



ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH | THE CONTACT

Connecting with your parish family • May 2020

CLARA'S CORNER

You've probably heard the joke: How many Anglicans does it take to change a light bulb? The answer: Change???

I don't know about you, but these past 2 months have felt like a whirlwind of change at so many levels. We have had to completely re-think everything that we do. This has included even how we manage the grocery store aisles. I was part way down an aisle when someone gave me a sour look and I wondered why. It was not until I got to the end of the row that I suddenly realized there were new directional arrows taped to the floor and that every row was now a one way street. So much for my good observation skills! I was too busy trying to get in and get out as quickly as possible, only to discover that everything had changed and there was a new reality that I needed to slow down and pay attention to.

The same thing has happened to our church. Nothing is the same and we have had to slow down and pay

attention to how we do everything. There is no quick fix. Everything has changed in spite of our efforts to resist any kind of change. The reality is we are still not sure how things will look in the months to come. We know that some of the restrictions in the larger community will be relaxed over the next while, but there continues to be a clear message of no large gatherings for now. Our leadership team including the wardens, parish council and our worship planning team have all been reviewing various scenarios and options for when we are allowed to come into our facility again. The way forward continues to remain fuzzy and has the feel of yet more change and new realities of how we will be able to gather as a worshipping community.

We could easily get overwhelmed by all the change or we can choose to slow down and pay attention to what God is teaching us in this new reality. No, I don't believe God "caused" this pandemic, but God is always with us, teaching and guiding us in all circumstances. Could we see

Peek Inside

Clara's Corner	1
Prayer Shawl	2
Nova Scotia Vigil	2
A Spring Peony	3
ACW Update	4
Office Update	6
Bishop Retires	6

this change in a different light? Is it possible that this new reality is offering us a chance to turn our attention more deeply to God's desire for us and our parish? Maybe the issue is not that everything has changed. Maybe it's more about our "becoming". How we are being transformed and renewed into the people that God has called us to be at this unique time and place. We might ask ourselves: what are we becoming? What is the work and mission that we are preparing for?

CLARA'S CORNER CONT.

There may not be obvious directional arrows on our path, but God is most surely showing us the way.

Be encouraged my friends:

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Romans 12:1-2 NRSV

In Christ's Service, Clara+

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We are excited to report that thanks to Yvonne's tenacity the Prayer Shawl Ministry has successfully had its first meeting online through Zoom!

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets twice a month, on the 1st and 4th Thursday from 1PM– 2:20 PM in two back to back 40 minute Zoom meetings.

New members are always welcome, so if you would like to join in this ministry you can send an email to the Yvonne Oliver, ministry chair, at: olivery@telus.net

WORSHIPPING ONLINE

We can celebrate the ongoing success of our online worship services, as we continue to use Zoom to connect together in worship and fellowship.

If you need any help learning how to get onto Zoom please don't hesitate to reach out to the Church office for some mentorship from Alicia, our Acting Parish Administrator.

If you wish to join a service just email the office at:

admin@stpaulsnanaimo.ca

Regular Online Worship Services

Morning Prayer:

Monday-Friday 8:30 AM

Contemplative Prayer:

Monday nights 7:00 PM

Liturgy of the Word:

Sundays, 10AM

9AM Coffee Hour:

Hosted before the 10 AM service



NOVA SCOTIA VIGIL

Thank you to everyone who took time to participate in the recorded Vigil that Ven. Clara officiated in the wake of the recent tragedy in Nova Scotia.



The Vigil was created with only Ven. Clara and a recorder in the building, and shared online, so that any of those in need could have it available. With that in mind, the vigil was viewed over 420 times, and we received notes of thanks both locally and from those living in the directly affected communities.

Some notes of thanks shared:

"Thank you for thinking of us. Lovely thoughts, words and prayers. I can only respond with tears. It has been such a sad and stressful time. Thank you again, -D"

"A very fitting tribute. Blessings. Thanks be to God. -C"

"We can't gather, but we can still pray together. Thank you for reminding me that God is still here. -J"

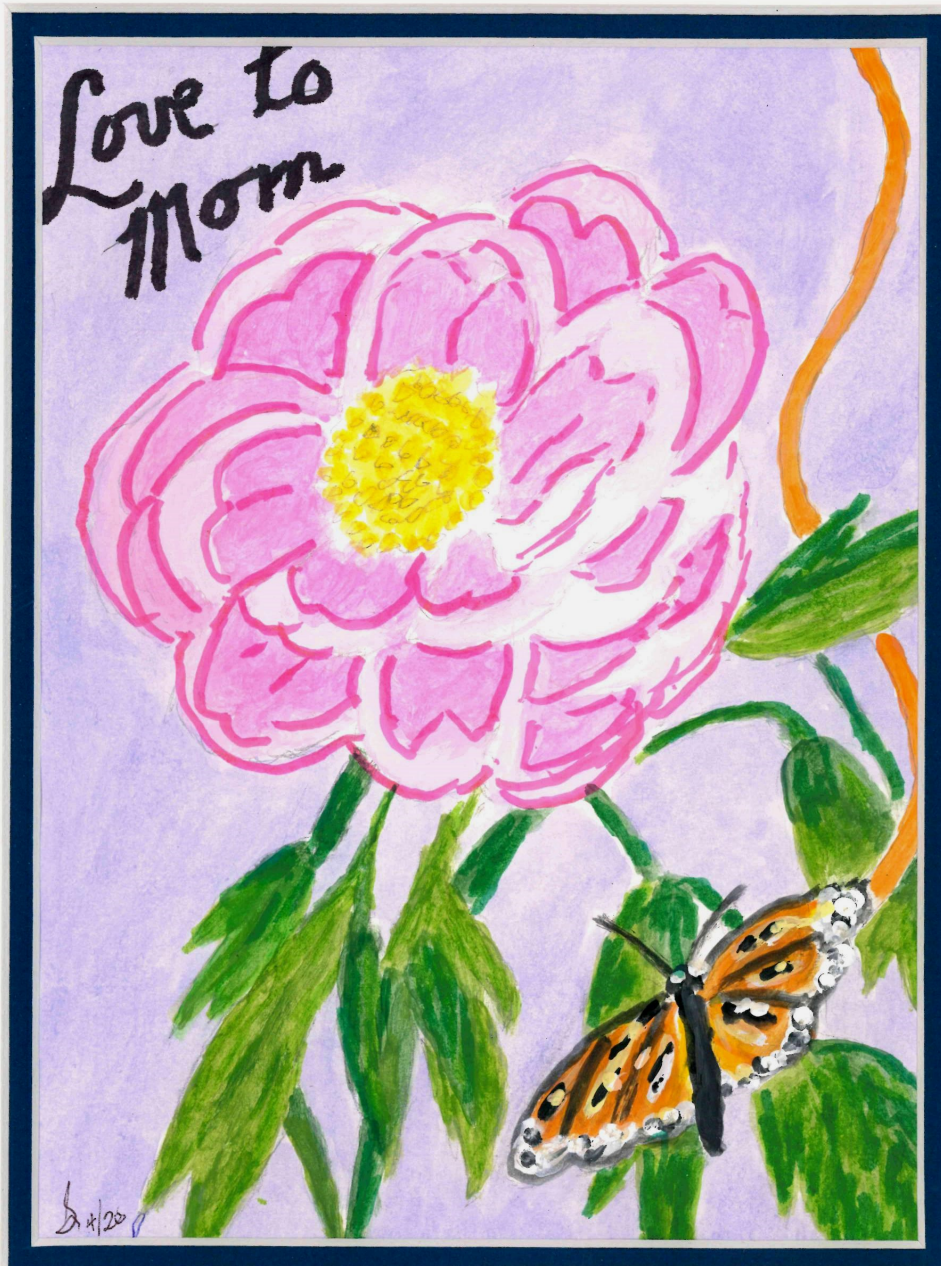
"We were quite touched by the presentation and will forward the video link to some other folks around here. We are happy that you belong to such a wonderful Parish that also has such a thoughtful Pastor. Please pass on our thanks to your Pastor and the other members of the Parish who helped with the video. Peace and Blessings.

- C + A"

A MOTHER'S DAY TRIBUTE

This beautiful peony was painted in acrylic by our very own Shirley Strong. She painted it specially for this May Contact, and wishes to dedicate it to all the Mothers in our parish, near or far.

Happy Mother's Day!



A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you to everyone who came out and participated in Blanche's drive-by birthday parade! It was a very special moment for Blanche and her family as she celebrated her 102nd birthday!



MORNING PRAYER

Necessity being the mother of invention, we are learning new ways to be church – most of them involving Zoom. Morning Prayer is no exception. We are meeting as usual, at 8:30 am on weekday mornings, but from the comfort of our own homes.

One benefit of our new system is that Sandra MacKinnon is able to join us from Fort MacMurray, and she has asked to have a friend of hers in Fort Mac added to the invitation list. We may not be able to meet in person, but this technology allows us to see and hear each other and pray together even over great distances.

If you would like to join us – either daily or on occasion – please let the office know, and we will add you to the invitation list. All are welcome.

Sandra Leigh
Deputy Rector's Warden

ACW UPDATE

Greetings to all the ACW members. During May, we are hoping to collect bars of ivory soap and warm women's and men's socks for the Dorcas bags. We are hoping that you will hold onto these items until the church reopens.

Carol Shaw has bags of wool kits to make clothing for the Dorcas ministry. If you would like to help knit for us, please contact her at 250- 758-2795, and she will be delighted to deliver a kit or kits to you.

We have had a wonderful assortment of hats, scarves and blankets so far. There is still a need for mittens and sweaters.

This month we celebrated Chris Appleton's birthday on April 27th, and Mary Jackson's birthday on May 7th. As well, on May 7th we celebrate Blanche Gates birthday. She has made it to 102! What an achievement!

Speaking of birthdays, I would like to thank Mary Jackson for all the sunshine cards she has sent so far on behalf of the ACW. Mary tells me she is in need of more "thinking of you" cards. If anyone has some to spare, she would gratefully accept them.

Many thanks to all the members who call and check up on friends and help deliver supplies to them.

Blessings to all,

Marilyn Browning,
ACW Chair

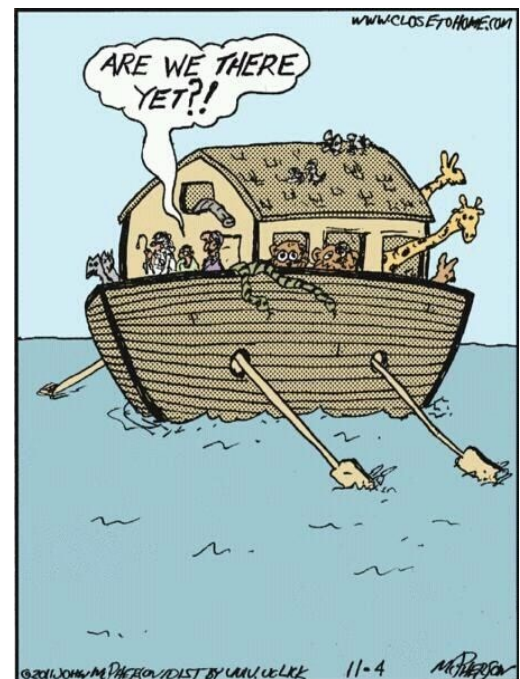
COFFEE HOUR!

As you may well know, there is coffee hour every Sunday morning at 9AM, preceding the 10 AM Sunday Zoom service. This coffee hour has provided a lighthearted way for so many of us to gather in fellowship. To join this pre-service coffee fellowship just email the office at:

admin@stpaulsnanaimo.ca and you will receive an email invitation each week!

Would you like to host your own Zoom meeting? Reach out to the office and we can help!

A LITTLE LAUGH



The famous question is asked for the first time.

A PRAYER FROM OUR PWRDF MINISTRY

PRAYER *for a Pandemic*

(Prayer for a Pandemic (from St. Paul's Church, Lexington, Ken.;
Shared by the Primate, Archbishop Linda Nicholls)

*May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.*

*May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.*

*May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.*

*May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close,
Remember those who have no options.*

*May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no safe place to go.*

*May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.*

*May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.*

*As fear grips our country,
Let us choose love.*

*During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours.*

Amen.

OFFICE UPDATE

In many ways we can see a glimmer at the end of the tunnel for our time working from home. We have begun the brainstorming phase, as we plan for what Summer and Autumn will look like for our parish, our building. In that sense we have seen an influx of our Community Groups reaching out to discuss the “after” of this time of social isolation. Bookings are starting to be requested for in the fall, and our job now is to ensure that we tread lightly, as we set up a sustainable approach to ensuring the ongoing health and safety of all who use our facility.

In support of the ministry of the Church we have offered those parking lot tenants who may be off work or financially struggling the option to suspend the use of their spot temporarily. Although we have a Contract we acknowledge the importance of supporting and offering relief to those who we can help. Along the same lines Ven. Clara and I will be continuing the Thrifty Food Card ministry on the 3rd Tuesday in May. When we stood out front of the Church in April with gloves, masks, and social distancing markers, we found there was a great community need. Again in May, we will be handing out over \$300 in \$10 food cards. Thank you to those who specifically donate to this ministry.

Personally I have found great joy in being able to help some of our parishioners get online. I myself have learned new skills, such as using a tech support program that allows for screen sharing. This program allows me to use your mouse, so that we can look at and access the same comput-

er screen while still being in our own homes. Every time I learn about a new program like that I feel like I must be living in a sci-fi novel! Technology is truly amazing, and we all have something to learn.

Regards,

Alicia Vanin
Acting Parish Administrator

LETTER WRITING MINISTRY

The first meeting the Letter Writing Ministry will be happening in the coming week. Those involved in this ministry write letters through Amnesty International to officials who are in a position to end a human rights violation, as well as writing letters of Christian comfort directly to people wrongfully detained or targeted for their human rights work.

If you are interested in joining the ministry for the first meeting please contact Sandra Leigh at:

sandara.bc@gmail.com
or by phone at 250 618-0269

SPRING IS HERE!

The tulips have sprung up in the Church garden beds. If you're able go for a little drive and take a peek!



BISHOP RETIRES



On May 1st Bishop Logan McMenamie celebrated his 70th birthday which marked the end of his 6 year tenure as bishop of our diocese. His legacy will most certainly include his steadfast commitment to reconciliations work particularly with indigenous communities across our diocese.

Many at St. Paul's will remember +Logan as a seminarian student as he came to us as a part of his internship and training while studying at VST. We do give thanks to God for his faithful service and ministry in our diocese and pray for him and Marcia as he begins a new chapter. We now enter a season of transition under the guidance of the Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Reverend Ansley Tucker, who will be our Diocesan Administrator. The initial plan was to have an Episcopal election at the end of June, and unfortunately that has now been delayed due to the current restrictions. Plans continue to be made and that information will be communicated as soon as they are able.

The best way to keep informed is to regularly check the diocesan website at:

<https://bc.anglican.ca/collections/electoral-transition>.

Here you'll find proposed timelines, nomination process and information for candidates, profile of the diocese, and who the synod delegates are.

NEWS



FROM OUR REGION



Visit us on Facebook!
[FB.com/stpaulsnanaimo](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsnanaimo)



Check out our website!
stpaulsnanaimo.ca



Join our email list!
Email: admin@stpaulsnanaimo
to receive our weekly Friday File!



Liminal Spaces

It is when we are betwixt and between, have left one room but not yet entered the next room, any hiatus between stages of life, stages of faith, jobs, loves, or relationships. It is that graced time when we are not certain or in control, when something genuinely new can happen.....Much of the work of the biblical God and human destiny itself is to get people into liminal space and to keep them there long enough to learn something essential and genuinely new. It is the the ultimate teachable space.

Richard Rohr

CONTACT US

PARISH REMOTE OFFICE HOURS:
9AM—12noon
Monday—Friday

OFFICE PHONE:
250 753 2523

EMAIL:
admin@stpaulsnanaimo.ca