



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

Vision Statement:

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

December 2018 Issue 4

Rector: Rev. Lincoln Mckoen

Office Administrator: Cathy Beise

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:

Thank you everyone for submitting your reports, articles and announcements before the deadline! I really appreciate it! This is a Spirit full of many wonderful contributions. We are a happening place with much that has been going on this fall and much to look forward to as Advent and Christmas approach. There are many ways to celebrate Advent; check out Lincoln's letter, the Sunday school project, "Reverse Advent Calendar" and just keep watch each Sunday.

On another note, this is my last issue of Spirit as the Editor. I have enjoyed the past seven and a half years as Editor and now it is time to retire. Perhaps another person will come forward with a vision for Spirit magazine. To those folks who have contributed regularly to Spirit, please, consider posting your articles on our Website or Facebook pages. Again, thank you St. Peter's for your submissions to Spirit and for your support! ☺

Jane

Reports...

Lincoln's Letter

One of the frustrating things about the Christmas season, and we hear about it often, is the rampant secularization of the season. By the time the 25th comes around, we are pretty much all Christmas-ed out.

We could easily fall into the trap of ranting or condemning forces beyond our control; we could approach the season with such haughty condescension that it reaffirms to a non-church society that we are just "holier-than-thou" as they know, or we could go with a third option: follow our own traditions.

The season of Advent precedes Christmas, as we know. So, at home, make Advent important. Get Advent calendars, get Advent devotionals to do at home, get a home Advent candle set, the options are quite plentiful.

The best way to reclaim the meaning of our seasons is to reclaim our good traditions. The Church's rhythm of life was designed for the ebb and flow of our seasons and feasts, to match the reasons why we celebrate. We build anticipation in the Advent season in the celebration to know that Christ is to be born amongst us, to make us free.

Dive into the meaning and purpose of Advent, and Christmas becomes much more than we can ask or imagine.

Lincoln

Chuck's Chatter - The New Preacher and the Section

This tale relates to a receptive multitude that was as equally small as so many other one room churches are in the rural, isolated expanse we call Canada.

A one-room church equivalent to a one-room school, but smaller, mustier and draughtier. The school was in use week long, and the church building was only used, depending on the windiness of the preacher, about two hours a week. Midweek stuff took place in the one-room school.

Because the title of this essay has the word, "section" in it does not mean that you can assume it takes place on a mile square parcel of land on the prairie. It doesn't. "Section" is used as a synonym of the English word "sexton" which the Oxford, defines as: "Officer charged with care of church and churchyard, and often with duties of parish clerk and gravedigger." The people in this God-fearing part of the country would never believe that the individual who looked after their church would be a sexton. Sex was a terrible thing and ought not to be connected in any way with the church.

A section dug the graves. I suppose in a way that does relate to the prairie section where planting goes on. The sexton/section was a rather crusty, roughly hewn character. He had never in his 70 plus years, been out of the community. He did not care what he said, how he

said it, when he said it, where he said it, or to whom he said it. I do have to say this about the man though; you always knew exactly where you stood with him!

I knew where I stood. I stood at the door of the church. He stood holding it open from the inside blocking my way into the place. Being polite, I said good morning. It seemed a logical statement, as the temperature was in the upper 70-degree range (Fahrenheit), there was not a cloud in the sky, it was a quiet Sunday morning. There did not seem to be a care in the world for me, for him, nor for anyone else in the world and certainly not for people in this tiny hamlet.

I even introduced myself. I had already made the assumption he could see my clerical collar and would have some idea why I was there at this precise hour of Sunday morning. There were people dressed in their best bib and tucker lining up behind me to enter. He looked me up and down. I thought my fly was open. I took a quick glance down to check that possible scenario and it was OK. I had a right and left shoe that matched. My socks were an even pair. What could possibly be wrong? I certainly did not know.

I felt extremely conspicuous. One feels that way going in front of a new congregation for the first time. But this was ridiculous. Was my nose bleeding? Had I lost an eye? Had I just run over his cat, or his wife? Was he having cardiac arrest? Was he hearing and vocally challenged? I was soon to find out. There was no handshake; in spite of the fact that I had and continued to hold my hand out. The first words out of his mouth were, "You damn preachers-from-away are no G___ D___ + (expletive deleted) good. Now get in here and let's get to work."

You could have knocked me over with a feather. I was so stunned I would be unable, even under hypnosis, to tell you how many were there, who was there, how many hymns we had or what colour the sky was on this beautiful cloudless sunny day at 10 o'clock the morning. I do believe that a service was held and that I led it and preached.

After he said his piece, we seemed to get along quite well, and did for several months. However, all was not to remain so. With the first bitter winter day, so came the need for this preacher-from-away to have to disagree with the long-standing local section, although I did refrain from doing so for several weeks. During the warm weather, the parishioners would all bring several pieces of wood to church each Sunday, so that by the time the north winds blew and Jack Frost arrived there would be enough British thermal units available to heat the edifice.

The section always had a "little" wood set aside in case of a bitter turn in the weather. As a result, he tended to ration the stuff rather stiffly. There was enough wood stacked up outside on two sides and behind the church to heat Westminster Abbey for ten years, but then one never knew when the next ice age might suddenly hit. His habit was to use just enough wood to take most of the frost off the stove. After suffering through this for a couple of services,

including trying to wear an arctic parka under my Alb to stay warm, I decided that something must be said.

I was discouraged from doing so by several folks who did not want ruffle the old fellow's plumage. After all, he had been the section there for almost 60 years; he knew what he was doing, and they might not be able to get anyone else to do the job.

It seems nobody had the talent for being a section. After all, it required unlocking the door for services and flashing up the old wood burner. The fact that they all had wood stoves at home did not seem to be a factor. I figure it was the lock that was the problem. Nobody had bolts or any other security devices at, in or near their homes. You just did not need such devices in a crimeless area like this. Heck, they did not know what crime was, let alone ever experience it.

So, I spoke to the fellow. I said perhaps we might possibly stoke the stove up a wee tad higher, in order to take a bit of the chill off the air. I even suggested that it might make the worship a little more comfortable. He said nothing. He looked at me with a look that insinuated that his opinion of preachers-from-away was accurate. Not only that, but his statement could be considered of the caliber of Einstein's theory of relativity. There was a slight hint at the next service, however, which gave the indication that he had taken my words to heart. As I drove towards the church, I noticed a nice pillar of smoke billowing from the chimney. In fact, the horrendous air pollution coming from the stack was totally unlike the hardly discernable wisp that had been emanating previously. The effort could have rivalled the best exhaust forthcoming from the largest steel mill in the industry.

One probable cause of the dense smoke was that this was the first time in 60 years that the creosote was burned out of the pipe. Or, should I say, expelled forcibly from the flue. When I opened the door I had the sudden feeling that I had either died, and gone to the wrong reward, or that I had suddenly joined Shadrach, Meshach, or Abednego on their journey through the fiery furnace. The stove was hot, cherry red indeed, nay it was so hot it was orange/yellow. The steel was almost transparent. The church was absolutely cooking.

The sexton was standing there with his usual stern face, but with an almost imperceptible smirk. He did not say a word. I made a comment to him that the temperature was just about right, turned around, exited the church and broke up laughing. I met a whole group of people outside and told them what was happening. I suggested that we really sweat this one out. I also hinted that it might be worthwhile to leave our coats, hats and gloves on throughout the service. We all did. Nobody said a word.

The next Sunday, the church was warmed to perfection. I never had any occasion to suggest improvements in the sectioning of the kirk after that. I left that parish some 20 months later and the sexton and I were still on good terms.

Chuck

The Spirit of Finance - Treasurers' Report

Well, here we are in November; when did that happen. It has been a full and busy year for the parish, now we have the Bazaar and the Christmas Seasons to look forward to, yes busy indeed.

Our finances are doing all right but they always need improvement. We send a big thank you out to all of you have helped with our various fundraisers. It is however; very disconcerting to think that our finances would not be what they are without the fundraisers. We would be a shadow of our former selves, striving to keep the doors open and the lights on.

Sorry to be so gloomy, but it is a reality. As a summary, here is why:

	Actual January – October	Budget January to October
Revenue		
Envelopes General & Special	\$115,098	\$132,722
Fund Raising (including the book sale)	\$13,342	\$16,666
Miscellaneous Income (Hall Rental, etc.)	\$13,401	\$11,667
Expenses		
Ministry in Parish	\$84,909	\$90,087
Administration (to run the church)	\$56,812	\$47,328
Net Income (Loss) to October 31	(\$10,282)	\$251

Our bank balance at October 31 was \$33,283. We received a large donation of approximately \$16,000 for the Syrian Refugees. We did not cut the cheque to cover this donation until November so reduce the amount in the bank account by roughly \$16,000; and to date the balance is \$17,283.

We have not included all of the categories in the above summary but wanted to give you a general overview. If you wish to see the full income statement, please let us know.

As discussed in previous Financial Reports, we encourage you to consider the Electronic Collection Plate automatic withdrawal of funds. It gives everyone peace of mind.

In Christ,
Holly and Jill

November 2018 Wardens Report

Fall has been a busy time in the life of St. Peter's! We are a very active parish!

Many thanks to all the parishioners who do such much in the daily life of our church:

Grass Roots Kind Hearts: Diana always needs our help; she is planning a very special Christmas dinner in December. Please let her know if you can volunteer. This is such a tremendous ministry for the people of Campbell River.

Our church kitchen is a very busy hub of activity with our amazing ACW Ladies preparing for our annual Christmas Bazaar. Baking, baking and more baking! Have you not been drawn in to the kitchen yet by the most scrumptious smells of their cakes, cookies and more!

Both the CR Head Injury and GRKH received cheques for \$1,100.00 from our ACW Ladies from their fundraising efforts! We are so grateful that on behalf of St. Peter's we can give the support needed to our community.

The 8:30 service has begun, and on average, approximately 15 members attend this service. It is a beautiful time of prayer and reflection.

The book sale was a smashing success! Many thanks to Jane for organizing this huge fundraiser and all who helped her make it the annual anticipated event it always is.

Hadley's delicious spaghetti dinner followed the book sale the next day and as always a wonderful evening of fellowship. Thanks so much Mr. Italiano!

Blessing of the Animals is a special service for our furry and feathered friends. Thank you to Lincoln and Tanya; and especially St. Francis of Assisi, our Patron Saint of Animals.

December brings a Healing Service organized by Sue Vickery, the Ladies Advent Breakfast organized by Pam Hedderson, our Christmas Services and our Family and Friends Christmas dinner organized by Greg Goldstone. Please remember this is his 10th year and Greg would like to have other members take over this beautiful celebration.

We still require a Deputy Warden as this position remains unfilled. I ask that you pray on this and come to us with any questions you may have regarding this role.

Many thanks to all of you for all you do for St. Peter's. We are so very grateful!

Blessings,
Bill and Pauline

Choir Notes - A 🎵 About Music

Actually, this of course will consist of words. We will save the 🎵s for the hard-working choir members on Sundays and at our regular Friday rehearsals. The following is technical, but it is important to me to attempt an explanation.

The parish council recently renewed the congregation's CCLI license. "CCLI" is "Christian Copyright Licensing International". For a yearly fee, we are legally permitted to use and print literally hundreds of thousands of contemporary Christian songs, and many "old standards"

as well. In a recent conversation with a representative of Tom Lee Music (one of Canada's largest music retailers), for example, I learned that these music dealerships will no longer stock or sell print choir music of any kind: the market for "hard copy" music of this type apparently makes this uneconomic.

It has been 25 years since I have attempted to use CCLI. The technological and repertory changes during that time have of course been enormous and I am finding the "learning curve" is steep. At this early stage, however, I have confirmed at least one experience, which remains substantially the same as during the early 1990s. Many of the CCLI-licensed songs are what I will describe as "Christian pop" music and theologically conservative texts. Labels can be dangerous, but are nonetheless helpful (if used cautiously) in working with an enormous choice of music. I do intend to stick our toes into a variety of musical styles, always with the specific concurrence of our parish priest, as I become more familiar with what is on offer. Service ("liturgical") music seems very scarce. There seems to be no music of the Taize community or of John Bell (Iona Community) available, and the words of hymn writers like Brian Wren, Thomas Troeger, and Shirley Murray are very rarely to be found. The music of Ron Klusmeier presents a special case: most of his songs are self-published and must be licensed separately (not via CCLI).

A further very practical matter arises in that most of the songs outside the top few hundred popular CCLI-available choices, come with words only, with words and guitar chords, or at most with what is called a "lead sheet" (words, chords, and tune). The former leaves any musician totally in the dark as to the music. The use of even a lead sheet is often tricky. The pianist needs to create, almost instantly, a workable harmonic and rhythmic keyboard part while presenting the melodic line to support the singing.

The choir members have been both patient and thoughtful in helping me negotiate this new experience, though the ultimate decisions about anthems and other special music remain in my hands.

We do plan to present a mixture of the new and the familiar through the Advent and Christmas seasons. Choir members and other musicians have been even more diligent than their usual high level of commitment with their time and talent over the past month to six weeks as we prepare.

The choir will take a break in our rehearsal schedule, as there will be no regular Friday afternoon practices on December 21 or 28. We will be back at it on January 4 in the New Year.

Thank you for reading this. The choir members and I wish you a blessed Christmas season.

Godspeed,
Brock Lupton
Music director

What's Been Happening...



Memorial Garden Clean-up Day - Thursday, September 13

Only two volunteers tackled a huge job.
Thank you Bill and Lance!

Council Workshop - September 15

Lincoln McKoen led the Council Workshop. The theme for the day was "Gather Transform and Send - The Purpose and Work of a Congregation."

The purpose of a congregation is to be the body of Christ and, with God's help, to create and renew the Christian folk who in turn, create and renew a world that we believe both already is and

is in the process of becoming God's own realm—a realm of forgiveness, reconciliation, justice, peace and hope. (<http://www.cdcollege.org/>)



Trina Soltys

Orange Shirt Day - September 30

St. Peter's supporters for Orange Shirt Day; coming together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. #orangeshirtday

Trina Soltys



Service of Induction - October 4



On Thursday, October 4th, Bishop Logan McMenamie officiated as Lincoln McKoen was inducted to the ministry of St. Peter Campbell River.

Thank you to all who helped to prepare, organize and celebrate this occasion!

Trina Soltys

Thank You, Altar Guild

Many thanks to the members of the Altar Guild who prepared the Sanctuary and Narthex for Thanksgiving Sunday. Thank you also to all who contributed flowers, harvest from your gardens and food items for the altar guild to use to decorate. The church looked beautiful!



Harvest Supper - October 13

We rejoiced and gave thanks to God with a blessing for a delicious Thanksgiving Harvest Supper of turkey and trimmings, ham, veggies and pies! Thank you to those who helped to organize and prepare the dinner and clean-up afterwards. This reminds me of "Rejoice always; pray continually; give thanks in all things" from Week 2 of Brooke's lessons in July, on Christianity 101.



Book Sale - October 19-20

Over 30 volunteers collectively gave over 300 hours of their time to make this the best book sale to date. Parishioners and the community of Campbell River donated good quality books and then shopped for their winter reading. The sale was well advertised with posters, radio and newspaper ads, a press release and a new banner for Dogwood Street. Customers appreciated the "Fill a Save On Bag" Book Bag Deal. We sold 70 bags for \$20 a bag. Thank you again for your support. Jane



Spaghetti Supper - October 21

Thank you, Hadley, for organizing another delicious spaghetti dinner on a Sunday evening in October. Thank you to all who helped set up, prepare and cook the dinner, serve and clean up after the event. This is a wonderful great opportunity for fellowship in our parish.



Blessing of the Animals - October 28



A menagerie of animals; several dogs, a wary cat who stayed in his cage, and couple of Guinea pigs came to St. Peter's Church, Sunday afternoon on October 28 to attend the Blessing of the Animals service in honour of St. Francis of Assisi. Their owners accompanied them and looked on while Lincoln and Tanya blessed their pet.

St. Peter's Old Fashioned Christmas Bazaar - November 23-24

Pulling off a successful bazaar is like baking a Christmas cake. First, assemble the ingredients and the bakers. Have an action plan but also be prepared to have a Plan B because life is never predictable. Ovens may have issues and bakers always do. Mix the ingredients and add double batches of love. Everything runs so much smoother with love and patience. Experience is always welcome. Allow time for flavours to blend, and make sure to have a tasting session to be sure things are just right. Remember, everyone has a favourite recipe but we need to focus on one. A successful bazaar relies on an action plan with helpers who can be flexible when required. Allow time for good preparation and make sure everyone feels included. People, like cake ingredients, all blend together to end up with success. Once again, members of St. Peter's have come together for another successful bazaar. Thank you to everyone for making this a fruitful event.

Sincerely, Lois Tirebuck and Francis Payne

St. Peter's Old Fashioned Christmas Bazaar 2018



What's Coming Up...

Sunday School - What is a Reverse Advent Calendar?

Fill a box, with an item a day, instead of removing an item a day. That is a reverse Advent Calendar. The items can be food, toiletries, stationary or clothing. Decorate a box or container, gather the 24 items during Advent, and return the Reverse Advent Calendar to the church on Sunday, December 23 for a blessing. This is a fun thing for the family to do together, and more importantly, it reminds us of the importance of helping others and of seeing the bigger picture at Christmas. After your Reverse Advent Calendar has been blessed, please take it to the charitable organization of your choice. (See lists and addresses below.)

Follow these five simple steps to start this tradition with your family:

Step 1: Start either 24 or 12 days before Christmas.

Step 2: Pick something to collect your advent calendar gifts in.

Step 3: Every day choose something from your own supplies or from a store with your family to donate to your reverse advent calendar.

Step 4: Take time to reflect and imagine who you might be helping by starting this special tradition and ask everyone to share a blessing from their life this Christmas.

Food Bank – 1393 Marwalk Crescent, just off 14th Street, in Campbellton

The CRFB is on the lookout for high protein, whole grain, lower sodium 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

There is also a shelf at the Food Bank, which has personal items from which clients may take one item. Shampoo, toothpaste, lotions, etc. are most welcome.

Transition House – 101 - 1116 Dogwood Street, in Rose Harbour (Campbell River & North Island Transition Society Office)

Hair brushes/elastics

Finger or Toenail clippers

Shampoo/Conditioner

Pens, notebooks

Socks (children and women's)

Toothpaste/toothbrushes (children's and adult)

Deodorant

moisturizers

Lip balm

clear nail polish, small bottles of polish remover

Please note, there are many other charitable organizations in town, these are just two we were able to connect with and confirm their needs.

The Sunday School Teachers

Healing Service - December 2, 4:00 p.m.

We had a lovely Healing Service on September 30. Thank you to Margaret Shea for her talk and to all who attended. The next Healing Service is on December 2.

Proposed services for next year, 2019, are as follows: March 31, June 30, September 29 and December 1.

Ladies' Christmas Breakfast - December 8

The Ladies' Advent Christmas Breakfast is on Saturday morning, December 8 in St. Peter's Church Hall. The doors open at 9:00 a.m. and breakfast, catered by On-Line Gourmet, served at 9:30 a.m. Tickets are \$20.00; \$18 for the breakfast and \$2 for Grass Roots, Kind Hearts instead of Food Bank this year. There will be Carol Singing and door prizes and lots of fun and laughter.

Purchase your ticket after church on November 18, 25 or December 2.

If you have any questions about this event please call Pam 778-420-4343.



St. Peter's Supports Grassroots/Kind Hearts - Third Tues. of the Month

St. Peter's continues to serve dinner to our homeless and vulnerable citizens, once a month, at the Radiant Life Church. If you would like to help, please contact Diana Hicks. Our next Grassroots/ Kind Hearts Dinner is **Tuesday, December 18.**

Sunday School - We are having an Advent Birthday Party for Jesus! December 23 in the Hall during the 10:00 a.m. Service

This year we are making some changes to the way we celebrate the birth of Jesus with the Sunday School children. Instead of a pageant, we have decided to learn about and celebrate the birth of Jesus with an "Advent Birthday Party for Jesus", during Sunday School, on the fourth Sunday of Advent. We plan to have a number of activities to enjoy doing with the children to teach them about Jesus's birth. Save the date for your children and grandchildren!

Christmas Services

Blue Christmas - December 2

This year I am rolling the Blue Christmas service into the December 2nd healing service at 4pm. This way, there are more opportunities for peace and healing for those who are grieving during this time of year.

Traditional 9 Lessons and Carols - December 16, 7:00 p.m.

The service follows the pattern and outline of the service that takes place yearly Christmas Eve at Kings College, Cambridge. A non-Eucharistic service, bring your friends to sing some carols!

Family Christmas Eve Service - December 24, 4:30 p.m.

A more children and youth centred service of the Eucharist.

"Midnight" Christmas Eve Service - December 24, 11:00 p.m.

To ring in the birth of Christ, a late night celebration of Christ's birth. Traditionally started at midnight, now more that it lets out after midnight.

Christmas Day Service – December 25. Please note the time is 10:00 a.m. for this service.

St. Peter's Family Christmas Dinner - December 25 at 5:30 p.m.

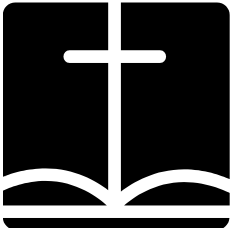
You are invited to St. Peter's Family Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day at 5:30 p.m. Many of us who attend look forward to a large family dinner at Christmas but do not have extended family in the area. This will be the tenth year that we have enjoyed Christmas dinner as one large family - singles, couples and families with children.

We have a lot of fun, great conversation, and a lot of very good food. This is an organized meal with everyone contributing something. The menu features turkey with stuffing, mashed potatoes, carrots, peas, yams, and Brussels sprouts (and great desserts).

If dinner with the family of St. Peter's appeals to you, a sign-up sheet is posted. When you sign up, we will contact you so you can let us know what you would like to contribute or if you would like to help with set-up, decorating or clean up.

I plan to be traveling next Christmas so would like to find a co-organizer this year who could take on organizing the dinner next year. If you would like more information, please contact Greg Goldstone at 250-850-1520 or email Greg_Goldstone@telus.net





Praying the Life of Jesus - Meet together with others and experience a deepening of your life in Christ

Facilitator: The Rev. Dr. Brooke Mitchell
Coho Spirituality Centre

Praying the Life of Jesus is a small group program with the goal of deepening our relationship with God in Jesus Christ. By praying daily on the assigned scripture passages - recounting the life of Jesus from his birth through his death and resurrection - we will find and be found by God in the midst of our family life and daily occupations. By sharing in a group we not only give witness to what God is doing in our life but also hear how God is working in the lives of the other members.

The only prerequisites for participation are openness and desire to grow spiritually.

Two Commitments:

- ✦ Pray for at least 20 minutes daily on the material presented and note what took place, and
- ✦ Meet weekly to participate in the group

Weekly Meetings Involve:

- ✦ Individual sharing of the past week of prayer
- ✦ Group direction and spiritual teaching
- ✦ Time of quiet prayer together

Details:

Wednesdays: 12:45 - 2:30 pm

February 20 – May 8, 2019 (12 weeks)

St. Peter's Anglican Church, Campbell River

Cost: \$160.00

(If the program fee would prove to be a financial hardship, a fee reduction may be arranged.)

Registration is limited and closes January 20, 2019

If you are interested, please email Brooke at cohospirit@gmail.com.

What's New...

Telephone Outreach

We, Jane Jennings and Bev Lawrence, felt there are some people connected to St Peter's who may like to have a friendly phone call to keep in touch on a regular basis whether it is every day, every couple of days or every week. We have started pairing people up; people who would like to receive a phone call with people who are willing to make a phone call.

This phoning program has just formally begun. We have probably missed some people who would like to have their names included on the phone list. If that is the case, please call the church office. You will be referred to Bev or Jane who will match you up with a phone buddy.

As part of a caring community, we want to make sure that people who may not make it to church regularly, who live alone or for any other reason would like regular social contact by phone, can still feel part of the church community.

If you are already part of the phoning program, please let us know how your phone contacts are working out. We hope you are benefitting from your new phone buddies.

Sincerely,
Beverly Lawrence
Jane Jennings

Poetry Corner...

Winter

When earth and trees lie barren for a season
In twilight, these days stretch like a marathon
Now nature contributes its quiet milieu
Time apart to recover, renew, review,
Entering inside, to a silent soft womb
Reminds me Jesus' birth will be honoured soon.

Jane Jennings

Articles of Interest...

Seeing Christ in Everyone We Meet

Lincoln preached on love recently, telling us that regardless of who a person is, we are to love them, for love is a choice. "Faith by love" was the watchword of the day, and we were challenged to see Christ in everybody we meet.

My daughter, Tammy, and I were able to practice Lincoln's advice one morning shortly after Remembrance Day. Driving up Ryan Road in Courtenay, we spotted a man slumped on the curb, one leg splayed out, one leg under him. "He looks like he needs help," we said to each other as we drove past. I went around the block, parked and approached the man, noticing his grey hair and weather-beaten face. His eyes looked pained, but he seemed calm and harmless.

He wore two poppies on his jacket, carried a handbag with various bits of purple and pink items sticking out, and had purple nails.

"Do you need help?"

"I got off the bus and I'm walking back to the hospital." He was worn out.

"We'll drive you to the hospital. Come on, get in the back."

"Oh thank you very much." As he got in the back seat, I saw his yellow and green socks had worked their way down past his heels.

"I'm going back to Psych. I'm crazy, but I'm not," he told us.

"Been there, done that," replied my daughter. Because he was wearing two poppies, I inquired, "Did you serve in the armed forces?"

"Yes, in 1960 and 1961." He must have been in his late 70's. He told us he lives in Campbell River, and I told him we worship in Campbell River on Dogwood, up the hill across from the Rec Centre. "I'll be there 9 o'clock on Sunday," he offered. "Ten o'clock", we corrected him. He told us his name, his address, and the story of his mother leaving Germany.

When he got out at the hospital, he expressed his thanks. "How much do I owe you?" I just smiled and shook my head, and gave him a final word, "Remember you are valuable because God loves you." I gave him a hug and he kissed me good-bye. Whether we ever see him again does not matter. Tammy and I knew at the moment that this man needed something we were able to give: love and a drive.

Martha Massey,
Courtenay, BC, November 2018

Quentin's Quest

Hello to my friends, particularly at St Peter's, but also outside.

I want to say, first of all, thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the wonderful and very welcome kindness and support you've shown to me during what turned out to be an extraordinary year, not least with the advent (and yes, I do use that word advisedly, bearing in mind the current season!) of unexpected open-heart surgery to give me a new aortic valve. But also to everyone and especially God for permitting me to get back into writing my column for Spirit and bringing me through happily to this time of year, which I've been wanting to write about as a reporter for quite a while. And, no, I was not there when everything happened; and, yes, I am one of those scribes that Jesus warned everyone about so often – at least according to the scribes that wrote about it!

Here is the potential problem for me as a reporter, taught to be as accurate as possible in reporting the words that people say. We have a Bible that regularly quoted the supposed exact words of many people, as well as angels and God, in times when there were no recorders either human or mechanical and after many translations and interpretations. It is not as though our Biblical stories of the Virgin birth and all that surrounded it are the only ones that are found in the world in various religions and legends about gods. What remains part of the miracle though is that our versions have survived through numerous wars and other efforts to stamp out anything to do with Jesus and Christianity. It really is a marvel and it continues to this day despite some schools and culture in the Western and Eastern hemispheres trying to ban children being taught anything about it. That is in part because, after all, Virgin birth really is not physically possible – right? Well, the fact of the matter is that in modern science, it is possible, and has been shown, that it is, even among humans.

Another astounding part of the story to me though is the amazing way, which both Mary and Joseph just instantly “took” the plunge and readily undertook the task, in the face of everything they were warned about, as well as all kinds of things they were not warned about but must have known they would inevitably face. Joseph could have immediately divorced Mary. And Mary's word was all Joseph had. Boy, did those two ever have immense faith, not only in God, but also in each other! It is a heck of a story, and I thank God for it and all the wonder and beauty and blessings that it has brought to the world over all the centuries.

I hope that you all, inside the church or not, have a fabulous and deeply blessed Christmas and New Year, and all the days ahead, even amid all the challenges that we know will come to us in this life, as they must have to Mary and Joseph, even in the earliest days of Jesus's life on this earth.

God bless,
Quentin Dodd
(now styling myself as the Campbell River Observer)

Primate's World Relief and Development Fund



PWRDF is celebrating 60 years of humanitarian and development work, which was initiated because of a Canadian tragedy, the Springhill Mine Disaster in Nova Scotia of that year and has been a source of hope and love throughout the world since then. Canadian Anglicans have responded to the needs of others in a most phenomenal manner! PWRDF is a member of the ACT group of many churches with trained people who respond in cases of disaster or teach development. With the 60th Anniversary a new logo has been created – a stained glass window of the world!

There are two areas of involvement that I wish to highlight.

In the November Anglican Journal there was an insert “PWRDF World of Gifts.” The giving of gifts - An animal is a unique way to assist others as the gift grows exponentially (but these gifts are not limited to just animals). As the animals multiply, they too can be given to assist their neighbours. What is exciting is that with every purchase that is marked with a red maple leaf every dollar received is matched with six dollars from Global Affairs of Canada to make up the full cost. For example, a donation of \$30 for a pair of pigs, \$180 will be matched for the actual cost of \$210. It is very rewarding to assist others in remote areas of the world as they stave off starvation and help facilitate new beginnings for families. On the PWRDF website (Google PWRDF) Primate Fred Hiltz shares his excitement for this program in a very short video. Our Primate Fred will retire at the end of General Synod 2019.

The PWRDF Christmas cards have been ordered. They will be available for a donation and if the donation is \$20 or more a tax receipt is issued. The cards are a great way of spreading the Christmas message of God’s love and assisting with the work of PWRDF. In recent years, more funds have been directed to extreme climate disasters within Canada such as the Fort “Mac” and British Columbia interior fires.

If you are interested in assisting with PWRDF, I would be very pleased! Dr. Geoff Strong, retired meteorologist and Diocesan representative arranges very interesting educational meetings for PWRDF, which you are welcome to attend!

Many Blessings to you all this Christmas! Peace!
Barb Henshall

Barb's Blog – Anglicans beyond St. Peter's

This autumn has been exceptional – busy, engaging and very interesting. Yes, I know not everyone enjoys a meeting but I find these meetings quite engaging and meaningful, as I love to learn things and to be involved in the wider world of the Anglican Church.

Provincial Synod was held at Sorrento Centre in mid-September. It was momentous that Bishop Melissa Skelton was installed as the first female Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon. Bishop Logan and Melanie Delva, Reconciliation Animator for the ACC gave several presentations on Reconciliation. The Diocese of British Columbia is unique in that we have accomplished much growth and understanding in reconciliation with the First Nation's peoples and in many other areas. Our Primate Fred Hiltz had us explore the program that he has initiated, "Heartbeat of the Church."

Diocesan Synod, which was held in late-September, is written about in both the Diocesan Post as well as on line under the 98th Synod of British Columbia. At both Provincial and Diocesan Synod I presented a motion on discontinuing single use plastics and Styrofoam before 2023 and they both carried, I think unanimously and will be used as a template for a similar resolution at General Synod 2019.

The **PWRDF** meeting at St. Peter's in Duncan in October was very engaging as well. There is a separate report on the gifts that we can be involved in as we assist those throughout the world. Bishop Logan led a session and Dr. Geoff Strong spoke on the severe climate changes that are affecting so many areas of the world.

The **Reconciliation** meeting in October with Melanie Delva, Reconciliation Animator of the ACC and Reconciliation team was very informative. This is a beginning of the reconciliation process and Melanie is a tremendous resource of information on First Nations and the Residential Schools as she was archivist for Provincial Synod and did much of the research on the residential schools for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This meeting was held at St. John the Divine in Courtenay. Sr. Brenda, Margaret Shea and her sister Bev prepared a delicious lunch.

Barb Henshall

Facebook Posts you may have missed...

"Advent Lives" - This brand new Advent resource for 2018 prepares children for Christmas through the animals in the PWRDF World of Gifts guide. Stories, prayers, candle lighting, activities, crafts -- even mad libs -- make for a fun and informative package.

https://issuu.com/pwrdf1/docs/advent_lives_sunday_school_resource?fbclid=IwAR3_7BR5Bfe6_Wy08mR34126qimWvxtDhuC1JA tq9Qe9Hgi21gcrLhh-JXU

Archbishop Fred Hiltz says ordering online at the 2018 World of Gifts is easy – and fun! He makes some great purchases in this short video, and so can you.

<https://pwrdf.org/world-of-gifts/>

Announcements...

Congratulations, Joe and Megan!

This is Maisy Kellyn Cook, born October 29, 2018.

She weighed 6 lbs. 7 oz. at birth.

Proud parents are Joe and Megan Cook.

Proud grandparents are Rod and Jill Cook.

“They are bursting with happiness,” says Jill, speaking of Joe and Megan.

Mom, Dad and Maisy are all doing well.



Volunteers Needed

We need “Event Set-Up” volunteers for table and chair set-up and takedown for parish events and rentals. If you can help with this, please contact the parish office to add your name to the list.

Pots Needed for Next Year's Plant Sale - May 4, 2019

The plant sale will need pots for next year's sale. If you are cleaning out your greenhouse or tidying up from your spring planting, gather the pots you do not need and bring them to the shed behind the church. (Your friends and neighbours are a great source for pots, too.)

Food Bank Requests

If you are planning to take part in the [Reverse Advent Calendar Project](#) sponsored by the Intermediate Sunday School Class (see page 14), please consider including the following items in your box.

Canned fish or meats

100% nut butters

Canned vegetables, pasta sauces

Whole grain breakfast cereals

Canned beans, kidney, black bean, chickpeas

Pasta and rice

Canned fruit, packed in its own juice or water

Hearty soups, stews and chili

Spring Diocesan Women's Retreat - April 5 - 7, 2019, Camp Pringle

The theme of the retreat is “Knitted into the Mystery.” Facilitators are Dawna Wall and Annalise Wall with Spiritual Direction, Elizabeth Welch. It will introduce us to new friends, or renew our friendships with others, including some of the women mystics such as Hildegard Mechtild, Teresa as well as women of the Bible including Ruth and Naomi, Mary and Martha. You are encouraged to bring your knitting, or cross-stitch or other projects as we contemplate the work of our hands, hearts and minds and how this too, is a Trinity.

Weekly Schedule at St. Peter's

Monday	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Library - resumes in September
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	ACW Fellowship - resumes in September Noon Eucharist Mindfulness – breaks June 27 – August 1
Friday	3:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Choir - resumes in September

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 2:30
4 th Sunday of the Month	Service alternating between Yucalta (2:00 p.m.) and New Horizons (2:00 p.m.)

Notable Future Dates:

(Please check St. Peter's website and Facebook pages for information on future events.)

Advent 1; Healing Service/Blue Christmas (4:00 p.m.)	December 2
Ladies Christmas Breakfast, St. Peter's Hall (9:00 a.m.)	December 8
Advent 2	December 9
Advent 3; Traditional 9 Lessons and Carols for Christmas (7:00 p.m.)	December 16
Grass Roots/Kind Hearts Dinner (5:00 p.m.)	December 18
Advent 4; Advent Birthday Party for Jesus (Sunday School)	December 23
Reverse Advent Calendars blessed (10:00 service)	December 23
Christmas Eve Family Service (4:30 p.m.)	December 24
"Midnight" Christmas Eve Service (11:00 p.m.)	December 24
Christmas Day Service (10:00 a.m.)	December 25
Christmas Dinner St. Peter's Church Hall (5:30 p.m.)	December 25

