

SPIRIT



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

Vision Statement:

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

March 2017 Issue 1

Interim Priest: Rev. Philip Zimmerman

Office Administrator: Kerrie Pulford

Parish Hall: 250-286-9663

Editor: Jane Monchak

Office: 250-286-1613

Office: 250-286-1613 Fax: 250-286-1650

E-mail: stpeterscampbellriver@shaw.ca

Website: www.stpeterscampbellriver.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPetersCRiver/

Notes from the Editor:

There is much happening in our parish and Diocese. Easter and spring and all that happens at this time of year are just around the corner. By the time you read this we will have gathered to pray for the women of the Philippines at the World Day of Prayer. We will have spent time with Bishop Logan at the Transitional Day to begin the process of selecting a new minister for the parish of St. Peter's Anglican Church. Besides reading Spirit you can stay connected by visiting the St. Peter's website and Facebook page. And if you haven't already done so, speak to Trina about becoming a member of the closed Facebook page for St. Peter's. Thank you to all who have contributed to this issue of Spirit.

Jane

Reports...

Phil's Family Story - Life is in the Details

Dear Friends,

My first Sunday Worship as your Interim Priest, February 5, 2017, was uncommon as I spoke mostly about myself and family lineage. Attendance that Sunday was very low due to the uncommonly high snowfall. I was invited to write about what I spoke at that service in the next issue of The Spirit publication as a way to share this information with the larger Parish Family.

My life story began in the Swiss Canton o' Glaris, near the town of Schwandi where the paternal side of my family, Abraham and Maria were born ca.1832. They were married and were sent with a contingent of couples to the young country of America, to Minnesota in the early 1850s. They built a farm about 25 miles from Fergus Falls. Together, Abraham and Maria Zimmerman had twelve children. In 1861, Abraham left Maria for three years to fight in the US Civil War, leaving Maria with three small children on their farm. Abraham returned from the war continuing to farm in Minnesota and with Maria had nine more children. My grandfather Samuel was the eleventh of twelve children, born July 4, 1876. Samuel met and married Lulu Wylie in 1908. Both were college graduates. Lulu obtained a Master's degree in Sociology and Samuel a Doctor of Medicine; significant accomplishments for second generation immigrants. They settled in Valley City, North Dakota; Samuel in a medical practice. Lulu, an early advocate for women's liberation, became Chapter president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and worked for women's Suffrage helping to pass the US Constitution 18th Prohibition Amendment and 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote.

Life in Valley City, ND was robust. Lulu, all 4 foot 10 inches of her, Samuel a six-footer produced thirteen pregnancies, four of which survived into adult life. The first born, my father Bruce, was born July 18, 1913. Word around town said, "O'l doc Zimm sure knew how to make babies but didn't know much about birthing them." Grandfather Sam was an avid fisherman, hunter and all-around dynamo. He carved a sign he would hang on the door of the medical clinic that read: Gone Fishing. Samuel died of pneumonia following an automobile accident Thanksgiving Day 1939 at age 63. His oldest son Bruce was attending medical school in Chicago at the time but returned home to Valley City, to assist the local doctor perform the autopsy on Samuel. Years later, I asked my dad what it was like to perform an autopsy on his own father.

My dad was altogether pragmatic although, quite existential about matters of God and the human Spirit. I feel I inherited some of his pragmatism while studying for my own degrees in Oceanography and Theology; an important lesson in life here? I interviewed my dad for a school project while studying vocations. I asked, "What is the study of Medical Science" Dad stated, "Always remember, medical science is not an exact science like the earth sciences (chemistry,

physics and biology). Humans are wonderfully individual; no two are alike. Where earth sciences are bound by empirical methods; medical science remains wonderfully variable and terribly complex. There is a part of medical science that remains in the realm of the Almighty or outside of itself. We do our part and wait upon a force greater than ourselves to do its part. Medicine often uses the acronym GOK (God Only Knows) while charting a patient's care. The maternal side of my family has an equally fascinating story to tell.

Grandfather Emmett Ewers emigrated from Norway to Seattle, Washington ca 1890, soon thereafter, travelling to Victoria, BC to work as a Photographer for Victoria Times Colonist Newspaper. There, he met and married Roberta Devlin, a recent immigrant from Ireland. Together they had four children, Mary, their third born, my mother, was born on March 30, 1915. Roberta's brother, Joe Devlin emigrated at the same time. Joe became a BC Mounted Police, later RCMP in the Peace River country of BC. Joe circulated wonderful stories about policeman around my family. I met Joe and his wife, Jessie, when I was a young teenager. Confirming some of the outrageous family stories I recall one in particular.

Joe met his wife, Jessie, while travelling from Victoria to Seattle on The Princess Marguerite ca 1939. Arriving Seattle in the early morning, they woke a judge and were married on the spot. From this story, I know why I am such a romanticist. Joe and Jessie were married for over 40 years, dispelling the stories of his previous four wives who apparently died in their first year of marriage to Joe. A sign of the times, Tuberculosis (TB) or Consumption as it was called back then, was epidemic at the time. Grandmother Roberta died of TB in 1922; my mother Mary was seven at the time. Grandfather Emmett moved his family, Bob, Ellen, Mary and Frank, back to Seattle the following year. Emmett did not re-marry. He remained rather stoic as I recall. His children responded to the challenge and prospered as a family. From the stories, the depression was a rough time but each child rose to face the many challenges.

Uncle Bob, while at university at the beginning of WWII, joined the US Navy as a fighter pilot. He was washed out when he crashed onto the flight deck during carrier flight qualifications and was re-assigned as a transport pilot. He flew Admiral "Bull" Halsey around the Pacific theatre in a DC3 for the duration of WWII. Following the war, Bob flew as chief pilot for TWA, transitioning to jet travel in Boeing 707s. He suffered a heart attack at age 58 while piloting a 707 into Denver airport but stayed in the left seat until landed. Such persistence allowed me to survive a similar event at age 58 although I wasn't flying at the time!

Youngest son, Frank worked on tugboats around Puget Sound. WWII saw him skippering landing craft (LST) in the Pacific Theatre. Uncle Frank was a great story teller and a commensurate ship handler. Frank died in his early sixties of lung and heart disease. His oldest son became a captain of ocean going ships for 40 years. He died at age 58 from a heart attack. Notice a pattern here?

Aunt Ellen attended Reed College, Oregon, as an English Major. She went on to a career with her husband Howard with the Jantzen line of clothing. She was a “second mother” to my family, Bob, Kathy and me. She lived into her eighties and was a wonderful feminist and mentor to me.

Mary and Ellen received a modest inheritance from an aunt ca 1937. They saved the inheritance while moving to San Francisco to work and save for a trip around the world. They departed New York City by freighter; travelled in pre WWII Germany when the Third Reich was gaining strength. The experience scared both my mother and her older sister Ellen. They had planned to spend a few weeks in Germany but left after a few days. They bicycled around England for a month, riding between bed and breakfast homes. Then, their trip found them traveling onto Egypt, India, Singapore, Japan, Hawaii and San Francisco where their world circle was completed. Mary and Ellen were quite possibly the two most significant women in my life; although, two other women also captured forty years of my life.

How did Bruce and Mary meet and beget my nuclear family? Mom, Mary, was unusually vague about how she and dad, Bruce, met, dated and later married. Mary said something like, “He was supposed to marry my older sister Ellen.” Dad was more pragmatic, as already stated. Dad's story read, “I corralled her around the kitchen sink while she was slicing a tomato and I proposed! Will you marry me Mary?”

My family story continues - in the next issue of the Spirit.
Reverend Philip Zimmerman

Chuck's Chatter - Easter and the Hollow Egg

There are many trials, tribulations, encounters and struggles, which a minister of the Gospel must deal with each week; from writing a sermon, to matching, hatching and dispatching, helping couples with domestic problems, family problems, abuse. The list could go on and on.

Then he/she must be able to fit in the appropriate amounts of visiting, drinking coffee and tea, playing bridge, not to mention attending meetings of church courts, local community affairs groups, congregational organizations, et al. He/she must do all this with a willing smile and please all in the process. Somewhere in all this he must find time for his own meditation and prayer.

One of the hardest tasks which a preacher has to face each and every week is the preparation of the children's story. Not that the children care about what you tell them, but the adults do and they would be upset if they did not understand and appreciate the message directed at the kids.

Many a time I have been told by adults that the message of the children's story really meant something to them. I have been told by adults I should use the microphone when I sit on the

chancel step with the children because they can't hear the story at the back of the church. My response is if you want to hear the children's story, then you had better come up and sit on the floor with the rest of the children, because that part of the service is especially for them. I also remind them that they are all the children of God and therefore it is perfectly alright to come and enjoy the story. And there are times when some of the adults have done just that.

One of the habits which I used to have was to take an object of some sort with me to help me get their attention and focus on what the main point of the message was. I have taken in many different types, shapes and sizes of stuffed toys and stuffed real animals such as rabbits and owls. Through these stories I have introduced the children to Bibles, hymn books, prayer books and other tools we use to worship God. I have also brought objects from around the house to illustrate a point.

Another habit I have is to ask the children questions which I hope will elicit some semblance of a logical answer that might be remotely related to the question asked. There is one problem which arises from doing this, however, and that is that one never knows what answer or language might be forthcoming to formulate that answer. Some can be rather funny, some downright hilarious although embarrassing to parents who might be in attendance.

It does not take too long after arriving in a new congregation to figure out which children one needs to control during this question and answer period. Mind you, there are those whom one could never control. There are those who are too bright and want to be the centre of attention all the time, and it is difficult to shut them up in any manner of tactfulness. Some kids want to tell you what happened at their home during the past week in minute itty bitty detail.

One story concerns a loud voiced excited young fellow on Easter Sunday. In order to illustrate the empty tomb I took an egg, which I had blown out, to use in my story. As usual I was sitting on the bottom step of the chancel with a great bundle of children on the floor in front of me.

Holding up the egg with a thumb and index finger covering the holes in the ends of the egg I asked the little folk "What do you think is in this egg?" I was bombarded with all the things of which a child's mind could possibly imagine: the chicken, the yolk, the white of egg, hard-boiled egg, gooey stuff, a little hen, Easter eggs, the Easter bunny and various other answers which escape me for the moment, none of which had anything to do with Easter.

I then asked what they thought might be in the tomb on the first Easter Sunday morning. The same bombardment of answers flowed from the kids' mouths: the body, the remains, the corpse, maggots and worms, the skeleton, Jesus, the undertaker, God and various other unrelated things. One bright fellow who listened to his Sunday School lesson spoke up and

said, "There were angels there to tell the people that Jesus had risen."

So I said, "Let's see," and I took a dish and broke the egg as though I was expecting something to fall out of it. Of course nothing did as it was empty. There were a number of gasps from the children and a startled look or two from the folks, sitting in the front few rows, who could see and hear what was going on. There were 350 folks in a packed Easter Sunday Church.

There was one child, however, who could not hold back his excitement for an instant. He was about five years old. I was not sure who this child was, for I had not seen him before, but I did find out after the service was over. In a voice loud enough to be heard six blocks away he shouted, "Holy (expletive deleted) it's empty!"

The congregation was in total stitches. I said to the lad, "You are absolutely right," hastily finished the story, stood up just on time to see a couple I did not know, sitting in the back row of the church, rather red-faced, trying to slink down as far in the pew as they possibly could so as not to be seen. They had obviously recognized the voice of their son.

I never did find out what happened to that young fellow when he got home after the service. I do not think I would have wanted to be in his shoes, or should I say pants.

I honestly think that his conclusion could not have been any more perfect, except for perhaps one small four-letter word that might be changed. One has to admit he certainly made the point loudly, clearly and succinctly.

Warden's Report

We continue to be a very active parish with much going on.

The end of January saw us all saying farewell to Blair and Jerryann with a very lovely evening with wonderful fellowship, delicious food, funny and sincere speeches with a very touching slideshow. Thank you to all who contributed a very generous amount to purchase them beautiful gifts from "Mussels and More."

Kerrie has a new computer in the office. The upgrade was long overdue! Our thanks to Kerrie for all she does for our parish.

We are still looking for volunteers to help Lyn Vogan with the counting and depositing of the Sunday offering. Please contact Lyn or any of the wardens for further information.

Our pianist, Tomoko is away for a while and we are pleased to have others to fill in during her absence. Our thanks to Rosemary, Shelly Keiko and Andrea.

The Communication Department at St. Peter's is one of the best in the Diocese we have been told! An amazing website and Facebook sites to keep up with all the happenings in our parish. Many thanks to Trina, and to Jane for assisting as well.

We were so pleased with the Annual General Meeting on February 26th. It ran so smoothly and we thank all of you for your reports and contributions. The yummys supplied by Marlene and Dave fueled us! Thank you!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was another successful parish event with forty people in attendance. Thank you to all for your participation and your help.

Lastly, we are so pleased to officially welcome Philip Zimmerman as our Interim Priest-in – Charge. We are very thankful for his ministry and leadership during this time of transition in our parish.

Please come to us at any time with questions or concerns you may have.

Blessings,
Your Wardens,
Bill, Cathy, Pauline

Wednesday Morning ACW

The women of St. Peter's Anglican Church come together for fellowship to support our church and needs within our community.

We are inspired by God with the example of Jesus to serve our community by offering love and acceptance to everyone.

We meet Wednesdays in the library. The first Wednesday is our regular meeting and all other Wednesdays are informal gatherings for fellowship and/or special meetings. The fellowship is incredible and we wish to invite all the women of the parish to join us for coffee. This a past year we supported the Women's Centre quarterly by providing personal hygiene products and toiletries. We also gave baby clothes and other items to Carihi High Day care-program. We also sent items for babies to Fort Mac Murray. Contributions were also made to both the Soup Kitchen in Campbell River as well as the Food Bank. We also consider requests from individuals and this past year assisted one of our youth to attend a conference in PEI.

Our members also help with parish events and fundraisers like the plant sale, book sale and parish bazaar. Some of our members have been active for over 50 years! Special fundraising was done to provide equipment as well as other projects. We continue to do some memorial teas. Our baby shower in February is always fun as is giving these items to moms who need them.

Our focus now is to support our parish and to do local outreach. We get together to love and serve the Lord in prayer, work and fellowship. The support and caring in this group is awesome. We invite you to come and share in this fellowship.

Lois Tirebuck

Library Line - The Library Share Suitcase

On the coast in earlier years, mission boats provided vital services to isolated communities. A wooden box, containing books for all ages, travelled in the mission boat, a little like a Bookmobile. The arrival of the mission boat with its books was an exciting moment, especially for children. Nowadays the elders tell us tales of the mission boat and its travelling library. Did you know, the old mission boat book box resides in our church library?



Campbell River has plenty of amenities: big box stores, specialty coffee shops and a hospital. On the other hand, a few hours drive up the highway is a remote community without a book store (let alone a Christian book store), whose residents have to drive down for medical specialists, hospital care or shopping. Our church library has fourteen hundred books, while our small sister congregation does not have a church library. Knowing there are active readers and thinkers in that community, our Library Committee had talked for years about helping start a small church library for this congregation by sending them our best-discarded books, but then we had a better idea.

Looking at the book box, we realized the best way that we could help our neighbour congregation was to share our library resources. Thus **Library Share** was born; a twenty-first century Bookmobile! Out of storage came a suitcase with wheels and a handle, of course, and into the suitcase went a variety of our non-fiction and fiction books. Our experienced librarians, Joan Palmer and Sandi Mahalek reveled in choosing great books, making sure to cover a wide span of interests and ages. We listed the books by category and age range. In addition, we sent along our library catalog in a binder, so that in the future those people would be able to make their own book choices.

Our receiving congregation, Christ Church in Alert Bay, has appointed a Librarian who will let us know what books they want, and when someone will be coming to us for an exchange of books. Whenever and wherever their congregation meets, they can open and use the **Library Share** suitcase; the rest of the time the books will be dry, not left in an unheated sanctuary. With email, ongoing communication between the Alert Bay congregation and St. Peter's should be easy. This **Library Share** ministry of getting our best books out to more readers has just begun.

Martha Massey
St. Peter's Anglican Church
Campbell River

Choir Notes

On Blair's last Sunday we had "one more goodbye." It was also Tomoko's last Sunday for a while as she left to travel to Japan to visit her family for approximately six weeks. Upon her return she will be moving to Port Alberni.

Tomoko has also registered at Campbell River Community College in the Community Support Worker Program.

When she is able, Tomoko will play for us as a spare. We look forward to seeing her on these occasions and wish her all the best with her studies!



What's Been Happening...

St Peter's Christmas Pageant - December 18

Many thanks to Diana, the youth and children for presenting the Christmas story. This year's pageant came with puppets that just weren't quite sure what Christmas was all about. Shopping? The FOOD!? Parties? So it took the children to explain and present the story of Jesus's birth. Many thanks to all who were able to get to church on that snowy morning



Blair's last Sunday - January 29

After a wonderful send-off for Blair and Jerryann on Friday night, January 27, we gathered for Blair's last service with us, his "last sermon" and a potluck lunch. We wish Blair and Jerryann well in their new home on Mayne Island.

The "Last Sermon"

"Well, this is my last sermon at St. Peter's so I guess I get to say whatever I want!" Blair began. I thought to myself, OK this might be worthy of taking a few notes. So here's what I gleaned from, "The Last Sermon." There are only four sermons: peace, love, joy and hope. Here was Blair's chance to give the sermon he was just "dying to give." What better Gospel on which to preach than Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, the Gospel reading for that Sunday. Jesus invites us to step into God's future: blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God; blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God; blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven; blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted.

Peace. Blair reflected on the use of the word "peacemakers" rather than peacekeepers, proactive rather than reactive I thought, as a way to encounter one another, to converse with one another, to hear each other's stories.

Love. The community of St. Peter's has been a place where Blair has experienced the "pure in heart." From his own observation of himself he has encountered God's love from what he has done or not done; spilt wine, wax on the altar cloths, chosen a different hymn. But people just kept saying, "don't worry, we all try our best" and from the Altar Guild ladies, "We're just glad you show up!" He said, "You have taught me a lot about God's grace; God's love."

Joy. Thirdly, Blair spoke about the poor in spirit; not of the poverty of our nature but of our vulnerability before God. Therefore to say "yes" to God allows God to be at work in our lives; this is richness; and joy. At St. Peter's, it was Blair's experience that we are a gathering of ministers rather than a community that gathers around the minister. With Blair as rector, it was never top-down at St. Peter's. He encouraged us to ask ourselves what experiences, skills, hopes and dreams can we bring to the community.

Hope. Finally, as Jesus said it, blessed are those who mourn. Here Blair gave us a bit of a confession, but not news to us, that he has never enjoyed meetings. With this confession, he also offered apologies and asked for forgiveness for any failings he had that might have kept us from growing in our faith. He followed this with many thanks for being part of our story, for the privilege of being part of our journey of peace, love, joy and hope. And thank you, Blair, as we all move into a new chapter.



Spaghetti Dinner - February 19

Many thanks to Hadley and his crew for organizing and preparing another fabulous spaghetti dinner complete with Caesar salad and garlic bread. We have yet to learn the recipe for Hadley's secret pasta sauce!!



Saturday Morning Crafters - Launches February 25

About a dozen women showed up on the last Saturday of February from 9:00 a.m. to noon to learn a craft to make and take and one to make and donate to the Bazaar. Many thanks to Lois Tirebuck for demonstrating how to make a double pocketed mini carry-bag; just perfect for a small camera or money and keys or maybe even your passport when traveling. We had fun and can't wait for the next time! More info on this in "What's Coming Up."



AGM Highlights - February 26

Did you miss the Annual General Meeting? Here are a few highlights from the meeting. Rev. Philip Zimmerman chaired the meeting. He opened the meeting with a prayer, welcoming all in attendance and remembered all those who have died this past year with candle lighting. One item of business arose from last year's meeting. After some discussion about the Think Tank for generating solutions for declining attendance, a motion was made that the Think Tank topic be referred immediately to the new incoming Council. It was suggested that this will be addressed at the Transition Day.

All reports were reviewed without being read aloud; additional comments and questions were invited.

Wardens Report – All Wardens have been asked to continue in their appointments for the next year, as it is a year of transition.

Communications - Trina Soltys provided further information on the up-and-coming monthly one page newsletter which will be added to St. Peter's website and Facebook pages. Parishioners are encouraged to contact Trina to receive an invitation to join St. Peter's private Facebook page.

Treasurers Report – Holly Finn began her report by starting with the Envelope Secretary's Report. She brought to our attention different ways of giving consistently and joyfully through Direct Giving which is the Pre-Authorized electronic giving program or the use of numbered envelopes. Forms for Direct Giving are on the table in the Narthex and envelopes are available in the Parish Office.

Holly then reviewed the Financial Report for 2016 and pointed out that although the graph in the report speaks for itself, part of the reason for the large decrease in giving between 2015 and 2016 was the flow-through giving for the African Orphans Fund. All monies received are considered income even though they "flow through" to an outreach project. The Syrian Refugee Fund and PWRDF are also "flow through" expenses. Go ahead and give to outreach projects but give equally to St. Peter's as we rely on offerings for the operation of the church (not to mention heat and light!)

Holly presented a balanced budget for 2017. Not hard to do as expenses for ministry are reduced. However, in order to find a new rector there are recruitment expenses, a "new line" in this year's budget, and increased expenses for visiting ministers. Another "new line" in the budget for 2017 has been created for relief secretary to cover the days when the administrative assistant is away, ill or on holidays. The budget was adopted as proposed.

Holly thanked the volunteers who help with fundraising. Where would we be without fundraising? As Holly mentioned in her report, pick a project and get involved! Lastly she thanked the financial team who support her – Anne, Lyn, Roberta, Kerrie and Jill. Thanks to you too, Holly!

Nominating Committee – The following parishioners were either appointed or elected.

Interim Priest – Reverend Philip Zimmerman People's Warden – Bill Ritchie
Deputy Warden – Cathy Beise Bishop's Warden – Pauline Woods

Co-Treasurers – Holly Finn, Jill Cook

First of a Two Year Term – Greg Goldstone, Andrea Charlton (elected)

First of a One Year Term – Diana Hicks (elected)

Congratulations to those who have been appointed and elected!

The meeting was adjourned just before 2:00 p.m. and Phil closed it by leading everyone in "The Grace."

What's Coming Up...

Lenten Food Drive

If you're thinking, "It's Lent; there must be a Food Drive" you are right! Once again, the Sunday School is organizing a Lenten Food Drive for the Campbell River Food Bank (CRFB) which will begin on Sunday, March 5 and will end with a blessing of the food donations on Palm Sunday, April 7. Please bring in items and leave them in the basket marked Food Bank in the Narthex. The donations will be stored in a classroom until Palm Sunday.

The CRFB is on the lookout for the following high protein, whole grain, lower sodium (salt) and lower sugar items:

Canned fish or meats

Canned beans, kidney, black bean, chickpeas

100% nut butters

Pasta and rice

Canned vegetables, pasta sauces

Canned fruit, packed in its own juice or water

Whole grain breakfast cereals

Hearty soups, stews and chili

Please note, due to health and safety issues the food bank is not able to accept homemade items, expired food, products containing alcohol or open packages of food. This event is greatly appreciated by the operators and recipients of the CRFB.

Saturday Morning Crafters - March 25, April 29, May 27

Come for some fun, fellowship and crafting – with the Old Fashioned Christmas Bazaar in mind. Learn a craft to "make and take" and make one to donate to the bazaar. The presenter provides supplies at a nominal cost. The group meets from 9:00 a.m. until noon at the church on the last Saturday of the month so mark your calendars. We will announce the crafts for each date at the previous month's meeting.

You can volunteer to present a craft. Provide the materials for the craft and the group will reimburse you for your expenses. If you would like to present a craft, please let me know (monchak@shaw.ca) which month you are available to do this and I will add you to the list.

Yes, coffee and tea are on!

Mothering Sunday - March 26

If you have given up sweets for Lent you can still have a piece of Simnel Cake on Mothering Sunday. Sundays are excluded from the 40 days of Lent and are considered to be feast days, so there is no obligation to fast on the six Sundays in Lent. Enjoy a piece of cake!

Good Friday Ecumenical Service - April 14

This year's Good Friday Ecumenical Service is at St. Peter's on March 25, at 10:00 a.m.

Plant Sale - May 6

Now is the time to look at your garden. Even with all the snow we have had perennials will soon be starting to sprout. Pot them up soon so they have a chance to grow in their containers for a couple of months. A perennial that has had this opportunity looks healthy and sells for a better price.

This year the plant sale committee is unable to pot up your plants for you. So, please, come and get pots and soil from the church, if you need these items for potting your plants, and bring your potted plants to the church during the week before the sale.

Having said that, we are in need of lots of pots, especially medium-sized, so if you have empty pots you are not using for your plants please, bring them to the church and place them in the wooden holding bin beside the potting shed.

Last year, we "lost" some large potted plants and trees before the sale. Please "plant-sit" your potted plants at home, if you can, to prevent plants and trees from walking away before the sale.

We would love to repeat the Theme Table of "creatively potted planters" section this year. So find an interesting pot or create a themed planter and bring it to the church the day before the sale.

Thank you, The Plant Sale Committee



"The Queen's Purse" and "Toad in the Hole" (a Mother-in-law's Day gift) from last year's Theme Table.

Articles of Interest...

Quentin's Quest

I was wondering the other day what I might perhaps speak to you about in this issue of Spirit magazine and I happened to have a drive under rather tragic and ghastly circumstances, to need a good healthy bout of one of my most favorite hymns – How Great Thou Art.

It is one of many people's top picks for funerals of course, and like a number of Biblical readings I have read as Lessons and hymns, I've sung in church, it nearly always has a somewhat strong effect on me emotionally.

The words just manage to undo me – at least briefly – every time, and I have to struggle to handle them. I am, after all, a former Brit and a male as well, so I need to try to maintain a stiff upper lip, if only just for tradition's sake!

But what really got to me and just totally wrecked me in going through How Great Thou Art the other day was the piece which kind of sneaks up on you at the end - about us being received by Jesus and God after we die, not with a small nod and or even extended hand or arms, but a full "shout of acclamation." Those are the very words! I hadn't really fully noticed them before.

What the hymn says is that, even with all our unending brokenness and sin and trespasses against Him and against each other (even with the best of intentions), in a boundless response of full forgiveness our triumvirate God will undoubtedly not only accept us into His presence but bring us in with a huge yell of welcome and delight to have us with him. We are to be brought in with acclamation - that is, honored! - by The Creator, the most powerful presence in the entire universe, despite all of our human failings and the way we've let Him, ourselves and each other down here on earth.

Is not that almost totally incredible – almost literally unbelievable, I mean.

However, that of course is where faith comes in. Although we cannot have any faith in ourselves and a flawed human of course wrote the words, I do not believe that these ones lie or distort the situation in any way.

I choose to believe they were inspired with unfailing, pinpoint accuracy through the inspiration of our unendingly loving and ever-faithful God, to give us in the world to which He has brought us, just a tiny foretaste of amazing and beautiful things to come. I invite you to do the same.

God bless. Quentin

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made.
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Chorus

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin:

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

"How Great Thou Art" is a Christian hymn based on a Swedish poem written by Carl Gustav Boberg (1859-1940) in Sweden in 1885. The melody is a Swedish folk song. British missionary Stuart K. Hine, who also added two original verses of his own composition, translated it into English. (from Wikipedia)

Amazing Grace

When on a recent cruise in the Caribbean, I was delighted to hear that one of the ports that the ship would be stopping at would be Barbados, home of my ancestors, my great, great Grandparents, T.P. Robarts, whose gravestone and memorial I had found while in Toronto last year. This tour just might help answer some of my questions as to why they left this beautiful country in order to go to Toronto.

As we toured various Caribbean Islands there was a common thread, about who had conquered the island and control of the sugar cane fields, what had happened to the indigenous peoples, the time during slavery, and the time of abolition of slavery by the various countries at differing times.

On Barbados, the bus driver knew where my great, great grandparents had lived, Walmer Lodge, and said that is now a private residence. This still did not remotely answer my questions.

We went on to several other islands, taking tours of each island to the last one, St. Kitt's. That tour was exceptional. The first bus filled and we got on the second bus at the end; a very fortunate position as I got to sit in the front seat with a very incredible 35 year old young man with dreadlocks, who was both the driver and tour guide. He (Sheldon) had such a passion and zest for life as he drove on the left side of the road. As he drove his philosophy for the care and love of his family and country unfolded. He squeezed that bus through very narrow roads, all the while telling about the sights. On a river, where the French and English had fought until all the indigenous were massacred, the river ran red with blood called Bloody Point; how the slaves had built Fort George (now a UNESCO heritage site) far on the top of a very high hill. As the story unfolded, he spoke about the slaves, he being a descendent of slaves. I had told him that my great, great Grandparents had been sugar cane plantation owners.

On the way down from the Fort, he told the story of John Newton, a captain of a ship who was bringing a shipload of slaves to the island. During a storm, the ship started to capsize. All the slaves were locked in the hold of the ship, and drowned, and eventually all the crew drowned as well. Newton eventually repented for this slaughter, had a religious conversion, and wrote the song, "Amazing Grace." Sheldon started to sing "Amazing Grace" in his beautiful Caribbean, African rhythm and everyone on the bus joined in and sang "Amazing Grace" in this beautiful cadence. Tears rolled down our faces, and we continued singing for a long while.

I thought it was right that I should apologize for any part that my ancestors may have had in slavery, if any. (I will have to check the dates of when they came to Canada.) Sheldon's response was "that was then and we are now." I had asked why my ancestors might leave there and his response was that after the freeing of the slaves it probably was not safe for them to be there.

When I got off the bus, I asked permission to tell his story, all the while thinking that it would be wonderful for him to come here and tell this beautiful story as he spoke with the passion of the National Episcopalian Bishop Michael Curry. It was obvious that we are not to forget the horrific story of the exploitation of thousands of black people in the most degrading ways. To me, this was the highlight of the trip; the singing of "Amazing Grace" with a completely new meaning and rhythm, sung by one of the descendants of the slaves.

As we consider Reconciliation in our own Diocese in the areas of relationships, creation, and justice, let us reflect on the year that we all sang "Amazing Grace" throughout the parishes of Canada. I will, with the memory of a completely new meaning, and the Grace and hug that that young man offered me!



Barbara Henshall

Announcements...



We said "Goodbye"

Nick and Liz Stoneberger and their three children, Jack, Anne and Ethan moved in January, and relocated just outside of Montreal; for a very good job opportunity for Nick. It is great for them as they are so much closer to both their families. We will miss them!

Thank you Rosalie!

Many thanks to Rosalie for her donation of two new stoves for the parish kitchen. Parish and community groups will enjoy the upgrade. It also makes our facility much more attractive to rental groups.





Baptisms—none

Weddings – none

Confirmations – none

Deaths

Stella 'Ruth' McReynolds – January 2, 2017

Pearl Schram – January 16, 2017

Robert Graves – February 10, 2017

Multi-generational Lenten Fair Proposed; Volunteers Needed!

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

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

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

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

Plant Pots Needed

If you have empty plant pots and are not using them for potting your own plans for the sale, please bring them to the back of the church and leave them by the garden shed.

Campbell River Food Bank - 1393 Marwalk Crescent, Campbell River

Hours of operation for distribution:

Monday and Friday, 11 a.m. -1 p.m. for small handouts

Regular Distribution days - First 3 Wednesdays of each month, Noon – 3 p.m.

Donations - Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Manager: Debbie Willis

Assistant Manager: George Gunville

Phone: (250) 286-3226

Email: campbellriverfoodbank@gmail.com

Weekly Schedule at St. Peter's

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

Other Monthly & Occasional Activities at St. Peter's

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

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

Lenten Food Drive	March 5 to April 7, 2017
Mothering Sunday	March 26, 2017
Palm Sunday	April 9, 2017
Holy Week	April 9 to 15, 2017
Seder Meal	'Tenative'
Good Friday Service	April 14, 2017
Easter	April 16, 2017
Plant Sale	May 6, 2017
Harvest Supper	October TBA
Book Sale	October 20-21
Parish Bazaar	November TBA

Walk softly and carry a big stick!
Especially if you are in charge of
stirring the pasta!

