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Service of Confirmation & Holy Communion • Second Sunday of Advent • St. Cuthbert, Delta

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Seven members of the Parish of St. Cuthbert, Delta: Preetish Joshua, Ethan, Adrian, Samantha, Ammiel, Amelia and Sapna were confirmed by Bishop Skelton during the Advent II Celebration of the Eucharist, December 4, 2016. These confirmation candidates had decided that they would like

to describe themselves as “A Gaggle,” a collective noun usually reserved for geese. Commenting on this choice, rector of St. Cuthbert’s, the Rev. Paul Woehrle wrote, “While on retreat together we were discussing an appropriate word to describe the group. ‘Posse’ was possible, and so was ‘crew’

which had strong alliteration on its side. But ‘gaggle’ won out.” And “gaggle” does have a history of being used in faith applications; for example, Neil LaBute’s one act play, *A Gaggle of Saints*.

There was a large congregation gathered for worship in the bright spacious sanctuary of St. Cuthbert’s on that sunny late fall morning. The community was energized by the prospect of the visit of Bishop Skelton, but the liturgical focus was on the Confirmation and on the Eucharist that all would participate in together. The inside cover of the service bulletin listed in large font the names of the confirmands and below the list was the following prayer:

God of mercy and love, grant that your servants may grow in the fullness of the stature of Christ. Fill them with the joy of your presence. Increase in them the fruit of your Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, and the spirit of love, patience and gentleness, the spirit of wonder and true holiness. Amen.

Worship began with the Opening Hymn, *On Jordan’s Bank, The Baptist’s Cry* and moved into the ceremony of *The Lighting of the Candle for the Second Sunday of Advent—Peace* which consisted of another short hymn and a responsive litany led by the confirmands, each one of the seven taking a role. The litany and the lighting were followed by The Gathering of the Community, Collect for the day and more congregational singing led by organist/pianist, Coleen Metcalf, the Youth Choir under the direction of Barbara Buxton and the Adult Choir under the leadership of Tony Houghton.

With the gathering portion of the liturgy concluded, Bishop Skelton invited the children of the parish to come to the front of the nave by the chancel entrance steps for a brief talk prior to processing out into different areas of the building for Sunday School. The bishop began by asking the question, “What season are we in?” and she received the answer, “Advent” to which she explained that Advent is about “waiting” and to illustrate she held up a selection of photos depicting different kinds of waiting. The third photograph was of a pregnant woman “waiting for something good to happen.” And that “something good” is the arrival of Jesus and we are invited over the period of Advent to savour this period of waiting, not to rush through it and hurry up and get it over with so Christmas can be here but to enjoy this time of looking forward and preparation.

For her sermon, Bishop Skelton took the Gospel reading, *Matthew 3: 1–12* (John the Baptist fulfilling Isaiah’s prophecy) for her text. She admitted that she has a personal agenda for Advent, and that is to spend the time in “quiet waiting,” in reflection, spiritual preparation and prayer and that she doesn’t much appreciate having to hear about John the Baptist, “his clothing, his food, his wilderness haunts, and his words of repentance... ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, ‘the voice of the one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” She said that she does not want this prophet “intruding into the dark gestational time of my Advent, the one time in the year when I give myself permission to withdraw, to wait in the dark for the return of the light and the arrival of the Holy Child of God.” Bishop Skelton continued saying, “as disruptive as he may be to my quiet Advent waiting, there must be some reason

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The west side of the chancel during the Opening Hymn. PHOTO Randy Murray



The confirmands gather for the litany as Ethan lights an Advent candle. PHOTO Randy Murray



Left to Right: Ammiel Swamy, Joshua Arun, Sapna Vimalendiran, Adrian deHeer-Amisah, Amelia Trottier, Ethan Cheng, Samantha Jespersen, Bishop Skelton and the Rev. Paul Woehrle. Samantha was the first person Pastor Paul baptized as he began his incumbency at St. David's, Delta in 2002, and her younger brother, Matthias was the first person he baptized at St. Cuthbert's. PHOTO Courtesy of Rassamee Ling

Illuminated by Sunshine, Refreshed by Water, Empowered by Prayer

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

why we're asked to encounter John during Advent, to go through him to complete our journey to Bethlehem to see the Holy Child of God. For while only two of the Gospels mention anything about Jesus' birth, all four Gospel writers introduce Jesus by talking about John. It must have to do with his message—his message of repentance."

Bishop Skelton then examined the concept of repentance through the lens of her experience of what repentance was commonly understood to mean in the US south of her childhood, juxtaposed to what it has come to mean for her now in the context of Advent. An opportunity "to let go of attachments, attention and actions that somehow block the space where God is waiting to meet you... This is what John the Baptist offered people: a fresh start, a way out of jail, a beginning, not an end. For he knew there was someone coming after him who had something much stronger to offer, although he did not know who or what that was. And no one, I think, was more surprised than he, when he looked up a short time later to see who was wading toward him through the water—not the messianic king of his imagination come with great political power to rule, but a king without a crown, a lion and a lamb, a little child come to lead us."

Following the homily, the confirmation candidates were presented and examined; the congregation, choirs, sanctuary party, confirmands and sponsors led by Bishop Skelton reaffirmed their Baptismal Covenant and were sprinkled with Holy Water by the bishop and the rector; the intercession was led; the seven were Confirmed, the Peace exchanged, and the Eucharist shared. During the Eucharist the seven, that gaggle of confirmands remained together as they received Holy Communion.

Following worship a potluck lunch and a reception took place in the various other rooms located in the St. Cuthbert complex.



LEFT Bishop Skelton encouraged the younger members of the parish to share their ideas about Advent and waiting for the arrival of Jesus. PHOTO Randy Murray
RIGHT The Episcopal Blessing. PHOTO Courtesy of Sri Vimalendiran

In a comment on the diocesan *Facebook* pages, *Anglican Conversation* in response to a photo album posted by diocesan communications, the Rev. Paul Woehrle best summed up the morning, "Beauty, truth and goodness all wrapped up in this gathering, illuminated by sunshine,



refreshed by water, empowered by prayer and witness, and energized by Holy Communion, plus a generous yummy reception. All done in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." ✠

MORE PHOTOS CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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



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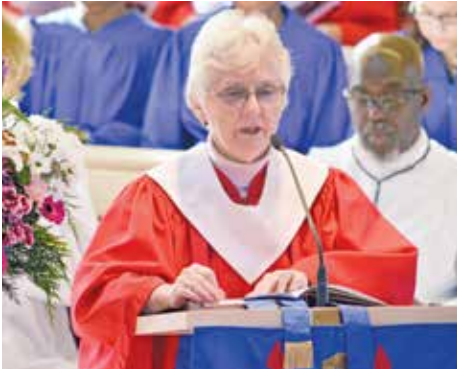
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Thank you!



Gail Kiewitt reads the Epistle, *Romans 15: 4 – 13*.
PHOTO Randy Murray



Deacon of the Word and Table, the Rev. Karin Fulcher prepares to read the Gospel, *Matthew 3: 1 – 12*. PHOTO Randy Murray



Adrian is about to experience the laying on of hands — Confirmation. PHOTO Randy Murray



Ammiel is Confirmed. PHOTO Randy Murray



The confirmands are presented and examined. PHOTO Randy Murray



Singing the Benedictus during the Eucharistic Prayer. PHOTO Randy Murray



Newly confirmed receive "The Body of Christ" from their pastor. PHOTO Randy Murray

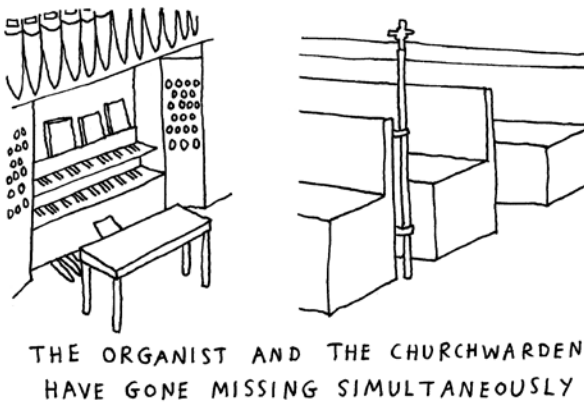
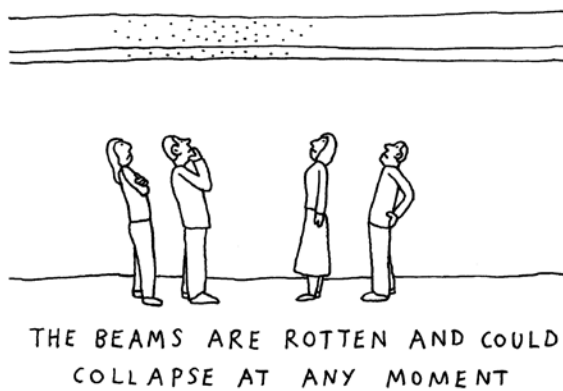


The Cake. PHOTO Courtesy of Sri Vimalendiran



The Rev. Karin Fulcher dismisses the congregation. PHOTO Randy Murray

TERRIBLE DISCOVERIES



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

compiled by Anglican Archivist Melanie Delva

- 30 years • 1987** Anglicans in Mission funding of diocesan-wide programs comes to an end.
- 35 years • 1982** May Guttridge, director of St. James' Social Services Society is admitted to the Order of Canada
- 45 years • 1972** Archbishop Gower is elected as the Vancouver School of Theology's first Chancellor.
- 50 years • 1967** The Executive Committee of the Diocese reports with the recommendation that rectories "be done away with" and that clergy should buy homes.

Mental Health, Faith & Community: Let's Talk

Sanctuary Mental Health Ministries (Sanctuary) is the grateful recipient of a generous grant, which allows them to provide mental health support to parishes in the diocese of New Westminster.

With this grant, they can help your parish to decrease stigma around mental illness and become an environment conducive to mental health recovery.

Through sermons, seminars, workshops and action committees, Sanctuary has been preparing churches to support mental health recovery since 2011. Preparation begins with understanding what mental health means and recognizing that a person's mental health exists on a continuum ¹. All of us move along this continuum, between languishing and flourishing, with or without a mental illness, as we respond to life-events and stressors.



Particularly during times of languishing, in times of despair, crisis, or loss, people turn to the Church for hope and grace. Yet, many are not ready or equipped to walk with a family member, colleague, brother, sister or neighbour who may be struggling with their mental health.

One in five Canadians will experience a mental health concern this year ². That means, at any one time, 20% of people in faith communities are struggling; still others are unable to attend church because their poor mental health keeps them away. Many won't share their pain for fear of being abandoned by or isolated from their community.

Sanctuary walks with churches preparing members of the parishes, clergy and lay leaders to be *companions* who walk alongside those on the journey of recovery.

With an increased understanding of mental health issues, and the skills and resources to confidently respond, churches and parishes can BE Christ's LOVE, light and hope.

If you would like to know more about Sanctuary's work and how the grant from the Anglican Allchurches Trust Limited can help your parish prepare to support mental health recovery, please contact Teresa Augustine, Director of Programming at teresa.augustine@sanctuary-ministries.com or call 778.836.4673.

Sanctuary is a charitable, non-profit organization. For more information on Sanctuary Mental Health Ministries please visit www.sanctuary-ministries.com. ✚



¹ Adopted from Dr. Corey Keyes, American sociologist and psychologist.
² 2011 Mental Health Commission of Canada study.

Consolidated Trust Fund Information Presentation 2016

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The annual meeting for 2016 to report on the progress of funds held in the Consolidated Trust Fund (CTF) of the diocese of New Westminster took place as it usually does on the first Saturday of December in one of the gathering rooms at St. Stephen's, West Vancouver. This information was presented by Institutional Portfolio Manager's (IPM's), Paul Martin and Graeme Baker of Phillips, Hagar & North (PH&N) Investment Management. The majority of the 20+ in attendance were treasurers, wardens and trustees of various diocesan parishes. At 9:40 am, business administrator of the diocese, Rob Dickson welcomed the group, thanked them for giving up their Saturday morning and pointed out that what would take place that morning is not an Annual General Meeting, not an official gathering, but an information sharing session done as a courtesy by PH&N. The presentation and the presentation document are not intended to provide professional advice and should not be relied upon in that regard, the presentation document is intended for the information of institutional investors only.

Paul Martin provided some background information about PH&N relating to the firm's history, its beginnings in the 1960s, the fact that it was acquired by Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) Global Assessment Management in 2008, its ongoing relationship with the diocese and PH&N's commitment to understanding the needs and goals of their clients, and the focus on the type of institutional investing done by the diocese. As he has done in previous years, Martin thanked everyone in attendance for the opportunity to work with the now in excess of \$46 million in the CTF and he explained that the investment process is a great deal more diverse than it was when PH&N began handling the portfolio in 1991. He also reminded the group that international investing for the CTF is done by a team of ten highly skilled investors in London, England.

As Paul Martin led the group through the presentation document it was apparent that the activity in the fund was very similar to previous years, inflation remains low and steady, the low Canadian dollar is helpful for foreign investment, the fluctuation of energy prices does effect certain stocks and although the return over the previous two months (October and November 2016, the information published in the presentation document covered up to September 30, 2016) had been "modestly negative" the diocesan CTF performed very well, showing 10% growth. As in previous years Paul was quick to point out that this will even out in the near future years, probably at approximately 5%. A question from one of the folks in attendance about the role of bonds in the diocesan portfolio provoked a number of questions and comments that Paul Martin was happy to address. He said that bonds are a steady investment even though the returns on bonds may prove to be slightly less than in the recent past. In assessing risk, he assured the group that for bonds to have a significant shift it would require something like a 2.5% increase in interest rates. He pointed out that it is quite likely that interest rates will rise, but the PH&N people really don't anticipate a marked increase (4%–5%) over the next few years. This prompted some discussions about the possible international economic repercussions of the recent US presidential election, specifically the potential effect on Canada. That discussion was a good segue into the second half of the presentation facilitated by Graeme Baker.

Graeme picked up the thread saying that ultimately higher rates are positive for a portfolio like the diocesan CTF. He said that increased costs to borrow money should not be looked at as a "crisis" although the cost of borrowing will impact Canadians who have borrowed heavily to service their debt. He used the word "headwind" to describe the effect of a rise in interest rates. He went on to say that Canada is enjoying a "very strong equity market." Global equity has lagged a bit and the diocesan CTF earnings benefitted in 2014–2015 from the devalued Canadian dollar but that has not been an issue in 2016. All the current signs seem to support that *Brexit* and the election of Donald Trump have not affected equities as expected. The equity funds in the CTF have been chosen for their stability and quality. Graeme mentioned Sleep Country and Linamar Auto Parts as productive investments. He said that there is currently less investing in utilities and real estate as a defense against rising interest rates. Canadian financials make up the bulk of Canadian equity markets. A large portion of the Canadian industrials portion of the CTF portfolio is rail which given the current trade climate might be a concern, however if Canadian trade shrinks given the

potential suspension of the NAFTA the impact of that would not be visible for some time. Graeme continued by leading the group through the document and pointing out the various sections of the portfolio including: banking, the auto sector, financial markets, insurance companies (which continue in general to perform very well), and corporate and provincial bonds.

The third section of the presentation as in past years consisted of information about Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) and the explanation that this kind of investment policy is different than Socially Responsible Investing (SRI). Graeme and Paul directed the attention of the group to a page in the presentation booklet that explained that:

- ESG is NOT:
- Socially Responsible Investing
 - Ethical Investing
 - Values-based judgments of a security or sector
 - Negative screening to eliminate companies or sectors from portfolios
 - Fossil Free or Carbon Light
- ESG IS:
- Enhanced analysis of companies
 - Better understanding of overall risk — both financial and non-financial
 - Proxy voting and company engagement
 - Working with other managers and owners to address ESG issues.

ESG is a major consideration at RBC Global Asset Management (GAM). The *Corporate Governance and Responsible Investment Group* was established in 2014 and is responsible for integration of ESG considerations across all investment mandates."

RBC GAM adopted the *Approach to Responsible Investment* in 2015. This is a document that details how GAM integrates ESG considerations into its investment process. Also, RBC GAM became a signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI) in 2015 and is also a member of the ESG related organizations: Canadian Coalition for Good Governance (CCGG); The Responsible Investment Association of Canada (RIA); and The International Corporate Governance Network (ICGN).

As has been the trend in previous years a robust discussion about ESG took place in the meeting room at St. Stephen's, West Vancouver. PH&N believes that it is important to look very closely and document in detail when researching investment opportunities in companies. The PH&N philosophy is that engagement is more effective than divestment because an investor has "the ear of the company." It is important to know that the company being researched could achieve the outcomes required by the UN PRI. There are a number of companies excluded for the CTF portfolio including a chain of convenience stores that receives 20% of their revenues from the sale of tobacco. The UN PRI polices the adherence of participating investment companies and issues report cards. Paul and Graeme were happy to share that PH&N received an A+ rating in the most recent reporting period.

Topic is grateful that a number of folks attending the meeting took the time to respond to a request to share some of their thoughts about the meeting and the current status of the diocesan CTF. Jack Wood, ODNW, treasurer at St. Paul's enjoyed the annual report experience saying:

"As in past years the report was not only positive in tone (with cautionary notes that past performance may not carry forward at the same levels) but well-presented verbally and in a comprehensive printed format. I would acknowledge St. Stephen's hospitality — this has become some sort of a Christmastime tradition, if not in an intentional way!"

Captain Stephen Brown of West Pacific Marine Ltd., a marine consultancy firm attended in his capacity as Board Chair of the Mission to Seafarers in Vancouver. When asked to provide reaction to the report said:

"With respect to the report, I found it to be very thorough and well presented. The responses to questions and a few implied criticisms from the audience were good and it was clear that the presenters were well prepared for the meeting.

The issue of ethical investments and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) will inevitably be addressed at a presentation such as this. As a seafarer by profession myself, as someone who has served on

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Consolidated Trust Fund Information Presentation 2016

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

tankers and as representatives of the maritime industry, we find the Canadian energy debate and misrepresentation of the Canadian pipeline industry to be very sad for the future of this country. The National Energy Board currently regulates more than 73,000 km of pipeline throughout Canada.

In basic terms, our way of life is entirely dependent on pipelines moving energy from where it is sourced to where it is consumed. An extension of pipelines is tanker traffic to allow the shipping of Canadian oil overseas, rather than sell it at a huge discount to an already over-supplied American market. The current state of affairs is resulting in net losses to Canada of around \$30 billion per year—money, which we badly need to invest in all manner of services and infrastructure renewal. The reality is that about 80% of the world's energy needs are met by fossil fuels of one sort or another and that will not change any time soon.

Investments in the Canadian energy sector are therefore an essential component of any investment portfolio."

Captain Brown also supplied a link to a simple online Q&A posted by Canadian Energy Pipeline Association (CEPA) at www.cepa.com/en/resources/fact-sheets-and-brochures.

Jeff Calvert, treasurer of St. Philip, Dunbar offered two observations during the discussions involving ESG investment. The first involved his response to a statement by a person in the group that pipeline protesters are often misinformed. Jeff said:

"Pipeline protesters aren't protesting because they're misinformed. Protesters have access to exactly the same information as everyone else, but we all have slightly different values and priorities that we use to process the same information. This diversity in values leads to widely varying conclusions in different people. (I'll note that the world is doing much suffering today because we have trouble recognizing the importance of this diversity in values and priorities.)"

The second was related to CTF divestment in companies

that operate, build or profit from the use of pipelines.

"As mentioned, I expect that there are active voices who would like to see this happen. However, maintaining investment in these firms does act in a pleasing tension with our active efforts within the diocese to protest against these same firms. In maintaining investment AND protesting, I think we probably reflect the wide range of opinions on this matter that exist within our parish communities themselves."

Chris Haines, treasurer at St. Agnes, North Vancouver had this to say:

"I was impressed by the fact that PH&N (and their parent company,

RBC Global Asset Management) utilize an ESG process for evaluating companies. This isn't just about screening out bad industries such as gambling or tobacco, but ensuring that the companies act in the best social interest of Canadians. Whether it is environmental practices or ensuring adequate representation of women on a board of directors, the work that they do lines up with many of the values of the Anglican Church."

For more information about the PH&N information presentation on the diocesan CTF please contact, business administrator of the diocese of New Westminster, Rob Dickson at 604.684.6306, ext. 215 or email rdickson@vancouver.anglican.ca. ☛



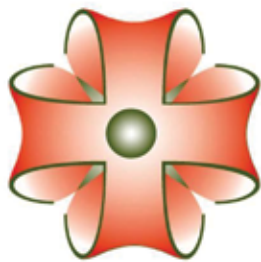
Rob Dickson (right) introduces Paul Martin (left) and Graeme Baker (middle). PHOTO Randy Murray



Paul Martin during the presentation. PHOTO Randy Murray

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May the Work of Justice & Peace be a Shining Example of Your Continued Life Among Us

RANDY MURRAY WITH FILES FROM JOAN SEIDL, KERRY BAISLEY & PETER ELLIOTT



Cynthia Llewellyn receiving the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster, November 2012. PHOTO Wayne Chose

*“Unless the Lord builds the house,
its builders will have toiled in vain.”*

Psalm 127

Cynthia Jane Elizabeth Llewellyn, AAM, ODNW

August 28, 1920 – December 4, 2016

Cynthia’s transition to her new life in Christ was perfectly in character with the life she lived for 96 years — quiet and remarkable. Cynthia was born in Victoria, BC the only child of Edith and Harold Llewellyn.

She moved with her parents to Vancouver in 1935, later graduating from Magee Secondary School and Western School of Commerce. She began working for the Bank of Montreal and subsequently enlisted in the Women’s Royal Canadian Naval Service (WRCNS), serving 1943–1946 and stationed at Jericho Beach, Esquimalt and in London, England. Following WWII Cynthia secured a position as an Executive Secretary at BC Hydro and remained there until her retirement in 1980.

Cynthia’s remarkable life of service to her community and to her church included many years as a Cub leader and a leadership trainer with Scouts Canada. She was awarded Scouting’s Medal of Merit.

Cynthia loved music and enjoyed choral music, singing with the Vancouver Bach Choir (1966–1998) and the Christ Church Cathedral Choir (1948–1975). Cynthia was a member of the Parish of Christ Church Cathedral for approximately 78 years and was also a lay leader taking part in numerous diocesan and national church initiatives primarily focusing on issues of Indigenous justice. She received the Anglican Award of Merit (the highest honour awarded to an Anglican lay person in Canada) in 2001, and the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster in 2012.

Cynthia was one of the founders of the 127 Society for Housing. The recent completion of the new Jubilee House, which opened in September 2016 and the dedication of the Cathedral’s new bell spire November 17, 2016 were joys to her.

When asked to write a brief reflection for *Topic*, Cynthia’s friends, Joan Seidl and Kerry Baisley, ODNW who are also fellow parishioners at Christ Church Cathedral and colleagues in leadership at the 127 Society for Housing offered the following:

“If you are under 80 years old, and have been to Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver more than two times, you have worshipped with Cynthia Llewellyn.

Cynthia saw many things at the Cathedral after she and her family moved from Victoria in 1935. Several years ago, Cynthia remarked that she had not been bored attending the same church for 80 years, because the Cathedral kept changing around her, keeping her engaged and involved. Cynthia’s last Sunday among us was November 20, 2016, the Reign of Christ. Her Spirit left her body quietly on Sunday, December 4th at 96 years of age. Her life was one of justice, song, community and lifelong learning.

If you visited Cynthia’s apartment at 12th and Pine in Vancouver’s South Granville neighbourhood, after walking up the two flights of stairs, you would notice the books: mysteries, the *Quran*, *Buddhism for World Peace*, Wab Kinew’s latest and *How the Irish Saved Civilization* attest to her range of interests. Two shelves in the spare bedroom are entirely devoted to First Nation’s issues and history. Your visit would very likely include tea (Murchie’s No. 10 blend, which Cynthia walked four blocks to re-supply) and welsh cakes!

I think of Cynthia as a lifelong student. Do you know anyone else who at 96 years of age has two sets of bookshelves composed of planks and cement patio blocks? Cynthia was sharp. She endured a decrease in her hearing, missed participating in the Bach Choir and Cathedral Choir, and spoke of not being able to really hear music anymore. But could she ever hear us! She remembered what holiday you were planning or whether a visitor had a gluten free diet. As many of us age, we focus inward on ourselves, Cynthia focused on the community and the world. We will miss her laughter, honesty and generosity.”

One of Cynthia’s many books was *For All the Saints: Prayers and Readings for Saints’ Days*. There is a yellow post-it on page 527 marking an address by Oscar Romero. These words are on that page:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Refugee Response in the Diocese

SUBMITTED BY THE DIOCESAN REFUGEE UNIT

The scope of the Syrian refugee crisis remains staggering. The Syrian civil war has created at least 4.8 million refugees and displaced 6.6 million people within Syria (Source: *UNHCR: The UN Refugee Agency* website). Some estimate that half the refugees created by this conflict are children. Sadly, Syria is only one country where civil war, unstable governments, and human rights abuses have created millions of refugees. The UN Refugee Agency estimates that 60 million people are displaced around the world.

As Christians, we are called to respond to all human suffering: to tend to the poor, the sick, the orphan, and those on the margins of society. And in particular, we are called to welcome the traveler and stranger:

“For I was a stranger and you invited me in.” (*Matthew 25: 35*)

This requires that we extend radical hospitality to the stranger in need, even — or especially — when it feels daunting or risky. As a church, one way we embody that hospitality through our work is in refugee sponsorship.

Just as in the late 1970s and 1980s when many parishes responded to the needs of Vietnamese refugees, many in the diocese of New Westminster have responded to the Syrian crisis over the last year.

Responses have included supporting the Bishop’s Fund for Refugee Resettlement or other fundraising campaigns; providing material and emotional support to refugees through partnerships with other groups such as MOSAIC, a community group specializing in helping newcomers to Canada in the greater Vancouver area; and applying to sponsor refugees.

SPONSORSHIPS

More than 15 of our parishes have participated in sponsoring refugees — either as a parish or as part of a group of parishes and ecumenical partners. Those sponsorships represent 65 individuals, including children. A number of parishes have sponsored more than one “family unit” — often to ensure extended family members are able to settle together in the Lower Mainland. In addition to working with our own parishes, the diocese has also worked with outside groups who wish to sponsor refugees under our Sponsor-



LEFT Shannon Muir (second from right) with newly arrived family in Burnaby, May 2016. RIGHT Newly arrived Syrian refugees. PHOTOS Courtesy of Gary Hamblin

ship Agreement Holder status. Applications for two families are in process as part of a partnership with Temple Shalom in Vancouver. 24 people have already arrived in Canada as of the end of 2016.

The Diocesan Refugee Unit (DRU) is available to meet with parishes that are interested in exploring ways to support refugees through sponsorship, partnering with others, and/or offering assistance to refugees already in the country. Shannon Muir is the Chair of the Unit and contact information can be found on the diocesan website <http://bit.ly/2ilkf9f> or by contacting the Synod Office.

BISHOP’S FUND FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Launched at Christmastime in 2015, the Bishop’s Fund for Refugee Resettlement has raised over \$67,000. The Fund is designed to assist refugees (primarily those being sponsored by parishes or groups under the Diocese’s Sponsorship Agreement Holder) with extraordinary costs. Parishes are responsible for the general sponsorship costs such as housing and daily living, but there are a number of additional



costs which can arise: delayed dental care, essential mental health treatment, and other urgent needs. The Bishop has appointed a team to assist her in allocating the funds and communication with parishes actively sponsoring refugees is ongoing. Contributions to the fund are welcome with more than 40 refugees anticipated over 2017 and into 2018; the needs will continue to be significant.

Those wishing to contribute by credit card will find a “Give” button located at the top of each page (the header) of the diocesan website www.vancouver.anglican.ca. And, here is a direct link to the website giving page, <http://bit.ly/2gFLdqM>. You may choose to use your smartphone to make your gift by texting DONW to 7797, and this same contribution link will be texted to you. Please click on the dropdown box beside the words “Giving Type.”

Those wishing to contribute by cheque, may make out the cheque to *The Diocese of New Westminster*, noting that it is for the Bishop’s Fund for Refugee Resettlement and mail it to: 1410 Nanton Avenue, Vancouver BC V6H 2E2. ✙



The Rev. Muthiah Appavoo and Liz Macdonald.



The Rev. Dr. Harold and Clair Munn attending their first retired clergy and spouses event.



Denise Hambidge in conversation.



The Bishop's address.

Retired Clergy & Spouses Luncheon

More than 70 retired clergy and spouses gathered December 1, 2016, at the Synod offices for the annual Advent version of the Retired Clergy and Spouses Luncheon for the diocese of New Westminster. The Rev. John and Dorothy Mash, diocesan chaplains to the retired clergy again organized a great event with some help from Synod staff many of whom were also in attendance. *The Banqueting Table* folks reprised their roles as caterers and servers. The Banqueting Table is a positive work program resident at West Vancouver Baptist Church focused on bringing single mothers, victims of abuse and women who have been marginalized and unable to gain re-entry into the workforce into a healthy work environment that provides skills and community.

The luncheon began with the guests gathering in the foyer space for wine, fruit juice and conversation. The Rev. Keith Gilbert currently interim priest-in-charge at St. Catherine's, Capilano staffed the wine bar.

Dorothy and John Mash invite the Synod staff to the luncheon and as was previously mentioned all the staff on site that Thursday were present. Unfortunately the Synod staff person with responsibility for the retired clergy, Executive Archdeacon, the Ven. Douglas Fenton was unable to be there as he was attending national church meetings in Eastern Canada.

Dorothy Mash was very comfortable in her role as host for the event and began the brief program by asking the group to take a moment to find out something about the person sitting next to them and see if paths had crossed previously and/or had connections been made. She then asked those who were attending a retired clergy lunch

for the first time to stand, receive some acknowledgment from the group and give a little bit of information about themselves. Of the five newcomers present, three were visiting from their homes on Vancouver Island. Dorothy also shared the notes of regret that she and John had received from those invited who for a variety of reasons would not be able to attend.

A feature of the luncheon apart from the opportunity to reconnect is the Bishop's address. Bishop Skelton brought the group up to date on goings on in the diocese and also shared information about the most recent House of Bishop's meeting and her trip to London for the annual meeting of the Compass Rose Society. However, the principal message of her address to the retired clergy and spouses was one of gratitude. She affirmed that vocation is really not something one who is called can retire from. She said that "without retired clergy and their spouses we would not be able to do what we do" for retired clergy fill innumerable roles: assisting priests, advocating for justice, helping out in parishes in a variety of ways, as chaplains, serving as interims and supply clergy, as scholars, advisors, poets, coaches and so much more. She ended this section of her address saying, "For sure, you have the right to retire, but please don't!"

After spending about two and half hours together the retired clergy and spouses of the diocese said their good-byes and headed off to their respective homes and very likely looking forward to the May 2017 version of the luncheon. ✚

May the Work of Justice & Peace be a Shining Example of Your Continued Life Among Us

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

"We encourage all liberation movements that really lead to justice and peace for the majority of the people. We think this is the way to preserve the transcendence and the identity of the Church, because in this way we preserve our faith in God."

A Memorial Eucharist was held at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver on December 17. Cynthia asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be directed to Christ Church Cathedral or the 127 Society for Housing.

In his sermon, Cynthia's pastor for more than 20 years the Very Rev. Peter Elliott shared some of the thoughts that he and Cynthia had exchanged during their last visit in late November of 2016. They talked about theology, and Cynthia remembered a quote that had stayed with her, "The Eucharist is the evocation of an alternative reality." They talked about which theologian had come up with that sentence and later Dean Elliott and Cynthia's friend Joan Seidl did some research and tried to find the source but couldn't. In his homily, Dean Elliott had this to say about the quote in the context of Cynthia's life of faith both at Christ Church Cathedral and in her vocation as one who strived for social justice:

"Maybe one day someone will find the quote, 'The Eucharist is the evocation of an alternative reality,' but for today let's make the author of that wonderful sentence our friend Cynthia Llewellyn. It was certainly true for her and it became true for her here at Christ Church Cathedral.

Since 1935 this has been her spiritual home. She did not need to travel to exotic places to have transcendent experiences: it happened here, quietly and to most people's eyes invisibly, as she took her place in this church, week by week, as an alternative



A poster board that was set up as a display at Cynthia's memorial on December 17 at Christ Church Cathedral by Kerry Baisley and Joan Seidl. On the board there are photographs, Cynthia's awards, and an eclectic assortment of buttons. PHOTO Courtesy of Kerry Baisley

reality was evoked... a world of peace where leaders beat swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks and learned war no more. It was a reality where people's lives are characterized by compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Where people bear with one another and... forgive each other and are clothed with love, which binds everything together in perfect

harmony. And it is a reality that knows that this earthly life is but a prelude into a greater life that comes.

The vision of this alternative reality that the Eucharist evokes got to Cynthia. It launched her into a life of activism for social and environmental justice. For her the Eucharist was not simply a cozy place to meditate on pious thoughts, it was a clarion call to action and act she did. Through ecumenical organizations like the Aboriginal Rights Coalition and the Task Force of the Church's Corporate Responsibility she took her part, often as the one who would volunteer to take minutes at meetings, or as the person who would take on a follow up task. She did not need the limelight: she simply wanted to see the alternative reality made more real not at some time in the future but now.

She took early retirement so that she could become more involved and give more of her energy to the things she cared about. Of course her partnership with Hilda Gregory and others in the founding and sustaining of the 127 Society for Housing may be what she will be best remembered for. While Hilda was happy to take public lead and be the articulate spokeswoman she was beside her, and actually doing a huge part of the work was Cynthia... Her early retirement wasn't so that she could rest; it was so that she could be more active. She lived an alternative reality that was evoked by her participation in the Holy Eucharist: the orientation of her spirit was transformed by love and for love — not for an other but for others, particularly those who have been deprived of the inherent dignity of human life."

Rest in peace, Cynthia, and may light perpetual shine upon you.

As for us, may the work of justice and peace be a shining example of your continued life among us. ✚



The Prayer over the Gifts. PHOTO Randy Murray

You Must Be Ready

First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2016 • Holy Eucharist at St. Anselm's

For liturgical churches there are very few Sundays more meaningful than the First Sunday of Advent. It is New Year's Day for the church, a day to look forward to some excitement ahead but more importantly it marks the beginning of a time of reflection, prayer, discernment and deepening of our commitment to faith. The symbolic imagery of the lighting of one candle each Sunday in Advent prior to lighting the fifth candle usually located in the centre of the Advent wreath on Christmas Eve is one of the most meaningful and beautiful rituals of the Church.

The Parish of St. Anselm's located across from the University Golf Course at the entrance to the University of British Columbia Endowment Lands is a community of disciples of Jesus Christ who are devoted to their community, their faith and in recent years have contributed to the life of their neighbourhood and the ministry of the diocese through intentional dedication to their baptismal vows particularly the most recent addition, striving "to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the earth."

St. Anselm's is also a parish that is devoted to welcoming the seeker. The Advent I order of service bulletin contained detailed marginal notes providing context for each component of the Eucharist. Prior to worship, priest-in-charge, the Rev. Alex Wilson spent about 10 minutes introducing the liturgy to those who had gathered and he also organized (with the assistance of Director of Music, Tian Ip) a brief rehearsal of the setting of the *Kyrie* (Tian Ip) a brief rehearsal of the setting of the *Kyrie* they would be using for Advent worship. Rev. Wilson also encouraged worshippers to sing out with a full voice and to understand that St. Anselm's is a community of prayer. Prayer is at the centre of the worship. He said that there could be pauses and silences, which may produce discomfort, however, silences are appropriate and conducive to worship as times of silence are often those times when we most connect with God.

The Rev. Alex Wilson's homily, delivered without notes, was about understanding and accepting the busyness of the Advent season, enjoying it, but understanding that although every year we might like to have "the perfect Christmas" that isn't going to happen. The key to putting the season in perspective is found in the Gospel of Matthew and the realization that we "must be ready." For God comes to the world in the person of Jesus Christ not to fix the world but to learn about us, to love us, to be in relationship with us. God is also preparing for us, preparing to meet us in the manger. Being human is a mess, "nothing about being human is clean, tidy and neat... we are here to contemplate, to prepare and to pray, to pray and pray."

To help prepare, Rev. Wilson had assembled an Advent



Eye-catching Christmas worship promo. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Director of Music, Tian Ip. RIGHT Priest-in-charge, the Rev. Alex Wilson facilitates a rehearsal of the *Kyrie*. PHOTOS Randy Murray

devotional book titled, *Interrupted by Hope* that was distributed to the community that morning. It is a 46-page booklet with printed offices to be used to guide prayer twice a day beginning with Morning Prayer on November

29 and concluding with Evening Prayer on December 22.

He concluded his homily by saying that it is good to embrace the modern manifestation of Christmas but we

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The first reading, *Isaiah 2: 1 – 5*. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Epistle, *Romans 13: 11 – 14*. PHOTO Randy Murray

You Must Be Ready

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

also need “to take a seat” and relax as we enjoy the mystery of this time, “always celebrating the incarnation in our midst.” We will never understand the depths and the mystery of God’s love and Advent presents an opportunity to move toward that understanding. “God is calling, come and meet God in the manger.”

The St. Anselm’s Choir and Director of Music, Tian Ip led the music in worship opening with *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* and concluding with *There’s a Voice in the Wilderness*. Prior to the Eucharist there was a treat as the seven choristers with Ms. Ip at the piano offered the anthem, Ruth Elaine Schramm’s *An Invitation for Advent*.

Prior to the dismissal, Warden Peg Gabor had an important announcement to share from the Office of the Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster, the Rt. Rev. Melissa Skelton:

“After consulting with the wardens and Archdeacon Stephens, the Bishop is pleased to extend her appointment of Rev. Alexander Wilson as fulltime priest-in-charge, Vicar of St. Anselm’s until Spring 2019. The parish will cease their canonical process as they welcome Rev. Alex’s continuation as pastor, priest, and teacher in their midst. Rev. Alex will continue his work of visioning, sacrament, and building community with you in the weeks ahead. His appointment extension begins January 1, 2017. Please continue to pray for him and the people of St. Anselm’s.”

Congratulations to the people of St. Anselm’s and to the Rev. Alex Wilson ordained leader of their shared ministry together, definitely a great way to start the new year, both the liturgical new year and the calendar new year. ✚



Intercessor and acolyte for the Advent I Eucharist, Hyok Kim lights the Advent I candle. PHOTO Randy Murray



The image of the dove over the altar. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT The Eucharistic Prayer. RIGHT In his sermon, the Rev. Alex Wilson encouraged the congregation to enjoy the build up to Christmas but also to be ready to meet God when God comes to us in the manger. PHOTOS Randy Murray



The sharing of *Matthew 24: 36 – 44* concludes with the acclamation. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Choir sings Ruth Schramm’s *An Invitation to Advent*. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Eucharist. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Annunciation decoration board on the St. Helen's property showing the amount of snow accumulation. PHOTO Stephen Laskey



The Rev. Stephen Laskey, Ayoob Adwar, Kristianne Hendricks, and Bishop Skelton. PHOTO Jos Laskey

Snow & Slick Driving Conditions No Deterrent for Bishop Melissa!

STEPHEN LASKEY
Rector, St. Helen's, Surrey

We awoke on the morning of Advent IV, December 18 to the stillness of softly falling snow. There wasn't a breath of

wind but the snow was substantial and drifts of doubt began to accumulate as to whether we would be able to have a confirmation at St. Helen's that morning. At 8 am Bishop Melissa Skelton rang to say she was on her way just the same. So, the call went out: "all hands to shovelling stations" to do what we could to clear the drive and the parking lot. The bishop and her husband, the Rev. Eric Stroo took just 30 minutes to travel the distance from Vancouver's west side to Surrey. The early arrival allowed for Eric to relieve the rector of his shovel so he could join in and enjoy the shovelling himself.

At 10 am, with 75 gathered (which also included the Archdeacon of Fraser, the Ven. Stephen Rowe, rector of "Epiphany" our neighbouring parish to the east), the choir, under Lynn Turner, started us off with the Introit *Let the Body of Christ Assemble*. Following the singing, the procession, which included the candidates for confirmation, Ayoob Adwar and Kristianne Hendricks made its way to the chancel step. Ayoob is a priest, originally from Iraq and of the Chaldean Church tradition, who was entering the Anglican Church. He has been at St. Helen's in a liturgical placement since the spring of 2016. Kristi came to St. Helen's at the end of the summer of 2015 and is a Masters candidate at Simon Fraser University (SFU).

With everyone in place, the Advent Candle lit, and Bishop Skelton, having gathered the children, shared a story from her own childhood of the deep love her grandmother had for her. The bishop's grandmother sat her down, looked at her deeply and told her, even though from time to time, she may get herself in trouble, her love would never end. So it is with God. The readings of the day were read by Ayoob and Kristi and the Gospel was read by the deacon, the Rev. Steve Thompson (on loan to us from St. David's, Delta).

Bishop Melissa focused her sermon on how important it is to share the stories of a birth, reflecting on how her own son would say, "Tell me again, the story of when I was born." Being born changes everything in a family and the birth of Jesus changes everything for the world. We should never underestimate how important it is for us to tell, and tell again, the story of the birth of Jesus.

The blessing of confirmation was administered and the Eucharist was celebrated. Nourished by Word and Sacrament, and with the bishop's blessing, we left the church singing *People Look East*; sent out to the world to continue the Advent journey and make our final preparations for Christmas.

A reception followed where everyone had an opportunity to share in refreshments and conversations with Bishop Skelton. Following the reception, the bishop met with the rector, wardens, and members of the parish council to discuss how St. Helen's is renewing its mission and ministry in the Whalley area particularly around the area of "The Strip," just a few blocks away, where there are many deep needs. St. Helen's is seeking to deepen its commitment with the Surrey Urban Mission, the Surrey Food Bank, and local schools. There are many homeless and hungry, addicted and hurting of all ages. One does not need to look very far or think very hard about what ministry God is calling us to fulfill. The bishop encouraged the council to continue both its work in developing its ministry and to be prayerfully

attentive to where God is leading the community.
The day was transformational and a blessing to us all. ✠



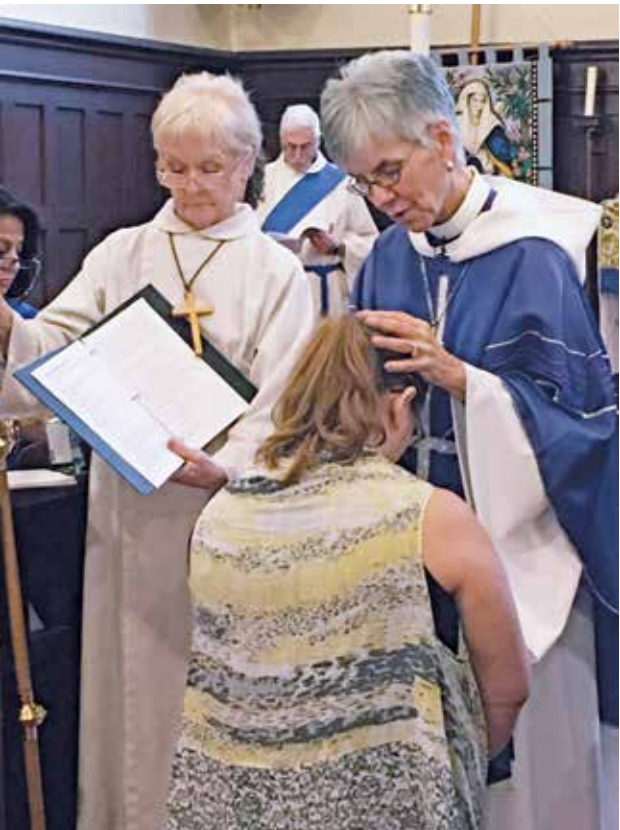
The Rev. Eric Stroo and Peter Russell staff the snow shovels. PHOTO Bishop Melissa Skelton



Eric in action with the snow shovel. PHOTO Bishop Melissa Skelton



Bishop Skelton confirms Ayoob. PHOTO Jos Laskey



Bishop Skelton confirms Kristianne. PHOTO Jos Laskey

The Blessing of the Archival Display Cases

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Melanie Delva, the Anglican Archivist was very happy on the afternoon of August 31, 2016, because the new archival display cases had just been delivered to 1410 Nanton Avenue, the Synod Office of the diocese of New Westminster. She had to wait over the weekend to open things up and get some content in place but as scheduled, skilled contractors showed up the morning of September 2 to assemble these beautiful new additions to the entrance and foyer area. The six archival display cabinets were purchased in 2016 with a generous donation of \$25,000 from the Diocesan Board of the Anglican Church Women (ACW) of the diocese *"in recognition of the faithful work of all Women's Auxiliary (WA) and ACW members of the diocese of New Westminster, in particular those who had the foresight to purchase and establish WA Memorial House."*

On the morning of Tuesday, November 29, 2016, ten members of the ACW in the diocese of New Westminster including President Margaret Warwick and other members of the Executive arrived at the Synod Office to join Bishop

Skelton, Melanie Delva and members of Synod staff for the official blessing of the archival display cabinets. Melanie prepared the liturgy consisting of: *Psalm 78: 9–18*, the Gospel *Luke 20: 9–18*, a brief reflection from Bishop Skelton, an intercession that was led by Sylvia Enga, ODNW of St. Agnes, words of Blessing, asperges, (Bishop Skelton sprinkling the cases using cedar boughs soaked with water) and closing prayers.

In her reflection, Bishop Skelton spoke of the importance of this furniture so that we may display the things we treasure about our past. She said that this is not about the objects themselves but what they tell us about who we are, and that we have taken the intentional care to create a space where we can see and interact with our past. And then she made reference to the current displays: the 40 year anniversary of the ordination of women as priests in the Anglican Church of Canada, items that tell some of the history of the ACW, archived items that were used or belonged to previous bishops of the diocese. She said

that we are blessing the cabinets, however it is not just the blessing of the physical, in this case it is blessing the spirit of these treasures from our past.

The intercession concluded with this prayer:

Gracious God, as we celebrate our past and rejoice in our present, we also look forward with eager eyes to the future. We pray that you would continue to make your love known among us. We thank you for every memory that the display of our heritage revives, and for the great number of witnesses who have made the gift of these cases an occasion for celebration. We pray that you will deepen within each of us a sense of gratitude for the many sacrifices made for us by those who have gone before us, and thereby find in our heritage a source of refreshment and strength. May we continue to see, by faith, the needs of those around us and the needs of those who shall come after us, and do all that is possible to show to them our witness in word and deed of the riches of life with Christ. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Then Bishop Skelton spoke the following Blessing:

Eternal God and Father, by whose power we are created and by whose love we are redeemed: guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and live this day in love to one another and to you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Following the dismissal, diocese of New Westminster ACW President, Margaret Warwick of St. Catherine, Port Coquitlam quickly moved toward Bishop Skelton holding a cheque that still required one more signature, which was hers. Margaret signed the cheque for \$25,000 and presented it to Bishop Skelton who gratefully accepted the donation on behalf of the diocese. They posed for a few photographs and then Bishop Skelton quickly passed the cheque over to business administrator, Rob Dickson.

Many thanks to the ACW: for the good work that they do, for their generosity, for their ongoing commitment to their church, their faith and their service to others. ✠



Sprinkling with water. PHOTO Randy Murray



The ACW members during the intercession. PHOTO Randy Murray



Receiving the cheque. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Group Shot. PHOTO Randy Murray



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A view from the St. John's gallery as the procession out gathers, the Recessional Hymn was *She Flies On*. PHOTO Randy Murray



TOP The Ven. John Stephens, rector of St. John's, Shaughnessy and Archdeacon of Vancouver greeted the congregation prior to the procession. BOTTOM Andrea Gailus of Christ Church Cathedral reads the Epistle, *Romans 10: 8b – 18*. PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT The clergy are gathered in



The Ven. Barbara Clay was preacher for the Eucharist. She began by saying "I am awed by the number of ordained women clergy here tonight... If anyone here is expecting a sophisticated exegesis of the texts, that is not going to happen for tonight is OUR story." PHOTO Randy Murray

Tonight is Our Story

RANDY MURRAY WITH FILES FROM MELANIE DELVA

The 40th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the Priesthood in the Anglican Church of Canada Eucharist was celebrated at St. John's, Shaughnessy, on the anniversary date, Wednesday, November 30, St. Andrew's Day, 2016. Bishop Melissa Skelton presided and the Ven. Barbara Clay was the preacher.

The Ven. John Stephens, rector of St. John's, Shaughnessy and Archdeacon of Vancouver greeted the congregation prior to the Opening Hymn, *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*, which was sung as the procession entered the nave from the narthex. The procession consisted of approximately 50 priests and deacons of the diocese (the majority were women), and Sanctuary Party. The ordained clergy who had vested for the worship were seated in the first six rows on the north side of the nave. There were also a number of male priests present in the congregation who had not vested for the procession.

There were two readings, Andrea Gailus of Christ Church Cathedral read *Romans 10: 8b–18* and the Rev. Elizabeth Mathers of St. Clement's, deacon of the word and table for the worship offered from memory the Gospel, *Matthew 4: 18–22*.

Preacher for the Eucharist, the Ven. Barbara Clay for-

going the pulpit and opting to present her homily from the front of the nave at the chancel entrance began by saying, "I am awed by the number of ordained women clergy here tonight... If anyone here is expecting a sophisticated exegesis of the texts, that is not going to happen for tonight is our story." She asked the clergy who had gathered, "Where were you when you were first called to preach the Good News? What sacrifices were you willing to make to answer your call?" The Ven. Clay then shared some of her experiences as a postulant for ordination in the late 1970s, her time in seminary and the early days of women in the priesthood in the diocese and in the national church. She spoke about the need to have a keen sense of humour and she spoke with affection of the influence of Archbishop David Somerville before during and after the ordination of women to the priesthood.

During the Prayers of the People, intercessors, the Reverends Heidi Brear and Kelly Duncan offered prayers for the three people ordained to the priesthood by the Most Rev. David Somerville at Christ Church Cathedral, November 30, 1976: Virginia Briant, Michael Deck and the late Elspeth Alley.

Following worship there was a dinner held in the Tren-

dell L... and th... The Gedde... Mexic... New Y... and Y... The fo... presen... to the... and th... organi... some i... in two... recept... "I must... 40th an... was im... doing t... be ove... justice... you wil... the firs...



The intercessors embrace during the exchange of the Peace. PHOTO Randy Murray



Deacons of the diocese prepare to sing the Offertory Hymn, *A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar*. PHOTO Randy Murray



TOP & BOTTOM The two display cases with the presents from Melanie Delva to honour the 40th Anniversary. PHOTOS Randy Murray





the front pews on the north side of the nave singing the Opening Hymn, *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*. RIGHT The Rev. Elizabeth Mathers shares the Gospel, *Matthew 4: 18 – 22*. PHOTOS Randy Murray

ounge, the space shared by St. John's, Shaughnessy
the Synod offices of the diocese of New Westminster.
the *unofficially official* caterers of the diocese, Bette
es and Associates prepared and served a delicious
an fusion meal and the archivist for the diocese of
Westminster and the Ecclesiastical Province of BC
ukon, Melanie Delva was the after dinner speaker.
Following four paragraphs are from the notes of her
tation. In the first paragraph she is making reference
Rev. Dr. Lynne McNaughton, rector of St. Clement
en-Archdeacon of Capilano (Lynne was the principal
izer of the event) asking her to speak and to provide
information about the material presented as a display
of the new display cabinets located in the foyer/
ion area of the Synod Office.

say that when Lynne asked me to create a display for the
nniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood, I
mediately both excited and terrified. Excited because I love
his kind of research, and terrified because I knew I would
rwhelmed with information and would not be able to do
to the full story in the span of two display cabinets. So as
ll see in the two cabinets in the foyer, I decided to focus on
t two women who were ordained here in the diocese of

New Westminster, the service itself and a few reactions to it.

But really what the sea of information I pored over points to in my
mind is what Bernard of Chartres termed 'standing on the shoulders
of giants.' I LOVE this image. John Salisbury explained the 1159
metaphor by saying that 'we see more and farther than our prede-
cessors, not because we have keener vision or greater height, but
because we are lifted up and borne aloft on their gigantic stature.'

I point to this metaphor because the ordination of women was a
hugely significant event in the history of the church, and it did not
happen in a vacuum. The women who were ordained 40 years ago
today stood on the shoulders of the faithful women who came
before them such as the early 20th century deaconesses who
were not ordained but 'set apart.' They stood on the shoulders of
the 19th century Women's Auxiliaries who stood on the shoulders
of the female Saints of the church and before you know it we are
standing on the shoulders of the women who walked with Jesus
and the female heroes of the Hebrew Bible.

I have the great honour of spending my workdays surrounded by
a great cloud of witnesses, some of whom are in this room, and
though I am not ordained I am so grateful for their willingness to
bear my weight and the weight of the next generation on their
shoulders." ✠



The intercessors, the Reverends Heidi Brear and Kelly Duncan. Near the conclusion of the prayers they
prayed for the three people ordained priests that St. Andrew's Day in 1976 at Christ Church Cathedral
by Archbishop David Somerville: Virginia Briant, Michael Deck and the late Elspeth Alley.
PHOTO Randy Murray



tations prepared by Melanie
Murray



The Eucharist. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Dismissal. PHOTO Randy Murray

A Visit to Café Church

The third installment of Café Church, the innovative monthly liturgy that is currently being *workshopped* at St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver took place on Saturday, December 3, 2016, at 4 pm. The central component of this community worship is the presence of a guest speaker offering some thoughts on a specific topic. And the guest for this particular afternoon was the 9th Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster, the Rt. Rev. Melissa Skelton, her topic, *Friendship*.

Each Café follows the *menu* which includes: gathering with prayer/words of welcome from the rector, the Rev. Patrick Blaney; lighting of candles; some readings; the presentation by the guest speaker; a break for coffee, tea and goodies; gathering after the break for a discussion with the speaker; and concluding with announcements and a song.

Everyone is seated at square tables each with four chairs in a café/restaurant style format. On December 3 the readings chosen to reflect the topic of friendship were:

“Love which binds everything together is perfect harmony.”
(Colossians 3: 14)

And two Mary Oliver quotes:

“Someone I loved once gave me a box full of darkness. It took me years to understand that this too, was a gift.”

“So every day I was surrounded by the beautiful crying forth of the ideas of God, one of which was you.”

After greeting the community and congratulating Rev. Blaney and the St. John’s, North Vancouver community on this fresh new approach to liturgy, Bishop Skelton read aloud *A Friend is Someone Who Likes You* the first published children’s book written by British author, Joan Walsh Anglund. Bishop Skelton said that it is important to a child that friends are people who like them and as we grow older this remains true, however, there are many more facets of friendship to explore. Reflecting on friendship from the viewpoint of a recently married person (Bishop Skelton and her spouse the Rev. Eric Stroo {who was present} celebrated their first anniversary August 15, 2016) she shared that in a “strong” marriage or partnership, “a strong core of friendship” supports that relationship. Enduring friendship is supported by “equality and mutuality.” Bishop Skelton shared with the group that she must “walk a fine line” when it comes to friends for herself as it is important that her friendships are with people “with whom there is no power dynamic” keeping in mind the key role of mutuality in friendships. She continued saying that “we need to give time to our friends” and that friendship is about “risk” as we are disclosing to another who we really are and we need the security of mutuality in order to share “what we really think.” As a person dedicated to her vocation, Bishop Skelton’s focus is on her work but she believes that “deep friendship is what God wants for us,” for cultivating friendships is a part of God’s yearning for us.

Following the address it was time for tea, coffee and good things to eat followed by a Q&A session which was opened by Rev. Blaney asking Bishop Skelton, “What does Advent mean to you?” and he also asked her about

her “friendship with Jesus.” Bishop Skelton replied that for her Advent is about “quiet, darkness and waiting” and as woman she relates to the “gestational nature of Advent.” To the second question she replied that when she is in a spiritual quandary or feels lost she writes letters to Jesus. She has conversations in her prayer life with Jesus, for Jesus is a friend who listens and comforts but also delivers the “challenge to us to be the person that we can be.”

There were more questions and more comments and when the discussion concluded Rev. Blaney directed the 35+ in attendance to the lyrics sheets that were distributed to each person as they arrived and with piano accompaniment the participants sang the Carol King song made popular by James Taylor, *You’ve Got a Friend*.

This first program year of Café Church is scheduled to wrap up in June 2017. Here is a list of the 2017 dates keeping in mind that by the time this issue of Topic is in homes and churches, February 4 may have come and gone.

- February 4 • Alison & Juanita, *Meditation in A Busy World*
- March 4 • The Rev. Elizabeth Mathers, *Creators In God’s Image*
- April 1 • Dean Peter Elliott, *Is There Humour In The Bible?*
- May 6 • Dr. Jack Blaney, *Everyday Generosity*
- June 3 • Dr. Marilyn Chotem, *Many Religions, One God*

St. John’s is located at 220 West 8th Street in North Vancouver. ☙



LEFT Bishop Skelton speaks to the Café Church participants about “Friendship.” RIGHT The coffee break. PHOTOS Randy Murray



RIGHT Bishop Skelton’s spouse the Rev. Eric Stroo lights the candle. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Rev. Patrick Blaney begins the Q&A. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Bishop receives the gift of an Advent tree. PHOTO Randy Murray

Welcome, Awareness & Winter Feast

St. Mary Magdalene • Urban Aboriginal Ministry

PAMELA MARTIN, ODNW

St. Mary Magdalene



Steven Seegerts (who was on crutches), Abraham Ayalla and Vivian Seegers coordinated the meal. PHOTO Pamela Martin

On Friday, December 9, 2016, the weather outside was frightful, but the gathering inside was delightful. In the midst of December's snowstorm, the Urban Aboriginal Ministry (UAM) welcomed all to share in a rich feast of food, prayer, crafts and song from Indigenous cultures and from those who have settled in this land, called "Turtle Island" by the first peoples.

In the cosy, inviting space of St. Mary Magdalene Church in Vancouver the guests gathered in the circle to share a feast. The menu featured venison soup, moose stew, macaroni with hunter's ragu, bannock (both baked and fried), elk chorizo, and buffalo jerky, all accompanied by salad and vegetable sides, and finally, for dessert, ambrosia fruit salad. "Whenever we gather we eat together," says Vivian Seegers, director of the UAM. Many people contributed game and shared in the preparation of the meal, coordinated and served by Vivian, Steven Seegerts and Abraham Ayalla.

The evening continued as Vivian blessed the circle with a sacred rattle made from a turtle shell, a new addition to the medicine bundle. Calling on the four directions; prayers, songs, poems and stories from both the Anglican and First Nations spiritual traditions were offered. The ancient words of the *Magnificat*, sung from the Holden Evening Prayer, found contemporary expression in a powerful poem of protest, lament and hope written and read by poet and Indigenous activist Muriel Marjorie. Participants shared poems and stories of the healing, learning and empowerment that UAM had offered them and drummed and sang *The Deer Song*, which has become a theme song for the UAM.

As a fundraising project, participants in the UAM had gathered over several weeks in the fall to share lunch and create items to sell at this event. The offerings ranged from scented bath salts to what one delighted customer called a "one-stop drum shop" — Aboriginal drums, drumsticks and drum bags. As well, the evening included a silent auction with 17 items up for bids.

The final song of the evening expressed the spirit of the gathering as we sang together, "*How could anyone ever tell you you were anything less than beautiful? How could anyone ever tell you you were less than whole?*" Our shared voices sang of healing, of respect, of reconciliation and of our deep connections. ✦

*"How could anyone ever tell you
you were anything less than beautiful?
How could anyone ever tell you
you were less than whole?"*



LEFT Natalie King wearing her mother's traditional regalia displays the drum and drum bag that she made at the Urban Aboriginal Ministry's Cultural workshops.



RIGHT Vivian Seegers introducing the sacred rattle made from a turtle shell. PHOTOS Pamela Martin



Natalie King, Vivian Seegers, Karen Thorpe, Sarah Good and Muriel Marjorie lead the closing song. PHOTO Pamela Martin



Wrong to Rights Study program participants in the hall at All Saints', Agassiz discussing the Doctrine of Discovery. PHOTO Anthea Lewis

*"It is more than just
moving towards reconciliation —
it is about building a new reality, equality.
It is about a community
of multicultural people being in unity.
Reconciliation is about us
being all peoples together,
and that no one person
is superior to another."*

People From Many Walks of Life Converge on All Saints', Agassiz

MONICA GIBSON-PUGSLEY

All Saints', Agassiz

The *Wrongs to Rights* book study (the Study) that began in September 2016 is proving to be a huge success! At All Saints, Agassiz we meet for two hours on the first and third Wednesday afternoons of most months. Each session is complete in itself, though connected through the book *Wrongs to Rights* in some form. This independent approach at each meeting makes it possible for those interested to join at any time during the course of study. *Wrongs to Rights* is based on the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the *Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action*. More than 40 contributors from varied backgrounds, Indigenous and non-Indigenous (referred to as "Settlers"), Christian and Traditional have delved into what the Declaration means to us all.

To date we have 38 participants (beyond our expectations!); however, some are unable to attend every session. About a third who registered come from First Nations within the Upper Fraser Valley, and Métis people. Participants also travel from Langley, Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Hope eager to be part of this important time together. Before study, and during the break we partake in refreshments and goodies, we mingle, we laugh; we've built relationships and community.

At our first gathering we were honoured and fortunate to have Seabird Island Chief, Clem Seymour gather the group into a circle and open the Study with sharing and prayers. This was followed by three participants drumming and singing. The Rev. David Price prayed on behalf of Settlers (Western European people). Each person in the circle then shared who they are and why they were attending. The Settler-style agenda was laid aside as we followed the Creator's agenda. It was a blessed and meaningful time and set the tone for the sessions ahead.

We had initially planned for ten sessions starting September 21, 2016, and ending March 1, 2017. That time may be extended, depending on the needs of the group. Each week we assign a certain number of chapters in preparation for the next meeting. Each Wednesday we revisit the Learning Covenant, reminding us "what is said in the room, stays in the room." However it is acceptable in the interest of education, to speak generally to those outside the group without mentioning names or places. The Study then moves on to jumping off points for discussion, although we are not slaves to the set agenda. As of this writing we are halfway through the Study.

From the very first gathering we recognized the Creator/God was leading us down a slightly different path than what was scheduled. For example, it was arranged some time ago to deviate one week so an elder could lead a Pipe Ceremony, and twice a month drumming, singing, and prayers begin our time together. One of the leaders introduces a subject, poses a question and we move forward. Quite often there's insufficient time to discuss all the chapters planned, and that is acceptable. Instead, we have discussed in depth that which needed to be addressed, we have heard witnesses, and stories have been shared. We are thankful that elders feel comfortable sharing; for some it is the first time to speak of certain experiences. There are times we feel like weeping. It is important to realize these personal recollections need to be spoken, and we are to hear them from many different sources. It is necessary that Settlers listen — not just with their ears, but also to *really* listen, with their hearts. This is all part of the reconciliation process.

As Rev. Price said, "It is more than just moving towards reconciliation — it is about building a new reality, equality.

It is about a community of multicultural people being in unity. Reconciliation is about us being all peoples together, and that no one person is superior to another."

Reconciliation is a relationship based on mutual understanding and respect. The *Wrongs to Rights* Study enables us to learn from each other, to understand one another. It

is all about sharing; about building community between Settlers and Indigenous peoples and I believe this is taking place each time we meet. I encourage other parishes to obtain a copy of *Wrongs to Rights* if they have not already done so and to contemplate holding their own form of study around this very important and enlightening book. ✦



Drums warming by the oven to optimize their tone. PHOTO Anthea Lewis

Wrongs to Rights Study Held Pipe Ceremony

MONICA GIBSON-PUGSLEY
All Saints, Agassiz

On November 16, 2016, as part of All Saints', Agassiz's *Wrongs to Rights* book study program we held a traditional Pipe Ceremony in the hall led by Cree elder, Frank Surprenant. 50 years ago two other Cree elders gave Frank the rights to share this sacred ceremony with others as a form of teaching about the culture and spirituality of Indigenous peoples. He was told to "take as far as you can to help teach others."

To get started, Frank's partner Angela Brady instructed us in the protocol... photos may be taken before and after the ceremony, not during because it is a solemn, sacred occasion. We were asked to sit in a circle (representing the sacred hoop — the Circle of Life) close enough to comfortably pass the pipe to the person on our left. As we receive the pipe we were to support the bowl (female) in one hand and the stem (male) toward us with the other and not to turn the pipe around. If one wishes, each pipe holder may speak words from their heart. Several did, most profoundly. This protocol follows the way it was handed down to Frank. Some pipe carriers adhere to slightly different ways, for example some insist all women in attendance wear skirts, while other carriers ask that all jewelry be removed before taking part.

The pipe is for the people, for everyone to smoke and is shared right across Turtle Island (Canada and the US). Tobacco, sage and other herbs indigenous to the local area can be used and are non-hallucinatory. Those not wishing to actually puff on the pipe may touch their shoulders, head, and heart with the pipe stem.

Frank told us the word "Canada" comes from "*kanata*" with several meanings depending on the Nation. In Cree, *kanata* means, "clean country."

According to *Wikipedia*, "Thousands of languages were at one time spoken by Indigenous peoples in North and South America prior to their first contact with Europeans." Frank informed us there are now about 100 language groups in North America, 27 of those are native to BC, plus others brought by people from other parts of Turtle Island.

Frank spoke about the removal of Indigenous land, "...a little piece of history that's difficult for me to lay out there, and difficult for you to hear."

Accompanied by drumming and singing, Frank knelt on the blanket, and while Angela lit the sweetgrass braid he held the pipe high to Father Sky, down to Mother Earth and each of the four sacred directions of the compass, then to the sweetgrass, glass of water, and finally towards himself. Angela lit the small amount of tobacco in the pipe bowl set in the hand sized red stone figure of a grizzly



The elements of the Pipe Ceremony. PHOTO Anthea Lewis

bear sitting on all fours. The stem is wood from Mount St. Helens harvested after the eruption. Frank puffed on the pipe, drawing the smoke over his head before passing it to Angela, and so it was reverently passed around the circle four times. Periodically the tobacco required relighting. One person said, "I am honoured to share this peace pipe on this unceded land of the Stó:lō Nation — we come in peace and we walk together in peace." When someone shared most profoundly and emotionally about certain incidents, Angela lit the sweetgrass braid, smudged the large eagle feather fan, arose and fanned that person in cleansing motions.

The ceremony concluded with each one of us taking a sip from the glass of water — water being one of the most important things in life. At this time elder Eddie Gardner told the story about White Buffalo Calf Woman who brought the sacred pipe "*chanupa*" to the Lakota Sioux territories long ago. She taught about all the seven sacred ceremonies. She taught the people how to pray with the sacred *chanupa*. Eddie added, "It is good to come together and pray, prayer is very powerful. Take whatever is useful for you in our teachings as Indigenous people, put it to good use, and become a good ancestor to future generations."

Eddie continued to tell the story of a distant past in the Stó:lō territory when things were in great chaos. *Xexáls*, our great transformer set out to make the world right again. *Xexáls* turned those who were not doing what they were supposed to be doing into stone, and transformed those

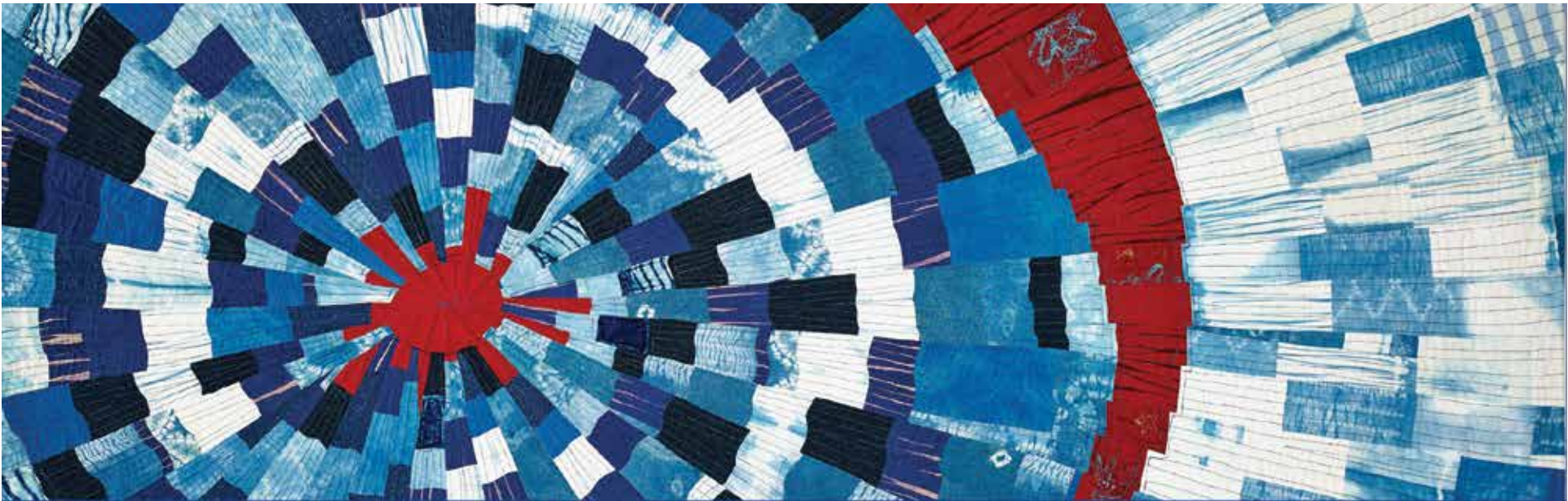
who were generous and kind into our natural resources like the cedar, sturgeon, beaver and salmon. He turned a man called T'xwelátsa into stone because he was not living in harmonious relations. The message in the stone is, "we have to learn to live together in a good way."

Eddie expressed his gratitude to Frank Surprenant for performing and leading the ceremony and expressing the harsh truth about what happened in the history of the Indian Residential Schools legacy. Eddie said that facing the truth is the first step on the road to reconciliation. Eddie added that "reconciliation is a long road to take, we have to make these first steps, and have courage to come together and take these steps towards good understanding and harmony." Eddie encouraged everyone to learn more about the story of T'xwelátsa.

Lastly, Frank thanked us for participating, and spoke about the seven great laws and ceremonies of his people:

1. Vision quest
2. Sweat-lodge
3. Pipe ceremony
4. Sun-dance
5. Honouring the departed — all our relations
6. Medicine wheel
7. Respect of self and others.

We thank the Creator for all who were present at this very special occasion. ✚



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July 9-16	Out tripping	8-11	\$475	\$525
July 9-16	Sailing	8-11	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
July 15-24	Leaders in Training	12	\$545	\$595
July 16-22	Family Camp	All Ages	\$346/\$232/\$172 **	\$396/\$282/\$222 **
July 22-24	Junior Junior Coed	3-5	\$150	Not Applicable
July 24-31	Senior Coed	9-11	\$445	\$495



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*Grade as of September 2017
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AROUND THE DIOCESE

On Sunday, November 27, 2016, the Parish of Christ Church Cathedral (CCC) bid an emotional farewell to the Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark-King. Dr. Clark-King has been the Cathedral's priest associate and vicar for 11 years.

Soon after establishing fulltime ministry as priest associate, her gifts were recognized by then-Bishop of the diocese, the Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham who appointed her Archdeacon of Burrard in 2007. She remained in that leadership role until the summer of 2014 when she was appointed Director for Anglican Formation at Vancouver School of Theology. Early on in her short time there she realized that pastoral ministry, preaching and being part of the shared ministry at Christ Church Cathedral were where she was called to be and resigned, but soon after, Bishop Skelton appointed her Director of Diaconal Formation in addition to her ministry as Cathedral Vicar.

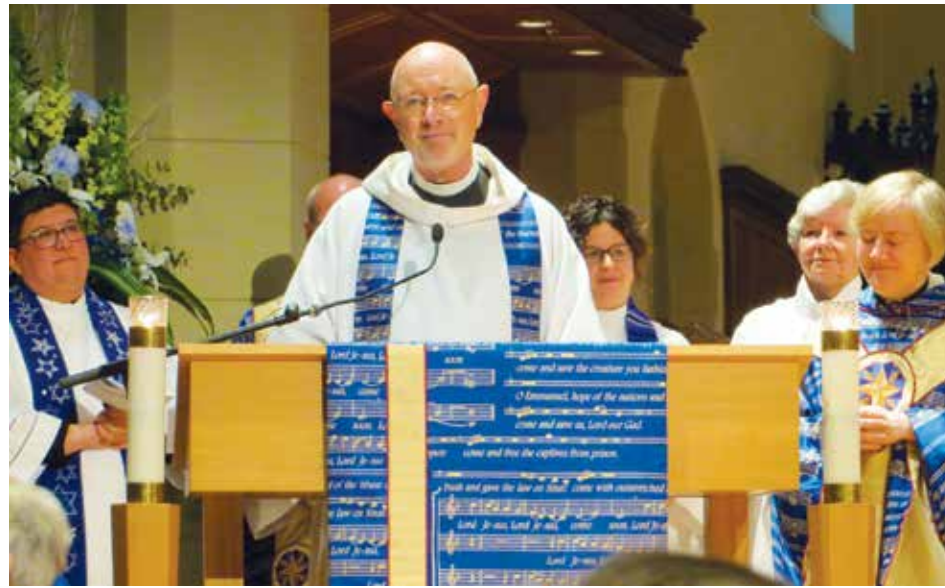
The news that circulated early in the fall of 2016 that Dr. Clark-King had been appointed Executive Pastor and Canon for Social Justice at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco was received with mixed emotions. The CCC faith community and many others saddened by the loss of a leader in our diocese but joyful that her gifts have been recognized by others bringing her new opportunities to live out her vocation. Dr. Clark-King began her new ministry on December 11, 2016.

At the conclusion of the Advent I Eucharist, Dean Peter Elliott, rector of CCC shared words of thanks and appreciation for his dear friend and colleague. She was thanked by the wardens, Jack Forbes and Amy Francis and then for a few minutes she spoke from her heart to the CCC faith community that she would be leaving. After the words of gratitude and love, the Sanctuary Party; the Ven. Philippa Segrave-Pride, Dean Peter Elliott, Rev. Alisdair Smith, Rev. Marnie Peterson, Rev. Dixie Black and Cathedral Sacristan and Parish Administrator Vincent Carey surrounded her with prayer to help guide her safely into

this new chapter of life and ministry. Worship was followed by a reception in

the CCC chancel with two sheet cakes and sparkling water served to the hundreds of

well wishers who had remained after worship to bid a loving farewell to the vicar. ✠



LEFT Dean Peter Elliott speaking words of thanks to Cathedral vicar, the Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark-King after the liturgy on her last Sunday at CCC. RIGHT Ellen is overcome with emotion listening to the words of Dean Elliott. Beside her is the Rev. Dixie Black, longtime Cathedral Deacon. PHOTOS Jane Dittrich



Ellen, surrounded in prayer. PHOTO Jane Dittrich



The reception in the chancel at CCC. PHOTO Jane Dittrich

• Welcome to Canada • Film •

Many thanks to Mohammed Alsaleh who circulated a link to folks from St. Alban's, Burnaby and the diocese of New Westminster late last November that leads to the 19 minute documentary film made last summer. In his email he wrote:

"During the summer, I worked on a documentary to tell a story about the Syrian resettlement movement. Using my personal experience as a former refugee, combined with my professional insights, we created the short film *Welcome to Canada*, which was premiered by *The Atlantic*. Thanks St. Alban's and the Anglican diocese of New Westminster for your assistance in sponsoring my family to join me in Canada."

To view the short film, please go to *The Atlantic* magazine's video site at www.theatlantic.com/video/index/508250/

welcome-to-canada.

The precis about the film on *The Atlantic* site written by Nadine Ajaka is as follows:

"Mohammed Alsaleh was born in Hasakeh, Syria, in what he describes as a diverse and accepting town. While he was finishing his medical studies in Syria, the war began. Alsaleh faced torture and imprisonment by the Assad regime, and was ultimately granted asylum in Canada. 'It's really hard to explain the reality on the ground in Syria,' he says in this short film. 'Syrians are just caught up in the middle of this nonsense and chaos.' His new life in Vancouver includes assisting newly arrived Syrian refugee families resettle, find new homes, and begin again."

Welcome to Canada was produced by Adam Loftin, Mary Fowles, and Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee of Go Project Films. ✠



The two dear friends and colleagues, the Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark-King and Dean Peter Elliott exit the nave after worship. PHOTO Jane Dittrich

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• West Vancouver School District Choir Concerts at St. Stephens •

SUBMISSION Jonathan LLOYD

St. Stephen's Anglican Church was full to capacity December 1 and 2 as the West Vancouver School District's Honour and Women's Honour Choirs took the roof off with their amazing voices. There were 115 singers led by Suzanne Fulton (director) and Hey-Jung Choi (piano). The concert was entitled *Sing*, with songs ranging from sacred to secular. The concert concluded by candlelight as the seven members of the Fall 2016 Provincial Honour Choir performed *Night of Silence*. A sing-along was led by

St. Stephen's own Peter Vanderhorst at the piano.

Ticket sales raised funds for the choir's tour of Europe in 2017.

Canon Jonathan LLOYD, rector of St. Stephen's said, "I was delighted with the concert. These young people are so committed to their singing and clearly greatly enjoy it. They are an inspiration to us all. The evening was full of joy and hope, and I thank them for coming to St. Stephen's." ✠



View from the back of the nave of the combined choirs. PHOTO Jonathan LLOYD

• Topic Editors Gather for Festive Luncheon •

On Friday, December 2, four former editors of *Topic*, the publication of the diocese of New Westminster gathered for a luncheon organized by Lyndon Grove, ODNW at a first class Italian restaurant in East Vancouver. Also in attendance were Melanie Delva, the archivist for the diocese and the Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon and the current *Topic* editor, Randy Murray who is also the communications officer for the diocese.

The food was delicious, the Negronis were "the best" and the time together was lots of fun with many memories shared, along with some interesting information about the evolution of the publication and church reporting over the past nearly five decades.

The table in the eatery was not just shrouded in nostalgia as some good ideas came forward from the group. Melanie, inspired by her current work cataloguing audio interviews that Lyndon had done with former bishops, Godfrey Gower and David Somerville suggested that he do some

more. This created some excitement and prompted the group to offer suggestions of possible interviewees. Also, Conrad Guelke, ODNW told the story of how *Topic* became *Topic* (and not "*The*" *Topic*). Then-Bishop David Somerville had wanted to rename the diocesan paper and change its format. He asked the editorial team of the late 1960s to come up with a list of names and Conrad suggested the name of a British engineering newsletter that he used to receive called *Topic*. The list of names with Conrad's suggestion included made its way to Bishop Somerville and the rest is history. Speaking of history, *Topic's* 50th Anniversary will be coming up in 2019! You will be hearing more about both of these items in the near future.

December 2, 2016, was also a milestone birthday for Neale Adams, ODNW, diocesan communications officer and editor of *Topic* from 2000–2009. Neale's natal day was marked by some bad singing and a piece of chocolate cake accompanied by six spoons. ✠



Standing: Randy Murray, Melanie Delva, Lyndon Grove, ODNW, and Neale Adams, ODNW.
Seated: Archdeacon Ronald Harrison, and Conrad Guelke, ODNW.

• Anglican CanAsian Ministry Prayer of Light with Taizé Songs •

On December 14, 2016, most of Canada was in the middle of a week of very cold weather. Those of us living on the west coast of the country are usually spared the icy winds and sub-zero temperatures of winter but that was not the case in December 2016. Although the temperature following the setting of the sun in East Vancouver fluctuated between -4C and -10C, the atmosphere in St. Michael's Multicultural Anglican Church was warm and inviting as the diocesan chapter of Anglican CanAsian Ministry (ACAM) hosted Prayer of Light with Taizé Songs.

The worship was scheduled for 6 pm, however, many arrived early to rehearse the material under the guidance of cantor/music leader/pianist, Cecilia Pampanico and her spouse, singer/guitarist, Jose Pampanico. Both Cecilia and Jose are members of St. Michael's.

By 6 pm the chairs that had been assembled in the chancel entrance were filled and the pews on the north side of the nave were filling up as well. Cecilia gave a brief explanation about the Taizé community and the structure of the Taizé service. She concluded by saying, "In our service today, we will sing eight Taizé songs as prayers. The cantor (Cecilia) will sing the phrase of each song as introduction. After an instrumental introduction, please join, singing in any languages, whatever you want. We can sing the same song in multiple languages at the same time. You may also create your own harmony. Between each song, we will have a short period of silence for prayer and

meditation. Lighting a candle is the sign to start singing the next song."

There are many in the Anglican Church who are very familiar with Taizé but there are also those who have not experienced this form of worship, alternating simple phrases, usually from Psalms or Scripture with periods of prayerful silence.

Cecilia began the worship by lighting the first candle and in a clear, pure soprano voice sang the eight bars of the first song *Gloria, Gloria, in Excelsis Deo*. The worship lasted about an hour and when it had finished, St. Michael's rector, the Rev. Wilmer Toyoken who had also been leading the music by playing guitar invited everyone to adjourn to the chapel for a fellowship meal.

The Prayer of Light with Taizé Songs was a wonderfully prayerful Advent experience and St. Michael's was a great place to be on a very cold evening. ✠



St. Michael's Multicultural Church's priest-in-charge, the Rev. Fr. Wilmer Toyoken. PHOTO Randy Murray



The rehearsal. PHOTO Randy Murray



Cantor/music leader/pianist, Cecilia Pampanico lights the eighth candle prior to the concluding song, *In the Lord*. PHOTO Randy Murray

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Clergy News Around the Diocese •

From the Desk of the Executive Archdeacon the Venerable G. Douglas Fenton

Bishop Skelton has appointed the Rev. Arvin Amayag as Vicar of St. Mary the Virgin, Sapperton effective February 1, 2017. The Celebration of New Ministry will take place February 28 at 7 pm.

The Ven. Stephen Muir, Rector of St. Agnes, North Vancouver formerly Regional Dean of North Vancouver has been appointed Archdeacon of Capilano effective January 1, 2017. He succeeds the Rev. Dr. Lynne McNaughton who was elected to a three-year term as Deputy Prolocutor of General Synod. Bishop Skelton has appointed Rector of St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver, the Rev. Patrick Blaney, Regional Dean of North Vancouver succeeding Archdeacon Muir.

Bishop Skelton has appointed the Rev. Al Carson, Rector of St. John the Baptist, Sardis, to succeed the Rev. John Sovereign as Regional Dean of The Valley effective January 1, 2017. Rev. Sovereign is scheduled to retire as Rector of St. Thomas, Chilliwack at the end of the year.

The Rev. Christine Rowe, Assistant Priest, St. Mary, Kerrisdale, has been appointed to succeed the Rev. Jeremy Clark-King as Regional Dean of Point Grey effective January 1, 2017. Rev. Clark-King's resignation as Rector of St. Mary's, Kerrisdale was effective as of December 31, 2016.

It was announced on Sunday, December 18, Advent IV that the Rev. Canon Kevin Hunt who arrived from England 17 months earlier to serve as interim priest-in-charge at St. James' has been appointed rector of that parish, Vancouver's oldest protestant faith community. The date for the Celebration of a New Ministry Induction of Fr. Kevin will be February 2, 2017 at 7 pm.

The Rev. Shirley Stockdill who had announced her retirement prior to completing her ministry posting as interim priest-in-charge at All Saints', Burnaby in July 2016 has been appointed Interim Priest-in-Charge at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale by Bishop Skelton. This is a ½ time ministry position.



The Rev. Arvin Amayag.
PHOTO Katherine Yeo



The Ven. Stephen Muir.
PHOTO Wayne Chose



The Rev. Patrick Blaney.
PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT The Rev. Allan Carson. PHOTO Wayne Chose



MIDDLE The Rev. Christine Rowe. PHOTO Wayne Chose



RIGHT The Rev. Canon Kevin Hunt. PHOTO Lucy Price



The Rev. Ruth Monette. PHOTO Wayne Chose



The Rev. Brian Heinrich receives the keys. PHOTO John Roper

Speaking of All Saint's, Burnaby it was announced the week of Advent IV that the Rev. Justin Cheng who has completed his curacy at St. Paul's, Nanaimo in the diocese of British Columbia has been appointed Vicar at ½ time of the South Burnaby parish. Rev. Cheng was born and raised in Vancouver, was ordained as a transitional deacon on September 28, 2014, and ordained priest on June 28, 2015, both liturgies took place at Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria. The Celebration of a New Ministry will take place February 27, 2017 at 7 pm.

The Rev. Ruth Monette will be leaving the Senior Synod Staff position, Director for Mission and Ministry Development in early February 2017 to return to parish ministry as Interim Priest-in-Charge of St. Timothy's, Burnaby beginning February 15.

The Rev. Brian Heinrich, Lutheran pastor, recently an honorary assistant at Christ Church Cathedral and former street priest of Lutheran Urban Mission Society (LUMS) was installed as Vicar of St. Aidan and St. Bartholomew (St. Bart's) Gibson's Landing on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 (Pastor Brian is styled "vicar" as he is priest of the parish appointed by the bishop without term but his ministry is not fulltime. A rector is a fulltime priest in a parish without term appointed by the bishop usually after a process of search done by a parish canonical committee with the assistance and oversight of the bishop and the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Appointments). It was a joyful occasion attended by a good-sized congregation bolstered by a number of members of the parish of Christ Church Cathedral, and there was an impressive contingent of clergy present. The preacher was Pastor Brian's dear friend, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott, Dean of the diocese of New Westminster and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral. Depending on availability of material there will be additional coverage of this liturgy in the March 2017 issue of *Topic*. ✠

• Farewell to the Reverend Jeremy Clark-King •

The parish of St. Mary's, Kerrisdale (SMK) gathered in the gym/hall following worship on Advent IV, December 18, 2016 to say farewell to their rector of over three years, the Rev. Jeremy Clark-King.

Two weeks earlier the parish of Christ Church Cathedral experienced a similar event when they said good-bye to long-time associate priest, the Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark-King, Jeremy's spouse. The Clark-Kings will now be located in San Francisco where Ellen began her new ministry as Executive Pastor at Grace Episcopal Cathedral on December 11.

Since arriving with Ellen in the diocese in 2005, Jeremy has had a number of parish ministry posts and has been extremely active in the life of the diocese and as a leader and trainer for the Diocesan School for Parish Development.

He began his ministry in our diocese as Rector of St. Martin, North Vancouver, February 2005 to September 2011, moved west into an interim priest-in-charge ministry at St. Christopher's immediately following until September 2012 and was installed as Rector of St. Mary's, Kerrisdale, September 5, 2012, by then-Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham. The preacher at the Celebration of a New Ministry was the then-Canon for Congregational Development in the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia,

the Rev. Canon Melissa Skelton. He was chair of Diocesan Council's Mission and Ministry Committee and later served as Regional Dean of Point Grey, a diocesan leadership post that he occupied throughout his time at SMK. It was announced last December that his colleague at SMK, the Rev. Christine Rowe would succeed him in that role.

A highlight of the farewell event was the presentation of a handmade Teddy Bear to Jeremy from St. Mary's parish administrator, Christine Mitchell. She makes bears for wardens and clergy who move on and it has been reported that she has made at least 130 of them. In reference to his role as a senior trainer for the Diocesan School for Parish Development and its American parent institution the College for Congregational Development Jeremy once said to her, "Have flipchart, will travel" and that is why she added a small flipchart and three mini-markers to this bear.

Christine Rowe provoked some chuckles and laughter when she announced that she would read a list of Jeremy's accomplishments as a long paper scroll unraveled down to the floor. Although she had a lot to say about his accomplishments, a point of interest to note was that she was one of Jeremy's references when he applied for the position at SMK in 2012.

Sunday, December 18, Advent IV was the penultimate Sunday for Jeremy as he concluded his ministry at SMK on Christmas Day and his resignation became official at the end of this past year. ✠



The Rev. Jeremy Clark-King on December 18, 2016.
PHOTO Glen Mitchell



LEFT The Rev. Christine Rowe reads from a "long list" of his accomplishments.
LEFT MIDDLE Christine Mitchell presents Jeremy with the "Flipchart Bear." PHOTOS Glen Mitchell



RIGHT MIDDLE Jeremy gives Christine a grateful hug.
RIGHT With wine in hand ready to toast, Jeremy bids farewell to his soon-to-be former flock. PHOTOS Christine Rowe



AROUND THE DIOCESE

• St. Mark's Extreme Weather Shelter •

SUBMISSION Pamela Martin, ODNW

When the temperatures plummet and the snow flies, or the slush is deep, or the wind is gale force and cold life can be especially hard for those who live rough. When an "Extreme Weather Alert" is called emergency shelters around the region open their doors overnight to add much-needed temporary spaces to the 956 permanent shelter beds available. As of this writing in mid-December 2016, a prolonged cold snap made this need even more urgent, as even the hardy souls who prefer to manage

as usual outside for a few nights of cold and snow found it harder to keep going as temperatures dipped as low as -10C in the Metro Vancouver Area.

One of these Extreme Weather shelters is in the heart of Kitsilano, at St. Mark's Place at Larch Street and West 2nd Avenue. Although the Anglican congregation that worshipped there has moved on, the building is still owned and operated by the diocese of New Westminster, managed by a Board of Trustees under the leadership

of the priest-in-charge, the Rev. Richard Leggett, and still home to a variety of community groups and events.

With the only temporary beds on the west side of Vancouver outside the downtown core, St. Mark's shelter ran for more than two weeks straight, often close to capacity. With space for shopping cart parking and pets on approval, the shelter can hold up to 25 people. The accommodation is anything but luxurious—a

mat on the floor and a polar fleece blanket, but the room and the welcome are warm. Volunteers prepare and serve a hot, nourishing dinner when folks arrive, and shelter staff supervises overnight and offer a hot breakfast and a packed sandwich to go when guests leave by 7 am. Everything must be mopped, washed down and put away before arrival of the staff of the Montessori preschool that uses the space during weekdays. ☙



Sleeping mats and tables are set up for the guests. PHOTO Neil Seedhouse



Volunteers prepare a hearty evening meal and bag lunches. PHOTO Neil Seedhouse

• Walking with Mary in the Way of the Cross •

SUBMISSION John Bailey

We often think of Mary in connection with the stories of the birth of Jesus. We seldom connect her with Lenten journeys to the foot of the cross. Yet there she is standing at the cross with the beloved disciple as Jesus looks down in John's Gospel. And the feast of the Annunciation, celebrating the Angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary, takes place on March 25, nine months before Christmas. This year the Parish of St. Philip welcomes the Rt. Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Rowell, who will lead a Mission entitled: *Walking with Mary in the Way of the Cross*.

The parish will prepare for Bishop Row-

ell's arrival with opportunities to study the joint Anglican/Roman Catholic statement on Mary titled: *Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ*. The choir will be learning some of the Bishop's hymns. Bishop Rowell arrives in time for the Third Sunday in Lent on March 19, 2017 and will preach at the main service of the day both on Lent III and Lent IV, the conclusion of the Mission. Through the week, events are planned to enable the Bishop to meet with both members of the parish and with theological students.

On Wednesday, March 22, Bishop Row-

ell will give a public lecture in the Church at 7:30 pm entitled: *Dying you destroyed our death—Human mortality and the Christian Hope*. The lecture is part of a series that the parish has offered, together with Christ Church Cathedral, on end of life matters and brings a theological perspective to current debates. On Saturday, March 25 plans are underway for a display of icons of Mary, a talk by Bishop Rowell on various images of Mary in art, and a celebration of the Eucharist.

Bishop Rowell recently retired as the

Anglican Bishop of Europe. He is an Emeritus Fellow of Keble College in Oxford where he lectured for many years in the area of modern doctrine. He has served on the Church of England's Liturgical and Doctrine Commissions and continues to serve on the *Oriental Dialogue* (Anglican conversations with the Orthodox Church). He is the past co-chair of the Dialogue. He is author of many books and articles including: *The Anglican Quest for Holiness*, which he co-authored with Rowan Williams and Colin Stevenson. ☙

OPINION

Opioid Overdose Epidemic

MATTHEW JOHNSON

Priest of the Street Outreach Ministry at St. James', Vancouver

British Columbia finds itself in a life and death crisis. All around us fellow citizens are dying, men, women, and teens. Their humanity—now cold, still, lifeless—removed from our midst. This is the opioid overdose crisis. And it is killing two British Columbians every day.

Opioids are a class of drug derived from opium, used to relieve pain. They include morphine, codeine, heroin, methadone, oxycodone, and hydrocodone. There are also synthetic opioids, most notably fentanyl and carfentanyl. This class of drugs is extremely addictive. And when an overdose is taken, they can be deadly.

It is easy to diminish this epidemic as something affecting only drug users on the street. People mistakenly caricatured as "out there," different from us, and somehow less worthy of respect. This, however, is not the case for opioid addiction as it affects all manner of persons. In the language of the Book of Common Prayer, "all sorts and conditions of men." It is possible that you are personally acquainted with someone whom you do not know is addicted. Many addicts

have stable lives, hold down responsible jobs, and function effectively in day-to-day life. Some people become addicted following medical problems or surgery, for which opioids may be prescribed. Even short-term use of opioids can result in dependency.

There is also a class of opioid users who are not addicted. "Recreational users" may use opioids on an occasional basis, most typically on weekends. This includes middle class people, and the more affluent. It is interesting that the highest number of overdose fatalities occur on weekends. And it is not just injection drug users who are dying. Overdose with opioids can occur equally with orally administered drugs in pill or tablet form.

FENTANYL

Death by overdose is nothing new in BC. What is new is the vast increase in the number of fatalities. The figures on this, provided by the BC Coroner's Service, are staggering. In the first 11 months of 2016, 755 people died by opioid overdose. In 2015, 443 people died. That's a 70.4%

increase in deaths. This alarming increase is due to fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid, which drug traffickers add to heroin and other drugs, to increase overall supply, and therefore maximize profits. Fentanyl is 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more powerful than heroin.

The danger of fentanyl, when added to another drug, is that it makes it difficult for injection drug users to gauge the overall potency of a single dose. When adulterated by fentanyl, an amount of heroin that might normally be safe to inject can easily contain a more powerful dose than anticipated. Resulting in overdose, sometimes fatal.

Fentanyl is also used in counterfeit pills labelled as oxycodone or other opioid painkillers. The pills look like the real thing, but contain fentanyl, sometimes in lethal amounts. A study by *Insite*, the safe injection facility in our parish, found that 90% of the heroin tested contains the additive fentanyl. Fentanyl has also been detected in drugs like cocaine, and the party drug ecstasy/molly (MDMA), both

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OPINION

Letter From Nazareth - Scriptures for Reading: Luke 1: 39 – 56

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

Dearest Cousin Elizabeth,

I apologize for not sending this letter earlier. I was exhausted from the journey home and simply had to rest for the last few days.

I think about you and pray for you constantly because I know you were very near to giving birth when I had to leave. As you know, I had no choice when the caravan came through the village and told us there wouldn't be another for nearly a month. However I could see that you had friends ready to help so I'm assuming my prayers for you have been answered.

My journey, thank God, was safe and uneventful. I have always been led to believe that Samaria could be unfriendly and even dangerous. Instead I found much friendship from the villages we passed through.

The most fascinating part of my journey home was to see Sepphoris. Our caravan left me off there because it was going on around the lake and wasn't going to go through Nazareth. You and Zechariah have never seen it but you can imagine what its like when I tell you it's the headquarters for the Roman administration of Galilee. Beautiful streets and houses, lovely mosaics, chariots coming and going everywhere. But you will never guess the really wonderful thing that happened. Joseph was there to meet me! I was hoping he could but we were not sure it was possible. As I told you, Sepphoris is only two hours walk from Nazareth and the army contract that he's been working on has been extended.

To have a few days together was wonderful. Sepphoris is big enough that hardly anybody knew us. Well, a few did, because, like my Joseph they had come over from Nazareth to find jobs. The really nice thing about meeting them—and it made all the difference for me—was that because they were friends of Joseph, and because they had heard from him that we were going to marry, they could not have been more friendly. That meant so much to me because I had been nervous about going back to the village.

Elizabeth, I will never be able to thank you for those wonderful weeks you gave me, especially in those first few days after I arrived sick and miserable from the journey. What

helped was that you were overjoyed about your own pregnancy. I could see it in your face and hear it in your voice when you came to the door to meet me. I will never forget the hug you gave me!



Visitation: Mary with Jesus in Womb, Meets Elizabeth with John the Baptist in Womb. Stained Glass at the Royal Basilica San Francisco el Grande in Madrid, Spain. The Basilica was designed in the second half of the 1700s, and completed by Francisco Sabatini.

By now you may have given birth. Do please write soon. Send the letter with the next caravan. I've given you the name of the street and the construction site in Sepphoris—so that Joseph will get it and bring it to me. Remember, I want to know everything. All I know at the moment is that Zechariah wants it to be a boy and wants him called John.

Don't forget to tell me how Zechariah is. When I left he seemed to be improving from that experience in the Temple that robbed him of his speech. My hope and prayer is that he may be so overjoyed when you give birth that it may give him back his voice again!

Since coming home I have learned how wonderful it is to have friends. Joseph's family have rallied around us, and even though I am sure that there are those in the village who are prepared to be hurtful—as you yourself warned me would be the case—I feel surrounded by love.

The only thing that I'm worried about is a rumour that Joseph tells me is going around in Sepphoris. He's heard from one of the army contractors that the authorities in Rome may be planning an imperial census. If it becomes true, then we will all—well, all heads of families—have to go back to their own area. If this comes true, Joseph will have to go back south to the Bethlehem area. I hope against hope that this doesn't happen before I give birth. The journey will be ghastly.

Elizabeth, I must end, but not without reminding you of our speaking of our angels. Sometimes when I find it hard to sleep my angel comes. Not that I see anything of course, just that in the darkness I'm aware of a presence. I don't mean the babe, although he is very much a presence inside me! But this other presence is always reassuring and somehow familiar, as if we had met before. Sometimes I think I hear a quiet voice saying what he said the first time. "Do not be afraid Mary," and when I hear that, sleep comes.

Dear Elizabeth, my love to you and to Zachariah and the babe. Who knows, maybe our sons will meet one day. Maybe they will do great things together. Let it be as God wills.

Your loving cousin.
Mary

Opioid Overdose Epidemic

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

of them popular with those who are not street involved.

STREET MINISTRY

On the streets of the Downtown East Side, where I work, Fentanyl stalks our neighbourhood like the Reaper. Every month, on and just after cheque issue day, there are a slew of opioid overdoses. Ambulances screaming by for two or three days in a row. Now, however, with the advent of Fentanyl, the sirens are constant throughout the month. Ambulances, their lights flashing and strobing, can be seen on streets and in alleys numerous times every day. It is never ending.

I started to notice the increase in deaths about a year and a half ago. People on the street, who I knew for years, started to turn up dead. Others reported they were losing their friends and family members. I started to attend and participate in more memorial services. And on the street, I witnessed more overdoses.

I work with many people addicted to heroin or other drugs. People of infinite value in the sight of God. And I worry about them. Having already lost many acquaintances, the question is: Who will be next? On daily "rounds" on the street, I carry a pack with everything from Holy Water and prayer cards, to hemostatic bandages. To this I have added a naloxone kit, containing three syringes and three phials of naloxone. Naloxone is an antidote to opioids and can

reverse an overdose in a matter of seconds. It is injected intra-muscularly, usually in the upper arm or thigh. Along with artificial respiration, this can save a life. Although I have dealt with overdoses in the past, I have not had to use naloxone yet. But it is at the ready at all times, one more part of the street ministry toolkit.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The most effective preventative measure against overdose is to remove the shame associated with drug addiction. The behaviours associated with addiction—any addiction—are self-destructive it is true. Drug users need to be supported at each step in the process of addressing addiction and seeking recovery. But nothing is gained by stigmatizing those who struggle with addiction. Shame and stigmatization make it difficult if not impossible for users to disclose their addiction to family, friends, and people who care. They use in secret and alone. And they die alone.

Indeed, during this fentanyl and opioid crisis, many have been shocked by the overdose death of someone they knew well and would never suspect was using drugs. If you know or suspect that a friend, family member, coworker, or other acquaintance is using drugs, establish a relationship where they know they will not be judged or condemned if they speak openly about it. A guideline to this is provided in the words of the Baptismal Covenant, in which

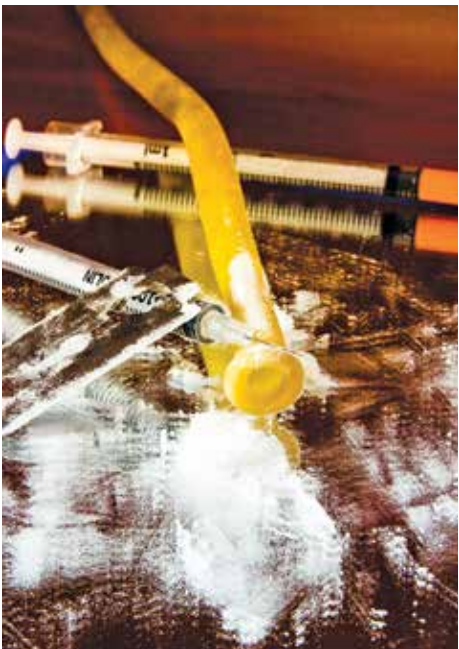
we promise to "respect the dignity of every human being," whether we agree with their choices or not.

When appropriate, speak about the following overdose prevention strategies:

- Do not inject or consume drugs alone, where overdose will go undetected
- Do not mix drugs
- Use a supervised injection facility where available
- Obtain a naloxone kit to use if you suspect an overdose
- Call 911 if you suspect an overdose

The establishment of supervised injection sites also saves lives. Note: these programmes are not about condoning drug use. A decade ago, I had initial misgivings about the supervised injection facility in our parish. I was concerned that it might somehow normalize self-destructive behaviour. On reflection, I concluded that honouring life first means preserving life. These sites preserve life by preventing overdose deaths and preventing the transmission of HIV and Hepatitis-C. And, if a person is to ever have a chance to address addiction and pursue recovery, they must first be alive.

For your part, if you know or live with someone who uses drugs, obtain naloxone



training and keep a naloxone kit, so that you can take direct action if an overdose should occur. Naloxone kits are available at a cost, without a prescription, from pharmacies in your community. Pharmacists can provide training at the time you purchase it. See the website www.towardtheheart.com/naloxone/ for more information. ✚

Fr. Matthew Johnson serves in Vancouver's Downtown East Side. The Street Outreach Initiative is a joint program of the diocese of New Westminster and St. James Church.

CAITLIN REILLEY BECK

Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator, diocese of New Westminster



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 • Caitlin Reilley Beck

Diocesan Coordinator for Children & Youth Ministry

cbeck@vancouver.anglican.ca

604.684.6306 ext. 225

Deadline for *Topic* Submissions

February 24 for the April issue
March 17 for the May issue

All the volunteers you need or \$100! This is a promise that was made by Mark DeVries, author of *Sustainable Youth Ministry*, and the creator of Ministry Architects, a consulting firm, which specializes in helping parishes develop sustainable ministries. DeVries has an open bet with anyone that if they use his six-step process for recruiting volunteers, and don't manage to find all the volunteers they need, he will give them \$100 (and these are American dollars we are talking about here). So what are these steps that he believes in so much?

1. Start early
2. Identify your needs
3. Develop your pool
4. Select a draft pick for every position
5. Make your initial ask
6. Work the follow-up process

1. Start Early

The month of February is when DeVries recommends you begin recruiting volunteers for the fall. This gives you and your potential volunteers lots of time to make sure you are lining up the right people for the right jobs. It also means that whoever is doing the recruitment and coordination of volunteers can work on recruitment a bit at a time and it isn't such a monumental and looming task. It will also give you time to train and commission volunteers for their ministry once they are recruited. So give yourself the time you need and start the recruiting process now.

2. Identify your needs

How many volunteers do you actually need to run your ministry and what do you need them to do? Before you begin asking anyone, it is important to have this informa-

tion ready and in written form. Make a list of the different kinds of volunteers: Sunday School teachers, youth group leaders, people to make dinner for youth group, drivers for outings, Christmas pageant coordinator, etc. I would suggest you do this with your annual calendar of events in hand so that you don't leave out those important seasonal volunteers. Once you have this list, run it by other parish staff or key volunteers to make sure you haven't left anything out.

3. Develop your pool

Before you start asking people to volunteer, you will also need a list of potential volunteers. One of the best ways to develop this list is to work your way through your parish directory—you are likely to discover people who could help out who you may have never thought of before. As you develop this pool, don't pre-empt anyone's response by saying they are too busy or wouldn't be interested, just make a list of people who you believe have the gifts to be a part of your ministry. For each potential volunteer, you decide whether they would be best working directly with children or youth, behind the scenes, or either (if you like codes, you can code them W—with youth, E—either, B—behind the scenes). You also decide whether these potential volunteers are on your A-list, people who would do an amazing job, B-list, people who would do well, or C-list, people who would do in a pinch. You are aiming to develop a pool of three times as many people as you will ultimately need. This is because roughly 2 out of 3 people who you ask will turn you down.

4. Select a draft pick for every position

Now that you have your needs list and your pool of volunteers, start matching people to positions. For your first picks, start with people who you think would be a reach—A-list people who might not have time, but who would do an amazing job. If they say no when you ask, there is nothing lost, but it is surprising how often these people will say yes.

5. Make your initial ask

Now it is time to start getting in touch with your potential volunteers. DeVries recommends that you make your initial ask in an email or by leaving a voice mail. This gives people the time to consider your request before responding—when people are pressured into giving an answer, they are more likely to say no. When you ask people to volunteer, make sure you are clear about what the job entails (having short descriptions of each job written up can be useful for recruiting year after year). Invite people to give it some thought and offer to have a chat with them about it to figure out if it is a good fit. Make sure people know that they can say no and not harm their relationship with you, but don't make that choice for them. Now, here is a very important warning to those using this process, because this is where you might get frustrated and give up—most people will not respond to your initial email or voice mail on their own. That is why we have step 6.

6. Work the follow-up process

After making your initial asks, begin following-up with those who you haven't heard from. DeVries recommends you wait a week between each follow-up call or email. Once you have a response from someone, you can either write them into your needs list as a yes, or move them to a list of people who you will ask again in six months or the following year. Keep filling in the gaps from your pool of potential volunteers and working this process until all your needs are filled. It is important to expect that two out of three people will turn you down and that you might have to follow up with folks multiple times before you get an answer. Don't let these things deter you or frustrate you, just know that this is how recruitment goes.

When you are doing your annual recruitment, it is important to check in with your current volunteers to see if they would like to continue or invite them to take on a different role. This ensures that you know your volunteers are engaged in ministry that they want to do and aren't just continuing because they haven't been given a way out. This is also a great time to invite them to give feedback on the ministry and to invite them to set some personal goals for their ministry in the next year. Recruitment is just one piece of good volunteer management.

If you want to hear more from Mark DeVries himself on this recruitment process, check out the Ministry Architects website or you can borrow a copy of *Sustainable Youth Ministry* from our library. And if you work this process and it doesn't work for you—get in touch with him for \$100 USD. ☘



Diocesan Youth Movement (DYM) Fall Training—Volunteers gather for training at DYM's annual fall training event. PHOTO Courtesy of Caitlin Reilley Beck



Commissioning Church School volunteers at St. Philip, Dunbar. PHOTO Courtesy of Caitlin Reilley Beck