christie Smith who was one of the four choristers along with Yasmine Bia, Donna Lawrence and Leann Price. St. John's musician, Galina Martyniuk who also accompanied the congregational singing, playing organ and piano, accompanied them. The quartet was tremendous and their repertoire was varied and challenging and they were up to the task.

The new liturgy was joyful and prayerful, and was a great "official" start to the Rev. Juanita Clark's ministry.

All in all the "first" Celebration of a New Diaconal Ministry Eucharist was an unqualified success and may pave the way for more to follow. ✠

IN MEMORIAM

Stanley Clifford Horton, ODNW

July 14, 1924 – October 16, 2018

The Rev. Pat Ratcliffe, deacon of St. Catherine's of Alexandria, Port Coquitlam contacted the Synod Office with the sad news of the death of Stan Horton, ODNW. Stan died peacefully at 3am on October 16. His wife of 70 years, Irene was at his side.

Stan is survived by his loving wife Irene; his children, Stephen (Karen), Gary (Sandy), and Dexter (Deb); nine terrific grandchildren, Chris, Nick, Graeme, Jennifer, Stephen, Kaitlyn, Brandon, Evan, and Noel; as well as eight great grandchildren, Amaya, Meliya, Khyden, Evie, Roland, Ryah, Oliver, and Lucas. He loved and cherished all of them. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews in Canada, USA, and England.

Stan was born in Walsall, Staffordshire to Eliza (Peate) and Howard Clifford Horton. He came to Canada with his family in 1957. Stan and Irene have had a long and loving marriage—recently celebrated their 70-year wedding anniversary!

Stan and Irene loved travelling and did so extensively including driving across Canada six times!

Stan was a parishioner at St. Catherine's for almost 60 years. He was invested into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster in 2016. His ODNW Citation is as follows:

Stan has been a valuable member of St. Catherine's since 1960 and he has proved his undeniable loyalty to God and his church. Stan has a wonderful sense of humour and an infectious smile that have helped him "sweet talk" other parishioners into helping him attain the goals of the parish. For 27 years Stan produced the *Courier*, the parish newsletter, and he organizes the Christmas seniors' lunch and camping weekends. Stan has been a proud leader in the Air Cadets since 1968.

Stan's funeral was held on November 10, 2018 at St. Catherine of Alexandria. ✠



Stan raises his cane in salute, and as a good-natured gesture of encouragement to the applauding audience as Archbishop Skelton congratulates him upon his receipt of the ODNW medal and ribbon on November 5, 2016. PHOTO Wayne Chose

*Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him.
May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

Saints Are People Who Let the Light Shine Through

RANDY MURRAY (WITH FILES FROM JOY WEE & ROBIN RUDER-CELIZ)

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Dr. Joy Wee, a parishioner at St. Catherine's, Capilano—who occasionally attends St. Martin's, North Vancouver—has designed, and arranged the donation of a new stained glass window depicting an interpretation of *The Transfiguration* dedicated to the Glory of God, and to add to the interior beauty of the North Vancouver parish.

The design, approval and creation process from conception to installation was complicated and took place over a number of years but this was a labour of love for Joy as she remained closely connected to the project throughout. In an email that Joy wrote to St. Martin's rector, the Rev. Robin Ruder-Celiz she said:

"My father was the one who wanted *The Transfiguration* theme for a memorial window... The donation is therefore a gift from Richard and Jessie Wee (not in memory, as my mother is still here). Of course, my gift is the design and whole creation process itself. My father was a former rector's warden at St. Martin's. The window is installed next to the memorial window for my maternal grandparents (Jessie's parents), designed by Irene Alexander. She began the process shortly after his death in 2005, from what I understand, and the drawings were discovered lost in the Spring 2017. From then, I came up with the design, based on readings from the Bible."

After months of work through the fall of 2017, the drawing was completed in December 2017. Studio One Glass Art was retained to construct the stained glass. Yves Trudeau was the artist. Studio One has in recent years created stained glass for Christ Church Cathedral. Joy continued to be deeply involved in the process collaborating with Yves Trudeau; she recounted that process in her email:

"First, I worked with Yves on the lead lines, based on the full-sized drawing, changing elements where glass pieces would have been too small. The final version was approved by Parish Council, and we went ahead, selecting glass pieces. After they were cut, the stained glass painting was done by Jose, and subsequently fired after any needed changes as requested by me were done. Then they were waxed and leaded/cemented. The final input (how much etching to be done on some of the pieces) provided by me was completed September 17. All in, it was 13 years in the making, and I am pleased that it is up and being blessed the day before my father's birthday. It is my hope that it will inspire people for many generations in the living Church."

Diocesan communications were on hand to cover the dedication at the main celebration of the Eucharist at 10am on September 30. The liturgy was Sung Holy Communion from the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP) celebrating the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels transferred from September 29. Prior to worship, the rector, the Rev. Robin Ruder-Celiz welcomed the congregation and offered a brief description of what would take place during worship regarding the dedication. Music Director, David Millard came forward from his post on the organ bench to rehearse the congregation, leading them through a hymn tune that he had composed years earlier in honour of St. Michael and All Angels and then the Introit Hymn, *Christ, the Fair Glory of the Holy Angels* was sung and worship began.

In his homily that began by making reference to the readings: *Genesis 28: 10–17, Revelation 12: 7–12* and *John 1: 47–51*, Ruder-Celiz focused on the "drama and intrigue" that fill the Scriptures for the Feast Day and how our current world is also a place where, "Wars still happen. There remain forces of good and evil in this world." And then he related this to the installation of a new stained glass window:

"It is hard to justify the installation of a new stained glass window on many levels. There are economic, social and other strains that demand our time, energy and resources for sure. We too may be perceived as being disconnected from the world around us as we

focus on things beautiful and extravagant and ignore a world that is broken and hurting, hungry and lost. But here are a few reasons as to why stained glass windows and any form of art is important and has a place in a world such as ours."

He then told a story, which aptly illustrated the place, that stained glass windows play in our faith and also in Anglican ethos:



The Window. PHOTO Randy Murray

A young boy sat in a quiet church one Sunday. He was early and therefore sat alone in the pews as clergy, servers and others busied themselves in preparing for the Sunday Mass. After several moments one of the priests came over and sat next to the boy. After the usual pleasantries and introductions the priest asked what the boy was looking at.

"I'm looking at the saints" he responded.

After a few moments the priest asked, "Who are saints?" The boy thought about this and replied, "Saints are people who let the light shine in." The two of them continued to admire the stained glass windows for a while depicting images of saints and themes from Scripture before it was time to say Mass.

Truer words have never been spoken I dare say. Saints are indeed people who let the light shine in. Through the glass it is not just any light passes through. The light is changed and reflected. It takes on colour and shape as it passes through the window into the church where the faithful gather. They are radiant, splendid and as their colourful glare illumines the church they offer us a gateway to the Divine where our world is connected to the heavenly realm where people of all colour and shape live in harmony.

Following the sermon, the rector poured water in the font, blessed it, transferred the water to an aspersorium which was held by Julie the server and then he dipped the aspergillum and sprinkled the window with holy water. The prayer of blessing was as follows:

Priest The glory of God is the city's light
and its lamp is the Lamb
All By its light shall the nations walk

And then the rector and congregation all joined in for the prayer:

Lord God, the whole world is filled with the radiance of your glory: we ask you to bless and hallow this window, which we now dedicate to You for the adornment of this place and the inspiration of your people. Grant that as the light shines through it in many colours, so our lives may show forth the beauty of your manifold gifts of grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The liturgy of Holy Communion then continued with the Creed from the BCP sung to the familiar (to many of a certain age) 16th century John Merbecke tune, Joy Wee was the intercessor offering the Prayers of the People which added a feeling of continuity to the worship. The choir under the direction of David Millard offered the motet, *Cherubic Hymn II* by Tchaikovsky during Communion and shared an excellent rendition.

Following worship, Joy and members of her family were good enough to pose for some photographs as we waited for Jessie to return from removing her choir gown. Then Jessie and Joy stood in front of the new *Transfiguration* window, happy in the knowledge that they had honoured husband and father Richard's wish to donate a beautiful window with this theme and that it was created by his daughter. ✠



The space for the window and its installation. PHOTOS Robin Ruder-Celiz



Jessie and Joy in front of the window. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Rev. Robin Ruder-Celiz preaching. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Blue Madonna. PHOTO Trish Coldren



When asked about the Icon that is seen with Archbishop Skelton and Deacon the Rev. Eric Stroo, Pam Martin offered this response. "We call her the 'Blue Madonna' or 'Our Lady of the Finger.' It is a print from a photo taken by Tricia Coldren, our former pastoral liturgist in October 2008. It was painted on an abandoned (hence the chain link fence) Hispanic church in Echo Park, Los Angeles."



The St. Mark's Parish banner.

Remembering St. Mark's

PREPARED WITH FILES FROM ERIC STROO & PAM MARTIN, ODNW

On Sunday, October 14, from 3pm to 5pm, former parishioners, clergy and friends gathered for a non-Eucharistic liturgy in the building that formerly housed the Parish of St. Mark's, Kitsilano. Event organizer, Pam Martin, ODNW titled the event, *A Liturgy of Remembrance and Thanksgiving*. The goal was to gather for a final service at 1805 Larch Street, the property that has been a neighbourhood landmark since 1907 when the parish was established as a "church plant" of Holy Trinity, Vancouver.

Archbishop Melissa Skelton presided over the liturgy that also contained words of appreciation from those in attendance and reminiscences of and about the life of that congregation. Archbishop Skelton offered a homily and Pam Martin led the music in worship. Approximately 40 people attended and of that group more than 25% were clergy. Most of the people who spoke were lay members and many of them are now parishioners at St. Mary Magdalene, worshipping in the building that formerly housed the Parish of St. George's, Vancouver. St. Mary Magdalene's was created when the

two congregations, St. George's, Vancouver and St. Mark's, Kitsilano merged to create a new worshipping community. The official merger of the two parishes took place January 13, 2016, with the legal work approved by Diocesan Council and confirmed by Archbishop Skelton's announcement that the worshipping community would now be known as the Parish of St. Mary Magdalene.

Some of themes voiced by those who spoke at the service included: the parish's care for a refugee whom they helped find employment, and assisted her as she integrated into her new surroundings in Canada eventually settling into a thriving life; their long-running programs of compassionate service, providing meals; the community's love of music and innovation in worship; St. Mark's as a performance venue for the arts (opera was mentioned); and the sharing of the building with generations of Scouts and other groups who met for decades in the buildings at 1805 Larch Street.

Many thanks to the Ven. Stephen Muir and the Rev. Eric Stroo for sharing these photos with diocesan communications. ✠



Five of the Anglican clergy present at the service: (left to right) the Ven. Ronald Harrison, retired Executive Archdeacon of the diocese of New Westminster; the Rev. Stephanie Shepard, Regional Dean of Granville, priest-in-charge at St. Faith; the Ven. John Stephens, Archdeacon of Vancouver, Rector of St. John's, Shaughnessy; the Rev. Melanie Calabrigo, gathering priest at St. Hildegard's Sanctuary, priest associate at St. Faith; and (behind centre) the Rev. Craig Tanksley, Rector of St. Mark's, Ocean Park. Along with the Anglican clergy who attended the St. Mark's service there were the two pastors from Tenth Church Kitsilano, and the Rev. Janice Guthrie, honorary Associate Minister of Trinity United Church (now Trinity-Grace).



LEFT Pam Martin and Bill McGrath, coordinator of the St. Mark's Extreme Weather Shelter. In the foreground is the St. Mary Magdalene Cross. MIDDLE Reminiscing: (left to right) Pat Gowing, Karen Thorpe and Jade Martin Seedhouse (all of St. Mary Magdalene). RIGHT Pam Martin (on the left, in light) leads the singing in worship.



LEFT Four people in profile formerly of St. Mark's are: (left to right) Denis Petch (St. Thomas), Joan Hilton (St. Mary's, Kerrisdale), Andrew Law and Peter Gilpin (both St. Mary Magdalene). MIDDLE Neil Seedhouse, ODNW; Peter Gilpin, parishioner, Thursday Meal Ministry; Harold Neufeldt, dishwasher extraordinaire for the Thursday Meal Ministry and St. Mark's Centering Prayer; unidentified person; and Nathan Uttangi, Associate Pastor, Tenth Church Kitsilano who is seated beside (hidden behind Neil) Dan Matheson, Site Pastor, Tenth Church Kitsilano (who made time to attend despite preaching at FOUR services that day!) RIGHT Maxwell Iverson, Venturer Scout; Thomas Iverson, Scout; and Allison Phiney, Scout Leader. Maxwell, Thomas and Allison were longtime members of the 47th St. Mark's Scout Group, sponsored by St. Mark's for over 80 years.

Summary of Archbishop Skelton's Plenary Address to EAM

ERIC STROO
Deacon, St. Michael's, Vancouver

Archbishop Melissa Skelton and her husband, the Rev. Eric Stroo, deacon at St. Michael's, Vancouver (AKA St. Michael's Multicultural Church) accompanied a group of more than two-dozen members of that parish and others from our diocese to the Episcopal Asiamerica Conference in Honolulu, September

28–30. This was a wonderful experience for all involved and diocesan communications is grateful to Archbishop Skelton, Rev. Stroo and the Rev. Daebin Im for supplying some photos. A few of these photos have been included with the following article to help convey some of the flavour of the event.

It wasn't just a trip to enjoy the community experience for Archbishop Skelton as she was invited to be part of a panel and offer an address to the plenary. Here is coverage of that address written by Rev. Stroo. • Editor



LEFT On stage with gongs during Cultural Night. RIGHT Some folks from the diocese of New Westminster enjoying Hawaii: Cris Engnan, Rev. Eric Stroo, Archbishop Skelton, Ven. Louie Engnan and Rev. Wilmer Toyoken.



A dance demonstration during Cultural Night.



Group photo after worship on September 29. Archbishop Skelton is on the left of Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. Michael Curry.



Youth of St. Michael's with the addition of Rev. Stroo (on left) prepare to demonstrate a gong dance at Cultural Night.

Archbishop Melissa Skelton addressed the Episcopal Asiamerica Ministry (EAM) National Consultation in the first of three plenary sessions (devoted to *Christ, Community, and Creation*), September 28. The first plenary comprised a four-member panel, which included in addition to the Archbishop: the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Canon to the Presiding Bishop on Evangelism, Reconciliation and Creation Care; the Rev. Canon Randolph Albany, Vicar of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Honolulu; and the Rev. Dr. David Gortner Director of Thriving in Ministry, Virginia Theological Seminary.

Archbishop Skelton had been asked to offer a perspective on congregational development as it relates to the *Jesus Movement*. "From a caravan of disruptive disciples and evangelists on the road," she recounted, the Jesus Movement made the risky move to "more settled outposts within which communities of Christians were to live counter cultural Christian lives and through which the possibility of living the Christian life would come to others." The risks in this transition have always been great: that our churches would "lose the plot, lose focus, lose Jesus, the mover of the movement."

In defiance of these risks, the archbishop declared her confidence that the congregational experiment can prevail. She cited several factors that support her confidence. First there is our current context—"the tribulation of changing times and the challenges of our diverse world." This, she suggested, may be precisely what we need if we are to recover our unique ministry as Christians. Further, she observed that we have today the frameworks, skills, and tools—all of which are effective and teachable—to equip congregational leaders for the tasks at hand.

Our Anglican identity is well suited for modern evangelism, she contended. Among our defining gifts as Anglicans are a temperament that can speak to complex modern issues, as well as spiritual practices that reunite us "not only to Jesus but to the vitality and vigor of the early Church."

Finally, Archbishop Skelton celebrated the asset that we have precisely in the attendees of the EAM Consultation, with the diverse backgrounds and cultures that they represent. "We have all of you with your sense of community, your sense of joy in the Gospel, your experience of not being the dominant culture, and your unique heritages."

The time is right, the tools are at hand, and the Spirit is ranging widely, she concluded, to allow us to "form people who have both the courage and skills to create a better world." ✠



Members of the diocese of New Westminster EAM contingent gather in a group and display the Hawaiian "Hang Loose" hand sign.

Canon 2 & 3 Revision • Motion Carried

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

At approximately 10:15am on Saturday, October 13, 2018, Chancellor of the diocese of New Westminster, George Cadman, QC, ODNW received certification from the Lay and Clerical Secretaries of Synod that a quorum was present and the 118th Synod of the diocese of New Westminster was underway.

Registration had begun earlier at 9am, and the traffic of Synod delegates through the Trendell Lounge at 1410 Nanton Avenue was brisk. Ninety-four clergy were in attendance, and 146 of the 183 lay delegates were also present. A great turnout for a Synod with basically one agenda item: voting on two resolutions previously approved by Diocesan Council to change Canon 2, the set of rules which govern how a Bishop is elected in the diocese of New Westminster and Canon 3, the rules around the election of a Coadjutor, Suffragan or Assistant Bishop.

At 9:50am, the chancellor announced to the folks in the Trendell Lounge who were still enjoying hot drinks, morning pastries, fruit and conversation that it was time to head next door into the nave of St. John's, Shaughnessy (SJS) for Morning Prayer. This wasn't just Morning Prayer, the liturgy contained a *Reflection* from Archbishop Skelton based on the reading, *Luke 8: 16–25* and there was also the Collation of Archdeacons. The Rev. Dr. Richard Leggett, Vicar of Holy Trinity Cathedral and the Rev. Canon Kevin Hunt, Rector of St. James' were presented to Archbishop Skelton by the Dean of the diocese, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott, and were then installed Archdeacon of Westminster and Archdeacon of Burrard by Dean Elliott. For those who do not know, an archdeacon is a priest who assists the archbishop in their episcopal leadership in the specific region of the diocese assigned to them. The office comes with the honorific, "The Venerable" The Dean installs the regional archdeacons because they actually have a designated seat in the Cathedral's chancel in the top row of the choir stalls.

Following worship, the archbishop, dean and archdeacons who had been vested for worship retired to the vestry to remove their vestments and Synod began. The first order of business was to suspend Rules 28–30 which would allow the decision at this Synod, following discussions about the resolutions to be final, suspending the requirement for a second reading at the next Synod. The resolution to suspend was carried.

As spokesperson for the Constitutions and Canons Committee of Diocesan Council, the Ven. Dr. Richard Leggett had the responsibility of guiding Members of Synod through the ten page document that make up the proposed new Canons 2 and 3. He gave some history behind the decision to launch the *Canon 2 Task Force* back in 2016, and the work that the task force, originally chaired by Dean Peter Elliott and subsequently chaired by the Ven. Stephen Muir had done to put together the content contained in the material to be voted on that morning. Many involved in the lead up to the Episcopal Election November 30, 2013, had indicated frustration due to the tight deadlines and turnaround times, the inflexibility and the lack of transparency and consistency that the current Canon 2 rules created. A broad consensus view was that the deficiencies of the current Canon 2 negatively impacted on every participant in the process: search committee, electoral synod delegates, editors and technical people and of course... the candidates themselves. For more details please download the document that you can find on the diocesan website at www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/synod--226

Following Dr. Leggett's precis, the archbishop opened the floor for discussion and the first person to approach the mic was the Ven. Stephen Muir, Chair of the Canon 2 Task Force. He put forward an amendment to the first sentence of Paragraph 237. Paragraph 237 is as follows:

Each nominee must be nominated by at least six members of Synod, at least three of whom shall be ordained members and at least three of whom shall be lay members. The names of the nominators shall be made public and no nominator may nominate more than one candidate. The Nominee must give their consent to their nomination to the Chair of the Episcopal Election Committee.

The proposed amendment was to change six members to four members, two ordained and two lay. With the amendment moved and seconded, the archbishop opened the floor for discussion of the amendment. There were a few people who addressed Synod including Archdeacon Leggett who spoke against the amendment. After approximately 10–15 minutes of discussion the vote was taken by a show of hands. The chancellor concluded that the show of hands was not definitive so he and the registrar, Donald Paul, ODNW

asked that those in favour please stand; they counted that group and then he asked that those against the amendment stand; the two legal officers counted that group. They reported the results to the archbishop and Synod secretaries and Archbishop Skelton announced that there was sufficient support for the amendment to carry the motion.

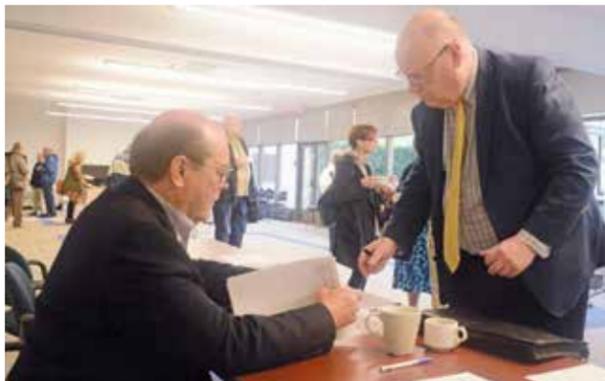
Following a discussion about the legal nature of episcopal candidates' eligibility led by Archdeacon John Stephens, the second of the two amendments brought forward at Synod was moved by the Rev. Al Carson, Rector of St. John's, Sardis and Regional Dean of Valley Deanery, seconded by the Rev. Allen Doerksen, Vicar of St. Matthew, Abbotsford and priest-in-charge at St. Thomas, Chilliwack. This amendment also involved Paragraph 237. They asked that the first section of the second sentence, "The names of the nominators shall be made public..." be removed. The archbishop then called for discussion on the amendment and this amendment compelled a number of Synod members to go to the mic and let their views be known. Those in favour of the amendment were generally concerned that identifying the nominators would lead to partisanship and division that might impede the electoral process. Those against, believed that identifying the nominators created a more positive environment of transparency and openness.

When the amendment was put to vote it was defeated by a show of hands.

The archbishop then asked if it was time to "ask the question," however there was a request for clarification regarding references in the resolution concerning the role of archdeacons. When that question was resolved with a quick answer, it was time to vote, and the resolution to approve the Canon 2 and 3 revisions was carried unanimously. Archbishop Skelton gave her assent and the new Canon 2 and Canon 3 were immediately in effect.

Prior to the adjournment of Synod, Archbishop Skelton thanked everyone for their participation "on a beautiful fall morning" and gave special thanks to Archdeacon Leggett for his tireless commitment to assembling a clear and concise document that accurately and comprehensively encapsulated the work of the Canon 2 Task Force, the advice of Diocesan Council and the suggestions from our diocese from Synod delegates and diocesan members offered at the four preparation seminars held in September. The members of Synod jumped to their feet and thanked Archdeacon Leggett with enthusiastic and sustained applause before saying together, "The Grace."

The 118th Synod was adjourned at approximately 12:20pm. ✠



LEFT On the right, the Chancellor, George Cadman, QC, ODNW registers at the Diocesan Council table staffed by Rob Dickson. RIGHT Synod delegates are all in place for Morning Prayer. PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT Archbishop Skelton preaching during Morning Prayer. RIGHT And leads the applause of welcome for the newly collated archdeacons, the Ven. Dr. Richard Leggett, Archdeacon of Westminster and the Ven. Canon Kevin Hunt, Archdeacon of Burrard. PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT After the chancel is transformed following worship, and the officers are in place, a future Synod member approaches the Chair. RIGHT As spokesperson for the Constitutions and Canons Committee of Diocesan Council, the Ven. Dr. Richard Leggett had the responsibility of guiding members of Synod through the ten page document that make up the proposed new Canons 2 and 3. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Archdeacon Muir presents his amendment. PHOTO Randy Murray



The question is called, hands go up and the motion is carried. PHOTO Randy Murray



Harvest Thanksgiving

A Brief Tour Around the Diocese

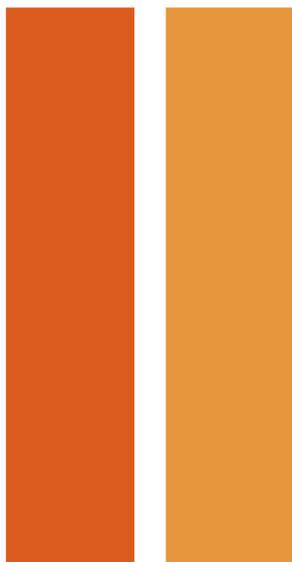
The communications office of the diocese of New Westminster received a number of photographs on October 8 and 9 that highlight some Harvest Thanksgiving (October 7) decorations. We also did a brief trip around social media sites and grabbed a couple more.

Simon Johnston, ODNW of Holy Trinity, White Rock (HTWR) submitted our first photo (*top left of page*). It shows Aidan, Charlie, Max and Isaac — some younger members of the parish — who assisted in the collection of donations for the HTWR food bank on Thanksgiving Sunday.

The next four photos (*on the right*) submitted by Jane Dittrich of Christ Church Cathedral show the beautiful decorations in the chancel entrance area, including a broader POV taken from the Font.

The next photo (*below*) shows the chancel and the screen at St. George, Maple Ridge.

The last two (*bottom left & right*) are from the chancel, specifically the altar display at St. Mary the Virgin, Sapperton. ✠



Harvest Thanksgiving

Visit to St. John's, Squamish

The Rev. Dr. Tellison Glover, Director for Mission and Ministry Development at the diocese of New Westminster and Randy Murray, Communications Officer for the diocese were warmly welcomed at worship by the members of St. John the Divine, Squamish. St. John's is located in the Garibaldi Highlands neighbourhood of the venerable logging and mining community located about halfway between Vancouver and Whistler on the Sea to Sky highway.

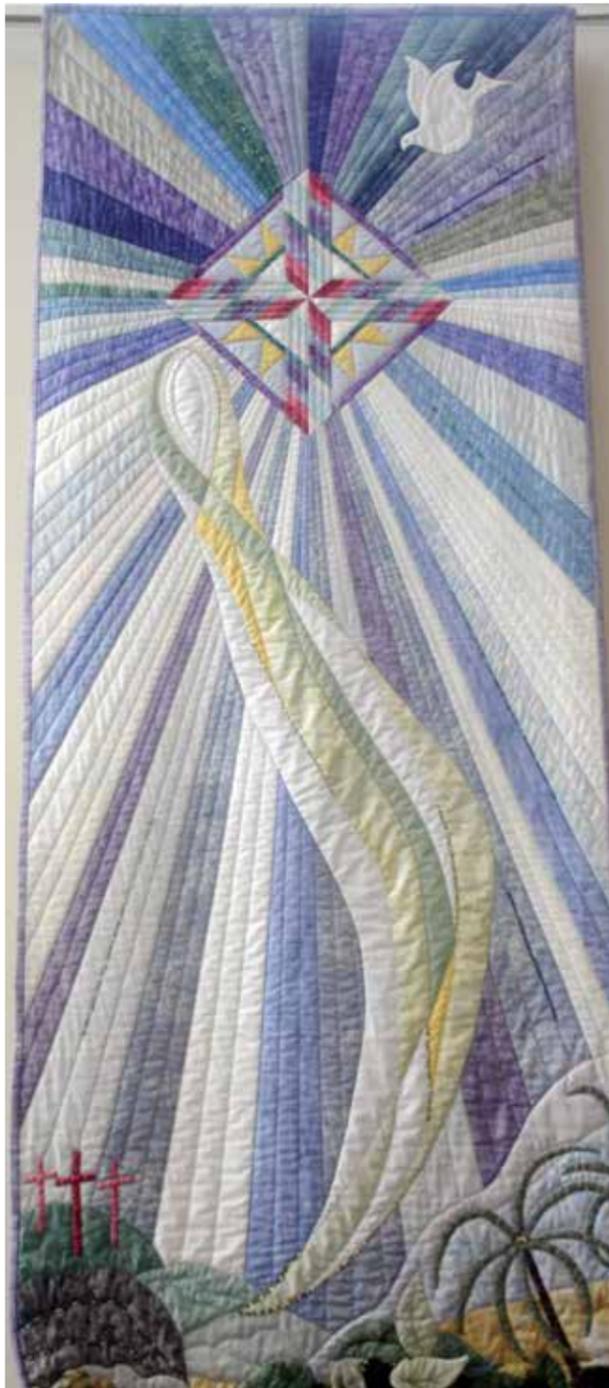
The exterior of the building is unassuming, a wooden structure that very much reflects the forest environment that is now home to a residential subdivision. However, the sanctuary inside is beautiful.

The Vicar of St. John's is the Rev. Nick Parker, and pianist, Linda Halvorsen led the music in worship.

Rev. Parker's homily preached extemporaneously on the topic of the spirituality of gratitude was truly superb and was much enjoyed by the members of the parish present, and by the visitors.

Dr. Glover very much enjoyed and appreciated the flow of the liturgy and also the opportunity to connect with members of the parish following worship when the majority of the congregation gathered for coffee and treats in the hall.

Worshipping at St. John's is indeed a fine experience, however, if anyone reading this piece takes to heart this recommendation and makes the trip northwest please take the time to view the quilted liturgical wall hangings. Created by members of the parish more than a decade ago they are among the best examples of liturgical art in our diocese. ✠



The Dove of Peace quilt behind the altar. PHOTO Randy Murray



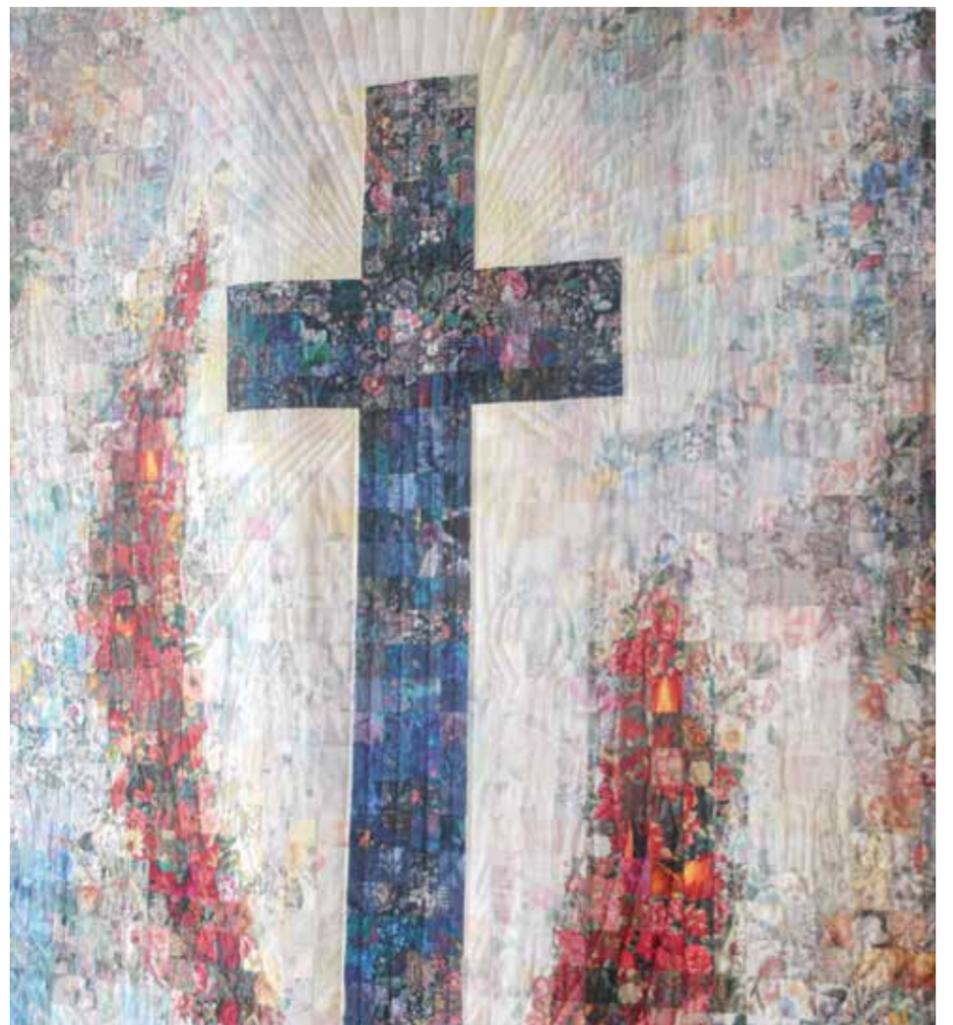
LEFT Rev. Parker greets a member of the congregation at the Peace. RIGHT Dr. Glover greeting during the Peace. PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT The Prayer Over the Gifts. RIGHT The Eucharistic Prayer, with the rector's warden, Pam Tattersfield. PHOTOS Randy Murray



The Eucharist. PHOTO Randy Murray



The largest of the quilts, a cross that dominates a section of the northwest wall. PHOTO Randy Murray





Archbishop Skelton leads the applause of welcome for the new rector, the Rev. Greg Jenkins. PHOTO Randy Murray

A Qualified Bearer of the Good News

The Induction of the Reverend Dr. Greg Jenkins as Rector of St. Alban, the Martyr, Burnaby

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

For the past 11 decades, St. Alban the Martyr church has been and continues to be a landmark situated on the corner of 19th Avenue and Canada Way, just a pitching wedge distance east of Edmonds in that part of South Burnaby where Burnaby flows into New Westminster. On the evening of October 9, 2018, the members of the parish, visiting clergy (many from the Royal City Deanery), the new rector's family members and others welcomed the Rev. Dr. Gregory Jenkins as the ordained leader of their shared ministry together, a ministry which is shared with Archbishop Melissa Skelton, who was also present to induct Rev. Jenkins and preside at the Eucharist.

A parish community is often compared to a "family" and nowhere is this more apparent than at St. Alban's, Burnaby. The family feeling was certainly present in this liturgy with folks from different age groups participating in the worship and Greg's father, the Rev. Ray Jenkins making the journey from Ontario to preach at his son's induction.

The Rev. Dr. Greg Jenkins was born in Sarnia, Ontario. As the son of an Anglican priest, he grew up in the Anglican Church, being confirmed at St. George's in Sarnia (now All Saints'). Greg received his call to ministry in his first year of university. He graduated with his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1995, his Master of Divinity in 1998, and his PhD in 1998. Greg was ordained as a deacon and then as a priest in 1998. His first placement was a two-point parish in St. James', Hanover and Trinity, Durham Ontario. From there he moved to Cambridge, Ontario to begin as Rector of Trinity in 2010. Greg was Treasurer, then Regional Dean, and then Archdeacon of the Deanery of Waterloo.

In his homily, Rev. Jenkins mentioned a couple of times that he "might be somewhat biased" when it comes to Greg's gifts but regardless he sees Greg as a qualified "bearer of the Good News."

He went on to say that Greg's preaching usually adheres to the "Anglican option" of 8-12 minutes... "his focus is on bringing people to God and more than that, to know God." Family is very important and get-togethers of the Jenkins clan usually number around 30.

Towards the end of his sermon Rev. Ray Jenkins said:

"...he is thoughtful, passionate and creative. These traits have benefitted the members of the congregations that he has served, very, very well. These traits also contributed well in the diocese of Huron... he was very impressed by the relaxed atmosphere of the 'outdoor barbecue interview' setting for St. Alban's. Greg knows the importance of nurturing a deep sense of inner peace, and loving service among worshippers. He encourages a growing awareness of the *in-dwelling* of our loving God within each and every one of us. Greg's work respects our profound Christian heritage; he promotes witness to our faith in Jesus Christ from the way we lovingly live and act in a very complex world. My expectation is that Greg will serve the people of St. Alban's very, very well."

The Celebration of a New Ministry Eucharist was well attended. The nave was near capacity and the chancel entrance area in front of the crossing was full of vested clergy and choristers, including former priest-in-charge, the Rev. Craig Tanksley, currently Rector of St. Mark's in the South Surrey/White Rock neighbourhood of Ocean Park.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Gabriel leads the procession. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Rev. Jenkins stands with the wardens as the Executive Archdeacon, the Ven. Douglas Fenton describes the selection process. RIGHT The wardens: Marilyn Chambers, Susan Allen and Deirdre Thornton present the keys to the buildings. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Sanctuary Party singing the last verse of the Offertory Hymn, *Come and Journey with a Saviour* prior to the Prayer over the Gifts. PHOTO Randy Murray



In this photo from 1981 we see on the left rear view, the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, the Hon. Henry "Budge" Bell-Irving, on the right, Archbishop Douglas Hambidge, behind and to the left the Rev. David Retter, on the occasion of Archbishop Hambidge's installation as Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC and Yukon. PHOTO Ronald Harrison

Topic 50th Anniversary Promo

This past May, Lyndon Grove, ODNW wrote these words:

"For some readers, it must seem that *Topic* has been around forever, but, in fact, this publication is a mere 50 years old (only those of us who constitute the *ex-Topic* editors' club would consider a half-century a "mere" period of time).

But it has been a productive, if often turbulent, time in the diocese of New Westminster — four bishops, four deans — and all of that productivity and turbulence have been captured in *Topic*. So,

to commemorate and celebrate and recognize that history, as we approach the 500th issue, a semi-centennial edition of this journal will be published in advance of the actual anniversary of the first issue which bore the date, February 15, 1970."

As the creation and publication of the semi-annual edition draws nearer we will continue to whet your appetite for church news nostalgia with photos and captions from *Topic's* past. ✠



A photo of St. Teresa of Calcutta from a distance at the Agrodome on the PNE grounds during the Habitat 1976 UN Conference. Seated second from left is Archbishop James Carney, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver. PHOTO Ronald Harrison



The Rev. Ray Jenkins, the new rector's father was the preacher. PHOTO Randy Murray

A Qualified Bearer of the Good News

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

This was also the first induction in the Archdeaconry of Westminster since the appointment of the Ven. Dr. Richard Leggett, Vicar of Holy Trinity Cathedral who had just a few days earlier succeeded the Rev. Elizabeth Northcott.

There were many great moments in the liturgy but one that stands out was during the procession and the singing of the Closing Hymn *Will You Come and Follow Me*, as the new rector went down the chancel steps in his place in front

of the Executive Archdeacon and the Deacon of the Word and Table he slowed down, smiled and paused, allowing the three wardens seated in the first pew on the nave's west side; Marilyn Chambers, Deirdre Thornton and Susan Allen to file out in front of him and join the procession.

Please keep the Parish of St. Alban the Martyr, the new rector and his family in your prayers as they begin this new phase of ministry together. ✠



LEFT Father and son, preacher and rector greet the congregation after worship. RIGHT The St. Alban's Choir. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Sharing Stories with Indigenous Peoples

Series Report Part 1

NII K'AN KWSDINS (AKA JERRY ADAMS)

Indigenous Justice Ministry Coordinator, diocese of New Westminster

As of this writing, during the week of October 22, there have been two sessions held of the *Sharing our Stories* series offered on Thursday nights at 7:30pm at the Synod Office. Three Aboriginal speakers have told very moving personal stories about their growing up years, their experience as parents, and their marriage. Each and every speaker shared how the violence and abuse that happened to children at Residential Schools has deeply affected the entire rest of their lives, and the lives of their children. We also heard from the diocesan *Street Outreach Ministry* about the life-changing connections that happen with Aboriginal people in the Downtown Eastside community.

The first week, Shelley Joseph, daughter of Chief Bobby Joseph, spoke about the trauma of growing up as the child of a Residential School survivor who was full of pain and anger, and what she witnessed as a child during her formative years. She talked about how this affected her, and the negative behaviours she learned. She also told us about the moment she realized that the same thing would happen to her baby daughter, and can clearly remember the moment she picked her up and vowed "no more." Shelley now does community work with *Reconciliation Canada*.

The living stories of violence and abuse are still with us in our community and it is something that will remain for a while. Listening to Shelley and how she was able to overcome these horrific injustices was probably a story that many people have not heard before. The destruction of many families in our urban and rural communities is very real, and our people are still struggling to overcome the effects of Residential School, even though they may not have gone there themselves. Children of survivors learned the habits of their parents, as happens in every family, but it was not good teachings that the children were taught.

Shelley is a survivor, and so are Joyce and Joe. Joe and



Jerry introduces Fr. Matthew Johnson, Joyce and Joe Fossella. PHOTO Randy Murray



The plenary gathered on October 18. PHOTO Randy Murray

Joyce have been married for 50 years now, but their married life was not always a good life for either one of them. Joe came out of Residential School an alcoholic, and his anger from what he endured made him an abusive husband to Joyce and their children. It wasn't until Joyce took on her own healing and said she had enough, that Joe finally went for help. As life turned for the better for Joyce and Joe, they recognized that many Indigenous families were also suffering from the same behaviours, hence the start of *Warriors Against Violence Society*.

The speaker who began the second session on October 18 was Fr. Matthew Johnson, the Street Outreach Priest whose ministry is based at St. James' in the Downtown Eastside. He told personal stories about encounters with Aboriginal people in his work and how talking to survivors of Residential Schools affected him. He spoke about some challenging experiences he has had while wearing his collar on the street and often seen as representing all the churches that hurt many of the Aboriginal people in the Downtown Eastside community. But he also told us how touched he has been by the many gestures of respect and reconciliation he has received.

Though it was emotionally hard to hear all of the speakers, it showed there is hope. Their survival through the darkest times reveals to us that there are strong people in the Indigenous community. Many stories and hurts are out there in the Indigenous community, but also resilience and survival by our people.

Reconciliation will not truly occur until the right support comes for our people in the form of counselors and healers. Successful programs like *Reconciliation Canada*, *Warriors Against Violence*, and the *Street Outreach Ministry* need support. We need to visit their programs and find out how we can expand on their work, and add more ideas and support to these small programs and others that are truly successful.

We have heard Reconciliation in the personal stories we received during those first two weeks of the *Sharing Our Stories* program. Shelley and her Elders never blamed God and the churches. The Elders taught her instead to look at the individual people that had practiced bad behaviour towards our children. We heard about the way Joe and



Joe Fossella. PHOTO Randy Murray

Joyce have transformed the painful and violent legacy of the Residential School system into a life of service to the Aboriginal community. And we see how Fr. Matthew respects and honors the pain of those who have not yet found healing, yet is open to caring relationships with those who are reaching out to the church.

The first step in Reconciliation is offering our own presence to hear and honour the stories.

Coverage of the third and fourth installments in the series will be available on the news pages of the diocesan website at www.vancouver.anglican.ca/news and in future issues of *Topic*. ✦

For more information on Reconciliation Canada online please go to www.reconciliationcanada.ca.

For more information about Warriors Against Violence Society please go to their website at www.wav-bc.com/home.html.

And for more information online about the Street Outreach Ministry please go to www.stjames.bc.ca/street-outreach.



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LEFT Andrew is welcomed to the Valley Deanery by regional dean, the Rev. Al Carson, Rector of St. John, Sardis. On the left is Archdeacon of Fraser, the Ven. Louie Engnan, Rector of St. Michael, Surrey. MIDDLE Rocky, a former parishioner from St. Augustine, Marpole. RIGHT The preacher, the Rev. Kristen Steele. PHOTOS Randy Murray

To Be Instruments of God's Love to All People The Induction of the Reverend Andrew Halladay as Vicar of St. Andrew's, Langley

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

During the evening of October 10, 2018, the Feast Day of St. Paulinus of York, the Rev. Andrew Halladay was licensed by Archbishop Melissa Skelton as Vicar of the Parish of St. Andrew the Apostle, Langley. The parish had not had a "without term" ordained leader of their shared ministry since the Rev. Paula Porter Leggett completed her time as rector there in September 2016, following a 5+ year incumbency. November 1, 2016, Archbishop Skelton appointed the Rev. Helen Tervo as interim priest-in-charge at ½ time and she served the parish very well in that role for almost two years. During that time of self-study, discernment and working toward financial stability, the parish continued to focus on their ministry and their future culminating in the development of their Parish Profile and ministry posting, seeking a vicar, 60% (three days a week) without term. The successful candidate for this ministry position was at the time of its posting, the Vicar of St. Augustine's, Marpole and Director of the Diocesan School for Parish Development for both the diocese of New Westminster and the diocese of Ottawa, the Rev. Andrew Halladay.

The Canonical Committee studied the applications, interviewed a short list of candidates and confidently requested that Archbishop Skelton appoint the Rev. Andrew Halladay. Which she did.

There was an excellent turnout on the early fall evening of members of the parish (including the choir), and a good number of clergy primarily from the Valley Deanery. More than a dozen members (including Rocky the dog) of Rev. Halladay's former parish made the trip to Langley to wish their departing vicar well in his new ministry. There were also a good number of lay folks also from the Valley Deanery, specifically St. Dunstan's, Aldergrove where Rev. Halladay's husband, the Rev. David Taylor is rector. As Director of the Diocesan School for Parish Development, Andrew is well known and has established connections in every region of the diocese. The Rev. Helen Tervo was also vested and in attendance at the Celebration of a New Ministry Eucharist.

The preacher for the Eucharist was the Rev. Kristen Steele, pastor of Shepherd of the Valley, the neighbouring Lutheran church. In her homily, inspired by the Gospel, *Matthew 5: 14-16*, Pastor Steele spoke about the role of the church in the community, how the love of Jesus can be modelled and shared in a contemporary context like Langley, and how that vision has become increasingly important in her ministry. This was a fitting theme for St. Andrew's for that portion of her message is at the core of their mission statement:

"We believe we are called to be a community of faith who welcomes everyone to seek spiritual growth through Jesus Christ to be instruments of God's love to all people."

The theme of the mission statement is continued in the opening paragraph of the Parish Profile:

"St. Andrew's is a spiritual home for people of all generations who come together to worship God, share community and reach out with hope. We provide the opportunity for worship and spiritual support for both members of our congregation and anyone else in the community who has need. This reflects who we are and what we believe is the key to our future."

Rev. Halladay brings many gifts to his new ministry. He is a scholar, a skilled musician, an excellent singer, an inspiring preacher, and an enthusiastic and knowledgeable teacher.



LEFT The Rev. David Taylor holds their younger son, Logan while the water is poured into the font during the presentation of the symbols of ministry. RIGHT Logan is delighted with the good result and we can assume the lack of spilling. PHOTOS Randy Murray

He established himself at St. Augustine's as a consensus builder within the parish and as a community organizer bringing the church into the life of the surrounding neighbourhood. He has a long association with ministries among young people, being one of the founders of the *Sheep and Goats Arts Ministry* and currently serves as the clerical representative to the British Columbia and Yukon Anglican Youth Movement (BCYAYM).

Andrew will continue in his role as Director of the Di-

ocesan School for Parish Development, but hopefully the move to the Langley parish which is nearer to the home he shares with David and their two sons, Nathan and Logan will greatly reduce the amount of time he spends in the car.

"To be instruments of God's love to all people" is an ambitious statement, however, this newly established combination of vicar and parish in Langley has all the components to make the pursuit of this goal a reality, and not just words on a pew bulletin cover. ✠



LEFT TOP Andrew receives the oil of healing from Donald White during the presentation of the symbols of ministry. LEFT BOTTOM Andrew administers the Body of Christ to Rocky's family. RIGHT Kate Markwart, Bill Hammond and Janet Brown lead the procession out following the Closing Hymn, *God of Grace and God of Glory*. PHOTOS Randy Murray

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Ride for Refuge 2018 •

SUBMISSION Jane Dittrich

On September 29, 2018, cyclists gathered at 8am at Richmond Christian School in Richmond BC, to take part in the annual *Ride For Refuge* fundraising ride. Hundreds of cyclists rode for dozens of different charities. Once again, the diocese of New Westminster was well represented by Team PWRDF Vancouver! This year the funds raised by the ride will be directed by the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) whose objective is to end world hunger. PWRDF has been a member of the CFGB for ten years.

Diocesan PWRDF chair and ride captain, Peter Goodwin of St. James' was away in Toronto at PWRDF meetings so missed being at the event this year. However, he did a great job of organizing and encouraging the team members. Riders this year were: Jane Dittrich (Christ Church Cathedral), the Rev. Dr. Lynne McNaughton (rector, St. Clement's), Liz Macdonald (All Saints, Ladner), Betty Boland (St. Faith's), Laurel Fahrni (St. Faith's) and Douglas Symons (St. John's, Shaughnessy). Riders had the choice of doing 50 kilometres, 25 kilometres or 10 kilometres cycling routes. Jane enjoyed riding the 50 kilometres route with the

Rev. McNaughton who was participating in Ride For Refuge for the first time.

The prayers for good weather were answered, as it was a rain free day and the perfect climate for cycling. The routes were all within Richmond, and participants enjoyed seeing herons, llamas, ducks, pumpkin farms and beautiful riverside views along the way. Team PWRDF Vancouver raised an amazing total of \$6,720 this year. Thank you to everyone who generously made pledges for the team and/or its riders!

The host charity of *Ride For Refuge* Vancouver is the *Journey Home Community*. Its executive director, James Grunau announced prior to the ride that this year's ride had roughly 200 more participants than last year! *Journey Home* graciously provided all of the riders with a wonderful and well-earned warm lunch of pasta, garlic bread and cake inside the gymnasium of Richmond Christian School following the ride.

A few days after the event, Cheryl from PWRDF sent an email saying that the PWRDF Teams came in 14th in fundraising out of the 193 charities participating in the *Ride For Refuge* rides across Canada. ♣



Lynne and Jane getting geared up (every biking pun intended) before commencing their ride together. PHOTO Courtesy of Jane Dittrich

You don't have to wait until Christmas to give a gift that will make a difference right here in Canada

GIVE LOCAL GIVE CANADIAN

www.anglicanfoundation.org ANGLICAN FOUNDATION OF CANADA



LEFT A Richmond farm llama (nicknamed Dalai, the peaceful Ride For Refuge llama by Jane) spotted by Lynne and Jane on their 50 kilometre bike route. RIGHT Cake at the lunch after the ride. PHOTOS Courtesy of Jane Dittrich

• Worship & All that Jazz Resumes for the 2018 – 2019 Season •

SUBMISSION Hilary Clark

St. Stephen's in West Vancouver hosted a bright and cheerful jazz quartet on a miserable and rainy Sunday, September 30 for the first of the monthly *Jazz Vespers* celebrations for the 2018–2019 season. Visiting priest, the Rev. Canon Donald Lawton, led the worship service by first welcoming the members of *Linda Szentas and Jazzlinks*: Linda Szentas, vocalist; Ron Sluyter, pianist; Johan Worst, bassist; and Zoltan Kollar, drummer. The music, theme-picked for the season, included: *Bluesette*, *Autumn Leaves*, *September Song*, and the spirits of the congregation were lifted by the Latin American tune, *Chega de Saudade* (*No More Blues*).

Following the sharing of *Psalms 13*, the Rev. Canon Lawton reflected on the sub-

ject of music being an important part of spirituality. He mentioned that since jazz came from the souls of an oppressed people, it has the ability to draw us toward hope, in the same way that the psalms uplift us toward God; jazz can reflect God's gracious presence and lead us to love.

After two meditative prayers by Rev. Canon Lawton, Peter Vanderhorst, coordinator of the series, led the congregation in a vigorous singing of *Down by the Riverside* that matched the sentiments expressed in the last song, Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*, sung by Linda Szentas.

The extremely popular, *Mighty Fraser Big Band* will make their annual visit to St. Stephen's for the December *Jazz Vespers* celebration on December 9 at 4pm. ♣

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

Deadline for Topic Submissions
December 21, 2018 for the February 2019 issue.

Please email Randy Murray at rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca. All contributions are appreciated • Editor



Liz Macdonald, Lynne McNaughton, Jane Dittrich and Douglas Symons gathered at the finish line following their respective rides. PHOTO Courtesy of Jane Dittrich

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Orange Shirt Day at St. John's, Port Moody •

SUBMISSION Ruby Ng-Chen

Many thanks to the People's Warden at St. John the Apostle, Port Moody, Ruby Ng-Chen for sharing this photo of parishioners honouring *Orange Shirt Day*. The photo

was taken following the worship on Sunday, September 30. *Orange Shirt Day* is a day to remember and to pray that nothing like the Indian Residential Schools will ever happen

again and that hope for Reconciliation is always present in actions and in prayer. We pray for a new day when truly, **Every Child Matters.** ✠



PHOTO Submitted

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

Deadline for Topic Submissions
January 18, 2019
for the March 2019 issue

Please email Randy Murray at rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca. All contributions are appreciated • Editor

• New Branch of Mothers' Union Members & Officers Enrolled •

The enrollment at the Parish of Bishop Hills' Memorial Church of St. Mary the Virgin (AKA St. Mary's, South Hill) of 21 new members and officers of Mothers' Union (MU) took place on Sunday, September 30 at the 10:30am Celebration of the Eucharist. The Rev. Christine Rowe, Chaplain to the diocesan MU branches was the preacher and Celia Dodds, ODNW, past-president of Mothers' Union in Canada and a member of St. James' officiated at the enrollment and the distribution of membership cards and brooches (pins).

In the first photo we see 16 of the 21 new members; rector, the Rev. Expedito Farinas; Christine; Celia; and three more members of diocesan MU branches who have been involved with the national group at the executive level: Shirin Theophilus, ODNW (St. Anslem's); Mary Hamilton; and Linda Adams, ODNW (St. James'). ✠

Celia Dodds (Canadian MU President) welcomed the new branch officers: Grefa Pinera, Branch Leader; Felly Farinas, Vice Branch Leader; Cris Ticad, Branch Secretary; and Mildred Colobong, Branch Treasurer. PHOTO Courtesy of Felly Farinas



Group photo taken before lunch. PHOTO Randy Murray



Rev. Christine Rowe commissioned the new MU Branch Leaders. PHOTO Courtesy of Felly Farinas

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• From Visioning to Reality • A Labyrinth at St. Dunstan's •

SUBMISSION Mary Gillanders

From the very first *Visioning Day* after our new church building was completed in 1994, the desire for a labyrinth has been present. During the first few years other projects naturally took priority, but as time passed, a small group of parishioners, who were regular labyrinth walkers kept raising the topic. Maybe over time, people just got tired of hearing "What about a labyrinth?" Or perhaps, like many other great ideas, its time had finally come, and in 2016 Parish Council approved the project.

Our labyrinth committee, Rev. David Taylor, Lorie Martin, and Mary Gillanders investigated builders, cost, and possible sources of funding. We eventually chose Diana Ng from Surrey as our designer and builder. After two or three meetings with her, we settled on the design, and chose the stones. The ground was blessed, and Diana and her crew began work as soon as weather permitted in March 2018. Over the next six weeks, we all watched the creation of

this stunning new addition to our church grounds.

On the day of the official opening, at Lorie Martin's brilliant suggestion, we held a crêpe breakfast. After all, our labyrinth is a smaller, modified version of the famous one in Chartres Cathedral. Some St. Dunstan members also remember how one summer the Ven. Beverley Stewart, our rector at the time, paid a visit to Chartres, and carried a copy of our parish list with her into the

centre of that sacred space.

It is our hope that this beautiful creation will be a blessing to each of us, and will reach out to our community as a place where anyone can come, walk, and draw closer to God.

The St. Dunstan's labyrinth has been in place now all summer and into the fall, it is in excellent condition, and all are welcome to visit and spend some time in the crisp, Fraser Valley fall air walking the labyrinth. ✠



PHOTO David Taylor

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Deadline for *Topic* Submissions

*December 21, 2018
for the February 2019 issue*

Please email Randy Murray at
rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca
All contributions are appreciated • Editor



DIOCESAN SCHOOL FOR PARISH DEVELOPMENT

The Week-long and Weekend Programs return in 2019

The Week-long Program dates are: June 16–22, 2019

at the Vancouver School of Theology at the University of BC

The Weekend Program dates are:

January 25–26 • May 3–5 • September 6–7 • November 1–2, 2019

at the Synod Office 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

AROUND THE DIOCESE

As happens every year, a number of the parishes in the diocese of New Westminster celebrated worship events dedicated to the well-known Christian Saint, St. Francis. In 2018, All Saints', Burnaby again received local media attention from the *Burnaby Now* newspaper. St. Clement's, Lynn Valley boasted a stellar turnout of pets and people and St. John's, Shaughnessy distributed invitations around the quiet Vancouver neighbourhood inviting the folks in the area and their pets to a mid-afternoon Pet Blessing on September 30.

The Parish of Holy Trinity, Vancouver also got off to an early start with a service of *Thanksgiving for Animals and all Creation* held in the sanctuary on the rainy afternoon of September 30 (The Feast of St. Francis is October 4).

This was a bit different than some of the more familiar pet blessing liturgies as each of the four dogs in attendance were presented before the congregation at the point in worship following the Creed and then made their way up to the chancel with their human companions; they gathered in a group and a Prayer for the Created Order and a prayer of Thanksgiving for all Animals and Pets were led by the rector, the Rev. Karl Przywala. A memory book connected to a beloved pet and two Beanie Babies (alligator

and turtle) were also included in the group receiving prayers from the congregation and certificates of blessing.

Holy Trinity, Vancouver Director of Music, Michael Park is a very fine organist and pianist and he did a stellar job accompanying a selection of hymns that

included: *How Great Thou Art*, *All Things Bright and Beautiful* (using the hymn tune *Royal Oak* and then for the last verse and two refrains a very smooth transition and modulation to the somewhat better known *All Things Bright and Beautiful* tune) and of course *All Creatures of Our God and King*.

Seated at the piano in the nave, he greeted the congregation upon their arrival with a whimsical rendition of *How Much is that Doggie in the Window*.

Following worship all were welcomed in the Parish Hall for pet treats and people treats. ✠



Burnaby Now photo from the coverage of the October 6 Pet Blessing at All Saints', Burnaby. PHOTO Submitted by Justin Cheng



Beni (short for Benison meaning blessing) the Papillon. PHOTO Randy Murray



A Lab/Husky cross. PHOTO Randy Murray



A Schnoodle, (Schnauzer/Poodle cross). PHOTO Randy Murray



Rev. Przywala leads the Prayer for the Created Order. PHOTO Randy Murray

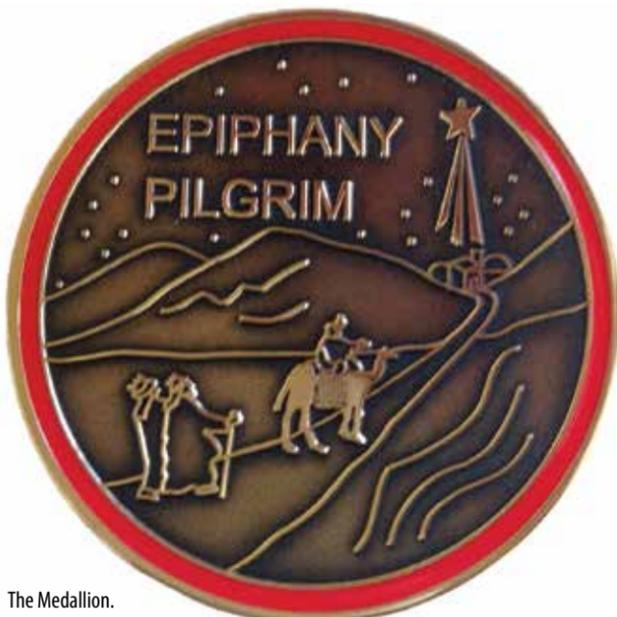
• Epiphany Pilgrims Medallion Recipients for 2018 •

SUBMISSION Stephen Rowe

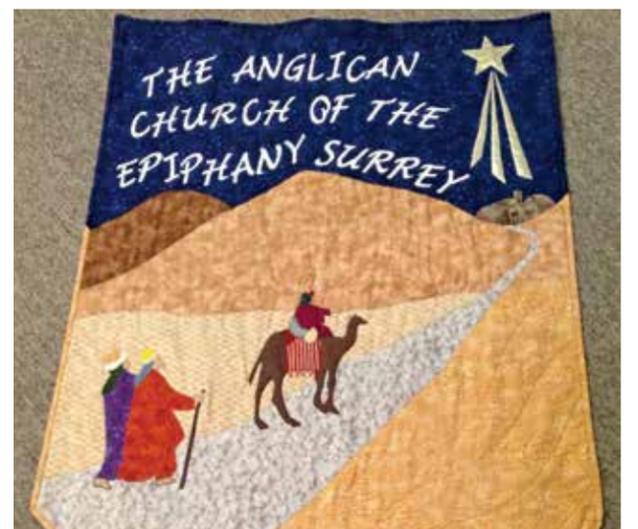
The Anglican Parish of the Church of the Epiphany made its seventh annual presentation of its Epiphany Pilgrim medallion on Thanksgiving Sunday. This is given to five members of the congregation each year for their mission and ministry at Epiphany and in other places and parishes.

This year Shawkat Shammass was one of the five recipients. Shawkat (from Iraq) has hosted rosary at Epiphany in Aramaic, three times a week, since a group of Chaldean and other Arab-speaking Christians first joined Epiphany in 2014. Other recipients included, Perlita Vanderhout (originally from the Philippines) a long time server and lay administrator of Communion. The medallion was also presented to Elizabeth Gilchrist (Music Director for over ten years), Noden Parr and Elaine Reay (who was absent that Sunday).

As we gave thanks to God for the bounty of creation at Thanksgiving, Epiphany also took the opportunity to thank those who have served the parish in many and varied ways over the year. ✠



The Medallion. PHOTO Carol Williams



The Parish banner is the inspiration for the medallion. PHOTO Carol Williams

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Christmas Display “Journeys” into 20th Year •

SUBMISSION Brian Walks, ODNW

In 1999, St. Mark's, Ocean Park member, John Reader, ODNW, had a *vision*, to put “Christ back into Christmas” in an outdoor display. Now, *The Journey of Christmas* is celebrating its 20th year with its combination of a multi-media outdoor display and

free nightly concerts in the parish hall. This year's nine night event begins on December 16 at 4pm with a celebratory service when we will give thanks to God for His vision to John and for sharing the message of Christmas for two decades. We will sing carols

and share the history and the inspiration that has continued for longer than many outdoor displays have lasted.

The outdoor display features nine theatres set in the woods behind St. Mark's, Ocean Park's buildings telling the story

of the first Christmas with mannequins, theatre props, lighting and an audio soundtrack. Your 22-minute guided tour ends in the hall with hot chocolate, cookies and our nightly Arts Showcase featured below.



TOP & BOTTOM Three of the theatres. PHOTOS Barb Walks

Sunday, December 16

Open 5pm–9pm

4pm • 20th Year Celebration Service

4:30pm • Reception in the hall

5pm • Journey of Christmas opens

Arts Showcase • Cecilia & Friends lead us in carol singing

Monday, December 17

Open 6pm–9pm

Boy Scout Night

Everyone is welcome

Tuesday, December 18

Open 6pm–9pm

Arts Showcase • Domaren Trio, a recorder group from Ladner

Wednesday, December 19

Open 6pm–9pm

Arts Showcase • Langley Ukulele Ensemble

Thursday, December 20

Open 6pm–9pm

Arts Showcase • St. Mark's Choir

Friday, December 21

Open 6pm–9pm

Arts Showcase • TBA

Saturday, December 22

Open 6pm–9pm

Arts Showcase • Gilbert & Sullivan Society Singers

Sunday, December 23

Open 6pm–9pm

Arts Showcase • Debra daVaughn & Chris Simmons, & daughter Cassandra

Monday, December 24

Open 3:30pm–9pm

Extended Christmas Eve hours

Visit *The Journey of Christmas* at St. Mark's, Ocean Park, 12953 20 Avenue in Surrey, BC. ♣



• Clergy News Around the Diocese •

The Rev. James Duckett has been appointed as the next Rector of St. Timothy, Brentwood. The Archbishop will celebrate his Induction on Monday, December 10 at 7pm. Rev. Duckett has been interim priest-in-charge at St. Paul's since October 1, 2017. As this is the first without term appointment for James in our diocese, diocesan communications asked that he share a little bit about himself for *Topic* readers:

Raised in Powell River, BC, James Duckett served at the altar both at the Church of the Assumption (RC) and St. David and St. Paul (AoCC). He graduated from Max Cameron Secondary School in 1998, and pursued an undergraduate degree at the University of BC. While there, James connected to an evangelical church through a roommate. He completed his BA in English Literature (2003) and his Bachelor of Education (secondary English and English as a Second Language, 2004). He then moved to Montreal and taught at a Christian school on the West Island while attending an evangelical church near downtown. Students' existential questions led him back to school at

McGill where he earned a Bachelor of Theology (2009) and a Master of Divinity (2010) through the Montreal School of Theology—a student first at Montreal Diocesan Theological College and later at Presbyterian College. He returned to teaching and his evangelical church before leaving both and moving to the public school system and attending Christ Church Cathedral where his formal discernment process began. He met and married his wife Sacha Bailey and was formally received into the Anglican Church by Bishop Barry Clarke who later ordained him (2015). Their first child, Eleanor, was born three months later. He was priested by Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson in 2016, in the midst of his curacy at St. George's in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue. He served as priest-in-charge at St. Andrew and St. Mark in Dorval briefly before moving to the west coast and was licensed by Archbishop Melissa Skelton.

St. Christopher, West Vancouver asked the Archbishop to appoint the Rev. Karen Urquhart as their rector and the Archbishop has done so effective November 1. Rev. Urquhart has been interim priest-in-charge of

the parish since September 16, 2017.

Coverage of these Celebrations of New Ministry Eucharist's will be available on the diocesan website news pages and in future issues of *Topic*.

Archbishop Skelton has appointed the Rev. Al Carson as priest-in-charge of Christ Church, Hope effective St. Luke's Day (October 18.) Al continues as the Rector of St. John the Baptist, Sardis and Regional Dean of the Valley.

The Rev. Eric Mason has been appointed as the Regional Dean of Tri-Cities/North Burnaby effective November 1. He succeeds the Rev. Stephanie Shepard. Eric is the Rector of St. Laurence, Coquitlam.

The Rev. Stephanie Shepard, interim priest-in-charge of St. Faith, Vancouver has been appointed to succeed the Rev. Vivian Lam as Regional Dean of Granville. Stephanie's appointment began on November 5.

In other but definitely related news, the Rev. Jeremy Clark-King formerly of

our diocese (2005–2017), who was the ordained leader of the shared ministry of St. Martin's, North Vancouver, St. Mary's, Kerrisdale and St. Christopher, West Vancouver has been appointed priest-in-charge of St. John the Evangelist, San Francisco. Founded in 1857, this church located in San Francisco's Mission District is the third oldest church in the Episcopal Diocese of California.

Jeremy moved to San Francisco with his spouse, the Rev. Ellen Clark-King in 2017 following her appointment as Executive Pastor and Canon for Social Justice at Grace Cathedral.

Prior to this appointment, Jeremy was consulting in Congregational Development at the Episcopal Diocese of California. A good portion of his time here in the diocese of New Westminster involved this kind of ministry, Jeremy was involved in strategic planning initiatives and he was an instructor at the Diocesan School for Parish Development. ♣

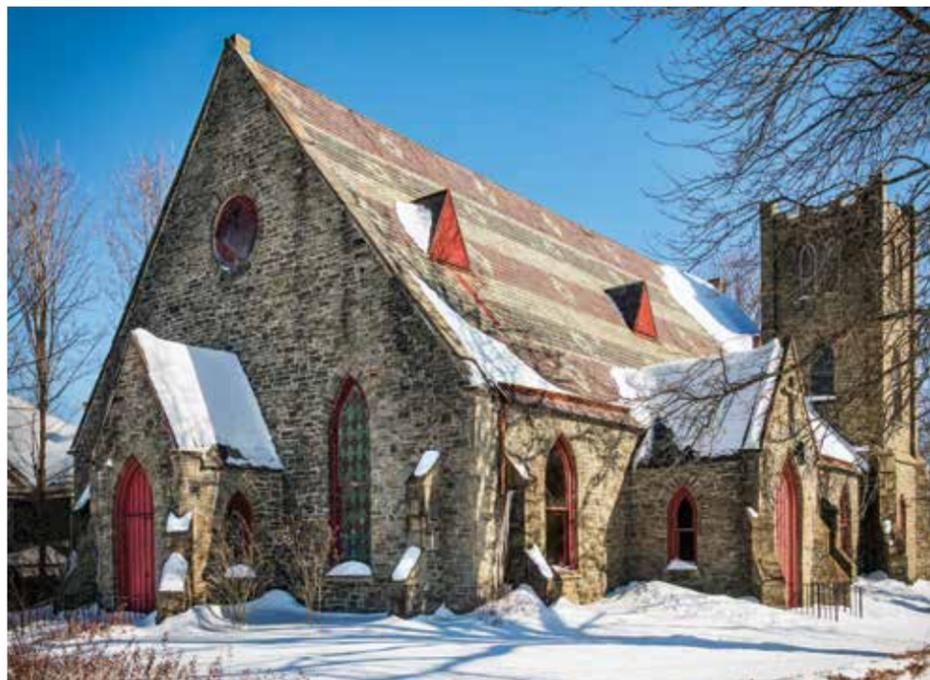
OPINION

A Child's Christmas

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

Retired Priest of the diocese of Calgary;

Former Dean of the diocese of New Westminster & Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver



Historic stone church in the snow. PHOTO emptyclouds on iStock

The word *Christmas* is more than a mere word. In the world of music a chord is composed of notes but it is infinity richer than any one of those notes. Some words are like that. They are far more than a mere word.

Christmas is such a word. We have only to hear it to feel it probing deeply, first into our hearing, then into our minds, then into memory and finally into our hearts. Then will come the feelings that always accompany remembering, sadness and regret, joy and appreciation, laughter or tears

I share a memory of Christmas with you only so that it may take you into your own remembering. What has always been for me a magic moment can lead you to what was for you such a moment.

Magic moments are really the doorways to magic kingdoms. Most people tend to think that magic kingdoms are, as we say, out of this world. The truth is that magic kingdoms are very close to this everyday world that we ironically call the real world. All we have to do is to search for the door that takes us through or the bridge that takes us over.

My own magic kingdom was very much in this world. It had small winding roads, a village, a humpbacked bridge over a small river, meadows of hay, fields of golden corn, horses, a donkey, cows, and a wonderful black and white sheepdog named Billie. At the heart of this magic kingdom was Donaguile, my mother's childhood home, my grandfather's farm.

In the summer of 1929, at the tender age of nine months, I was taken for the first time on the long journey from Cork to Castlecomer and nearby Donaguile. I'm told we went in my father's gleaming Morris Cowley, complete with rumble seat. Come to think of it, perhaps this was the magic chariot sent by the Gods to take me into my magic kingdom.

My very first memory of Donaguile came three years later when my father took my mother and I for a Christmas visit. As with all magic moments it came in the middle of very ordinary moments and was suddenly there to be remembered for the rest of my life.

I am standing with my mother and grandfather at the door beside the horses' stable. This door leads out to the Barn Field. Later I would learn that every field has its own name. The fields are white with snow, something not frequently seen in the south of Ireland. My grandfather has mixed

a large bucket of feed for the young calves. He opens the door, bangs on the bucket and gives a loud call. Immediately the calves turn towards us. Then, with that skipping gait of the very young, they run towards the doorway, all jostling for a place, all trying to get their heads into the bucket, at times almost wresting it from my grandfather's firm grip.

He watches carefully to see that each gets a fair share. For a moment he lets my mother place my small hand on the head of one of the calves. I feel the matted hair and the hard crown that is already showing the signs of what will one day become horns.

My grandfather scrapes the last of the feed from the bucket and hurls it out into the snow, the calves turn and chase after whatever extra mouthful they can get at. My grandfather closes the door on the cold white vision of the fields and a moment of vivid childhood memory is blotted out, not before it will be retained for a lifetime.

Years later I would come across a short but lovely poem by an English poet. It speaks of fields far away from where I stood that December morning as a child gazing at the white expanse of the Barn Field, yet for some reason it links me with that moment.

The Shepherd's Carol

by Clive Sansom

We stood on the hills, Lady,
Our days work done,
Watching the frosted meadows
That winter had won.

The evening was calm, Lady,
The air so still,
Silence more lovely than music
Folded the hill.

There was a star, Lady,
Shone in the night.
Larger than Venus it was,
And bright, so bright.

Oh, a voice from the sky, Lady,
It seemed to us then
Telling of God being born
In the world of men.

And so we have come, Lady,
Our day's work done,
Our love, our hopes, ourselves
We give to your son.

A holy Advent to you,
and a joyful Christmas. ✠

The Importance of Informal Christian Formation

JESSICA SCHAAP

Missioner for Christian Formation, diocese of New Westminster

When I was working as a parish priest I asked Archbishop Melissa how I could begin strengthening Christian formation amongst the members. We had just come through a series of parish-wide conversations on our priorities and Christian formation/education was one of the top. What she said surprised me. Instead of first recommending a series of programs or courses she said, "Nibble around the edges; find ways to bring formation to the things you already have and do."

This counsel has stuck with me as I think about my diocesan work to foster a culture of lifelong learning throughout our parishes and ministries. The process of shifting a culture is a slow one with lots of moving parts. How can we nibble around the edges? A fair bit of my time is spent researching and evaluating curricula for Christian formation for all ages and then sharing the results with you. This is a focus on formal paths of Christian formation and it is needed. But no single curricula can bear the weight and the privilege of providing enough for study and learning the ways of the Holy Spirit.

A healthy, system-wide approach to Christian formation includes recognizing the informal chances we all have to develop a culture of lifelong learning.

In the letter to the Colossians, the writer assumes that every member of the Christian community has an opportunity to develop the formation of others. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom." (*Colossians 3:16*) The first step here is allowing yourself to be formed. One of the markers of being ready to form others is allowing yourself to be well fed, to experience richness or abundance in Christ. At the same time, you are invited to be a warm and wellbuilt "house" for God. There is a deep soulfulness to the image of Christ "dwelling" in us. And the condition of the soul is integral to the teacher no matter how informal the context—whether you're leading a small bible study or talking to someone new in the pew that asks, "What's Ash Wednesday all about anyway?" The writer, teacher, and organizer Parker Palmer expresses this dynamic: "As I teach, I project the condition of my soul onto my students, my subject, and our way of being together. The entanglements I experience in the classroom are often no more or less than the convolutions of my inner life." A big part of our readiness and ability to offer informal Christian formation is awareness of our own soul's climate.

Another recognition about informal Christian Formation is that informal learning is the main way people learn now. An expert in faith formation, James Roberto,

reports: "...by most estimates informal learning accounts for more than 70% of adult learning taking place today. Informal learning describes a lifelong process whereby individuals acquire attitudes, values, skills, and knowledge from daily experience and the educational influences and resources in his or her environment, from family and neighbours, from work and play, from the marketplace, the library, mass media, and the Internet."

No budget for a fancy curriculum? What a rich range of opportunities we have to offer even more influential formation! When we think about how we want to develop Christian Formation, a big part of it might just be bringing our attention and awareness to all the opportunities for informal formation. Maybe it's a week before Advent, you're a new priest in a parish, and it's too late to get a four-week course going. But putting good resources before people and inviting them to check them out would help. The diocese has produced a daily devotion and small group program for Advent available online (www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-resources/2018-advent-resource).



PHOTO Jessica Schaap

There are podcasts such as *Be Still and Go* or *The Distillery* from Princeton University. Or there's just sitting down one-on-one with someone for coffee and showing how they can do lectio divina with the Sunday lectionary. Maybe it's even first making sure you've found a life-giving way to keep a holy Advent.

Another great opportunity for informal Christian formation is whenever someone new joins your guild. For example, maybe you're going over the preparation of the purificator and as you share tips of how to remove wine stains and how to fold and press, you talk about your experience of peacefulness when you do this task. You share how it connects you closely to the altar, how this attention to simple craft and beauty is a big Anglican value. God is known in these details too. This kind of encounter is what allows people to pick up the values, skills, and knowledge that deepens their faith. What other kinds of informal formation opportunities do you have?

Bringing intention and attention to informal Christian formation prepares fertile ground. If you're looking to shift the culture in your community or create an environment where formation is expected and fostered, consider all the informal ways you can "nibble around the edges." Get a small group together and enjoy naming and committing and supporting one another in all these mustard seed like formation opportunities. Who knows who might find growth and shelter with you? ✠

¹ Parker Palmer, "The Heart of the Teacher" Available online: <http://www.couragerenewal.org/parker/writings/heart-of-a-teacher/>

² James Roberto, "Faith Formation for Every Adult in Your Church—It's Possible Today!" *Lifelong Faith*. Read it on the diocesan website at <http://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/parish-development/adult-formation-resources/pages/principles-for-faith-formation>



Peace on Earth & Goodwill to All

In an email sent to a good number of folks who had contributed written content to Topic since December of 2017, I asked those recipients to send—in 100 words or so—a reflection on what comes to mind when you hear or read the words: “Peace on Earth, goodwill to all”—the famous excerpt from Luke 2:14.

These are the responses we received.
Many thanks! • Editor

Lauren Odile Pinkney

“Peace on Earth” is not simply a statement. “Goodwill to all” is not a hopeful intention. These are commandments. They are calls to action. We cannot pray for God to do these things, we must pray for God to change our hearts so that we may do these things. If we are to harken to this call, we must know that it is not easy or glamorous work. It is right action, in the hardest of times. It is absolute compassion, even when it hurts. It is bringing peace, even when our emotions race. It is unconditional love; always, no strings attached. ✦

Stephen Rowe

Many of the carols we sing at Christmas incorporate these words and they always, for me, remain a fervent prayer and hope for our world. It is vital to remember that Jesus was born in an occupied country, in humble surroundings, a stable for animals. So Christmas is not only a good time to celebrate the birth of Christ into our lives but also supporting those in need in our local communities or elsewhere, people just like Jesus’ family who were poor, displaced and yet loving to the one who was to be a saviour for all the world. ✦

Brian Walks, ODNW

Peace begins within yourself. If you don’t have peace within yourself, how can you pass along the peace to your family, friends and others? Pass that peace along to our leaders and to their leaders. When our leaders pass along God’s peace, what a difference it would make in the world. On Christmas Eve 1914, through the will of the

troops, the British, French, and German troops shared dinner, gave gifts and sang Christmas carols as they shared the short Christmas truce together. They shared the spirit of “Peace on Earth” and showed us that in the middle of the war that a cessation of hostilities can happen. Merry Christmas and Peace to All! ✦



Peter Smyth

Ships are restless and noisy places and what contributes to this for seafarers is the effect of long absences from loved ones and the dangers of the job.

The logo of the *Mission to Seafarers* is the flying angel with arms outstretched which emphasizes going out to all seafarers to be and so to bring them as Chaplains and volunteers a peace which starts with the moment of encounter; a word of hello, bow, hand shake or a smile.

As you hear again the words of the angels in *Luke 2:14* this Christmas whoever you cross the crowded streets of life may you in that moment of encounter remember that you have been blessed with the gift of God’s peace which for the goodwill of all is most definitely meant to be shared. ✦

Cory McCaig

Universally we need to love one another. We need to shed our biases and prejudices. We are not put on this earth to judge, but to accept one another, as we are created, male, female, or anything in between, black, white or brown, Sikh, Hindu, Moslem, Christian or Jew. He asks us to love them as we love ourselves and in doing so we will have Peace on Earth. ✦

Donna Lawrence

Peace on earth, goodwill to all.

The angels did not sing of peace for the rich and the powerful. They did not celebrate goodwill to celebrities and politicians.

Goodwill to all.

When I look around me, when I see my daughters and my granddaughter sharing a home with me, and I see extended family nearby, I know I am blessed. I know they will always support me, and I will always be there for them.

Goodwill to ALL.

There are others around me who have nothing, and feel they have no one. God intended a better life for them. And if I can be a small part of giving them that better life, then I am answering God’s call to me. The *Long, Long Night of Hope* fundraiser for the Lookout Society shelter is a chance for me, and many others, to reach out and help. By raising money and awareness, we are shining God’s light on the needs of his children.

GOODWILL to ALL.

Because EVERYONE deserves goodwill. ✦

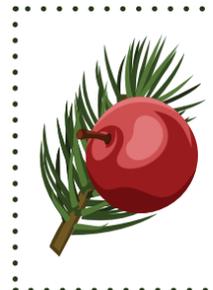
Janet Coghlan

The words remind me of the hymn/song that includes the words “and let it begin with me.” We pray for peace, but we hear so much about war and violence in the news that we can feel powerless. For me the words were a reminder during the recent local elections of the opportunity to strongly support certain candidates and policies without engaging in verbal abuse—this is one way it begins. Peace. ✦

Cliff Caprani

When I hear this iconic phrase, I am reminded—sadly—of the gap that exists between the wish expressed and the reality of life for many in our world. I am reminded that we are called to do better.

A worn Christmas ornament of memory, one side merry, one side blue; a decoration that appears on the tree each year. ✦



Pamela McElheran

For me this angelic announcement is more than a reminder that there is hope for a better earthly future in our current turbulent and adversarial times. But I am drawn to look at the context. What comes to me is the sheer miracle of angels appearing in the heavens to a group of lowly, Jewish shepherds tending their sheep in the hills outside of Bethlehem. Angels as messengers. Common shepherds as the chosen ones to receive God’s message—your Messiah has been

born in David’s town. “You will find him lying in a manger”—how could this be? But as frightened and uncertain as they were, they hurried off to Bethlehem, compelled to see the miracle birth for themselves. It was as the angels had foretold. Like the shepherds, we continue to be called by God, not only to share the message of the Holy Birth with expressions of peace and goodwill, but also to share the good news of a ministry that changed the world. ✦

OPINION

Tom Esakin

As a spiritual director, reading scripture often reveals mystical potentiality. To paraphrase Kabbalistic teachings from Christianity's Jewish roots: the word is not the word, the word reveals the word.

Mysticism of diverse religious traditions often equates the spiritual journey to a Trinity culminating in a fourth phase of Divine Unity. Understanding the word "peace" to represent the One Divine spirit, an offered mystical interpretation of this scripture:

- Perception 1: Peace outside of us brings goodwill to all.
- Perception 2: Peace between me and you brings goodwill to all.
- Perception 3: Peace within me and you brings goodwill to all.
- Perception 4: There is peace... Truth only need be lived.

Amen. ✦



Nii K'an Kwsdins (Jerry Adams)

Christmas is such a hard time for many disadvantaged people; it can be a time of sadness and loneliness. I did some outreach street work in the 1980s and 1990s in the Downtown Eastside, and it was hard to go to work some days. But if one really looked, "Peace and Goodwill" could be found within the people living there. I was once given a gift from a young woman who didn't have much to give. She gave me a Christmas orange, that she probably needed more than I did. Her generosity was so touching — her eyes and heart told me she really wanted to gift me with that orange. She gave me hope, and showed me that there are people out there who are so generous that they would give me their last piece of food. That is Peace on Earth and goodwill to all. ✦

Art Turnbull

She watched in horror. They beheaded her mother. Violent and evil men, terrorists. She later thought, "What peace? Why not all people?" Luke's quote brings to my mind the precious need for peacemakers, peacekeepers. At Christmas I am most mindful of Canadian Forces members on duty, so many in foreign lands. I am mindful of police officers on patrol. I am aware of firefighters and first responders and hospital emergency staff, all ready this night. I think of the families of these men and women who do not have them home this day. I think that peace begins with me. If we could just remember another Lucan quote, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." (Luke 6:13) Orphaned children need to be loved even within a violent world. Jesus said so! ✦



Herbert O'Driscoll

*Dispatch from an ancient war...
... between choirmasters and choirboys.*

December 1939
St. Luke's Parish Church, Cork, Ireland

I am given the soprano solo from Handel's *Messiah*. The angel introduces the heavenly chorus. Problem is the solo contains the two highest notes in the oratorio. Suddenly there is no heavenly chorus because I fail to get the two high notes!

Far from Peace and Goodwill there is rage (the choirmaster) and the only chorus is one's fellow choristers laughing. Across the top of the grand piano the choirmaster snarls at me. "Sing this again NOW if you wish to get your choir pay this Christmas."

No greater threat could have been uttered. I take a deep breath, launch into the solo and get the two high notes perfectly. Suddenly there is peace, goodwill and a stunning heavenly chorus. ✦

Peter Goodwin, ODNW

The words "Peace on Earth, Goodwill to All" brings to mind the vision statement of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), our Anglican Church's agency providing global outreach to the most needy. As we celebrate Christmas and the 60th Anniversary of the founding of PWRDF let us pray that its vision of "Working towards a truly just, healthy, and peaceful world," may find fulfillment through the ever generous support of its donors and volunteers and the timeless dedication and achievements of its amazing partner organizations and staff. ✦

Lyndon Grove, ODNW

Peace on earth, goodwill to all may seem beyond our grasp in an age of Syria and Yemen and Myanmar, but there are moments of peace and goodwill to be found in small gestures among friends and family and neighbors. And strangers. Peace and goodwill — a priceless gift, beyond value and free. ✦



The First Ever Queerest & Dearest Camp

ANNE KESSLER

Children, Youth & Families Ministry Coordinator, Christ Church Cathedral



Diocesan Youth Movement

YOUTH CONNECTIONS

News & Events for Youth in the diocese of New Westminster

youth groups •

For Parish Youth Groups go to <http://bit.ly/1T5cWk0>

contact • The Rev. Jessica Schaap

Missioner for Christian Formation (Synod Staff Liaison)

jschaap@vancouver.anglican.ca

604.684.6306 ext. 225

“Queerest and Dearest was incredibly transformative for me. As someone who attends a non-affirming church, it was very powerful and validating to be in fellowship with other LGBTQ+ followers of Christ and their families. As a city dweller, I also appreciated the opportunity to be in creation and worship joyfully outdoors in ways that welcomed the participation of my child and other campers of all ages! It was also a unique chance to authentically share the Good News with campers who weren't from faith backgrounds, or who'd had a lapse in their spiritual practice. This space was wonderful and nurturing for those who have been rejected because of who they are, or who've experienced spiritual abuse.”

Bunny, age 29

“My kids are still all talking about it. Bex was so proud to share with his dad how he told HIS story. He has this sense of pride over his transition story now. This was a week that my kids and I needed. A week to be around new friends, no secrets about Bex's transition. Sharing love for our Heavenly Father. And a sense that we belong somewhere and were safe to be us.”

Kutrina, parent of three

This past August, thirty-seven people aged 2 to 59 gathered at Camp Artaban over five days for the first ever *Queerest and Dearest Camp*. *Queerest and Dearest* is an intergenerational Christian camp for LGBTQIA2S+ people and their families, whoever that may be—birth families, adoptive families, chosen families, extended families and of course, church families! Campers were Anglican, Lutheran, Baptist, Mormon, Jewish and Muslim, as well as people of no faith.

We spent our days doing traditional summer camp activities such as: boating, swimming, hiking, arts and crafts, archery, climbing and campfire (without an actual fire). We deepened our faith through: daily worship in Camp Artaban's beautiful outdoor chapel, Queer bible study where we learned together about queer and trans theologies and shared our experiences as queer and trans Christians. We deepened our knowledge of how we too participate in

systems, which oppress, in particular, trans and non-binary people, people of colour, and Indigenous People.

This amazing camp could not have happened without generous support from the Anglican Initiatives Fund, as well as individuals who donated over \$3,000 towards bur-saries. We send out special thanks to the diocese of New Westminster and these individuals for their support.

My favourite part of camp was getting to be in a community of people who shared my experiences of being a Queer Christian, not just one part or the other, but both, together. This community was truly intergenerational, and supported parents and children in all parts of camp, but especially in worship. It modeled for me worship that truly included children in all ways.

We are excited to grow camp next year, and hope you will consider supporting it! ✨



Dustin (aged 2) and Sidney high-five. PHOTO Emily Ann Garcia



Participants returning from swimming at the waterfront. PHOTO Emily Ann Garcia



Participants help make the sound of water during the reading of the Psalm. PHOTO Emily Ann Garcia



All of the camp's participants on the Chapel steps. PHOTO Emily Ann Garcia