



ST. PAUL
ANGELICAN CHURCH | **THE CONTACT**

Connecting with your parish family • Fall 2021

CLARA'S CORNER

The mornings have been quite chilly lately. It has meant having to turn on the heat for a bit to get the damp chill out of the air. It doesn't take long, but soon the room is warm and comfortable as the day begins. Years ago, while living on a ranch between Dawson Creek and Fort St. John we had to light a fire in the pot-belly stove first thing in the morning. If you were lucky, you might be able to catch a few embers still glowing in the bottom of the stove. I don't know which was easier, stirring up the embers or starting a fire from scratch.

Either way, it took patience to get the fire going. I always liked looking for hot embers and gently blowing to see how they glowed brightly. If you blew too hard you were at risk of extinguishing the embers. Just enough fanning would allow the flame to return and if you were quick enough you could toss in a few twigs, and soon larger pieces of wood.

I didn't always appreciate having to do this daily morning ritual but knew that the house would remain cold without the warmth of the fire. Once the fire was going, the stove radiated this lovely heat that worked its way throughout the house. As long as we kept stoking the fire, the house would stay warm and inviting.

It reminds me of our spiritual life. Much like a fire in a stove or fireplace, it requires some regular and daily attention. If we keep the embers of our faith alive, we continue to learn how to experience God's presence.

Our spiritual life requires nourishment to grow and to remain active and dynamic. This means seeking opportunities for learning, reading the scriptures, connection with others who are on this wondrous God journey, and service to others. These are the embers, twigs and branches that feed the fire of our souls, God's Holy temple.

Peek Inside	
Clara's Corner	1
Warden's Report	2
Gardens & Grounds	3
Treasurer's Report	4
ACW	5
Prayer Shawl	6
TRC Reflections	7 & 8
PWRDF	9

A sense of community and connection with God doesn't just happen on its own. When we fail to tend the spiritual embers in our life, we can feel disconnected and distanced from God and others. The good news is that God is faithful and eager to help fan the flames of our hearts, stirring up embers of possibility. How will you keep the embers of hope and faith alive?

Clara +

WARDEN'S REPORT

Dear Friends, How wonderful to be back in our church again, maybe sitting in your favourite pew - not quite mingling, but having the opportunity to meet and give a Thumb's Up, elbow greeting, or garden gathering with friends as our way of connecting.

As the Dog Days of Summer have slowly faded, I'm guessing our air conditioners and fans are now in storage, as we had experienced a severe heat wave this summer. A usual day at the beach to enjoy the sand and surf became a necessity to keep cool, as many other ways were invented according to need. It clearly reminds us of Global Warming.

As I was doing my walk through of the church last Tuesday, I was startled for a moment as I approached downstairs. I did not expect to see people, but realized it was to 7-10 Club providing Thanksgiving dinners to our community. The flurry of people gathering in our hall as they sat to enjoy a meal was good to see. Our Food Share Group every Monday is providing nutritious meals also to our community. I am so glad our kitchen has reopened (with protocols) to such caring groups as we continue to support each other.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

**Our Marketplace is returning
Saturday, November 27th!**

It will be virtual, as last year. We are once again looking for gift certificates, handicrafts, jams and jellies, as well as gift items. (Remember that gifts have to be new and in their original wrapping.) I am also told there will be surprises??? We

had a very successful year in 2020, and I know we can repeat that success in 2021. For more information, call Kathy McRae at 778-268-3784.

The official day of Thanksgiving may have passed, but our Thanksgiving to God is never ending. While it has been another challenging year, we only need to look outside and see the ever changing colours of autumn. In some ways, it feels like a rejuvenation as our lawns are green again and the flowers and trees have had a second chance to bloom. Just maybe it's our time to bloom and rejuvenate, to count our blessings, and always thank God for what is good. To quote Reverend Clara, "We will get there!"

Heather Lester

Deputy People's Warden

A LITTLE LAUGH



MUSIC & TECH REPORT

We have been livestreaming Church services for over a year now. At the same time, we have been without a choir because we have not been able to sing inside the church.

This has been a difficult time for everyone.

To livestream, St. Paul's has acquired new audio/visual equipment so as to reach out to as many people as possible during this pandemic. This has created a fast learning curve to figure out what equipment and computer programs are needed to present our church services online. We have also been able to create pre-recorded video presentations for our livestream production.

I would like to thank all those who have helped to make these livestreamed services a reality, and as we are able we will be adding more music to the service. I hope to start training an assistant operator soon.

Starting with Thanksgiving Sunday, I hope to start one person singing the Psalm at the 10:30am service. Unfortunately, the congregation will not be able to sing along for now. I will be looking to those choir members who feel comfortable coming into the Church to volunteer to sing on Sunday. Singers can contact me to schedule a Sunday.

We have been able to reach out to many with our livestreaming service and plan to continue this ministry in the future.

Charles Harman
Music Director

ST. PAUL GARDEN IN AUTUMN



GARDEN REPORT

This past summer was challenging for St. Paul's garden, as it was for many home gardens. The combination of extreme heat and a poorly functioning irrigation system meant that the grass turned very brown, and some flowers and two small shrubs died. We are very grateful for Brian Humber's efforts to fix the irrigation system when the irrigation company never answered our calls. We also thank Heather Lester for doing some hand watering. With the arrival of the rains, the grass is mostly green and the flowers and shrubs are recovering. Resurrection right before our eyes!

We are having difficulty keeping up with the garden due to other demands on our time. A couple more garden volunteers would help to spread the load.

No experience is necessary, as training is provided.

If you would like to learn more about gardening, and can volunteer a bit of time to come and help support our ministry, please contact the parish office.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Roberts and Phyllis Horn
Garden Ministry Organizers

WORSHIP UPDATES

Now that our in-person worship services have resumed for about a month, we wanted to take a moment to say WELCOME to all of our newcomers! We are excited to look towards the future as we rediscover and reshape what it means to worship together in a blended online and in-person community. We know that not everyone is quite comfortable yet joining us for in-person worship, and that's okay. We all need to walk at our own pace. For those who are attending in-person, please try and bring a mask. However, if you forget, don't fret! —you can ask the office for a disposable one. Please see all our worship options below:

Regularly Scheduled Worship Services

Morning Prayer:

Monday-Friday 8:30 AM — Zoom
**excluding stat holidays*

Contemplative Prayer:

Monday nights 7:00 PM — Zoom

11 AM Mid-Week Service—BCP

Wednesday — *in person only*

8AM Holy Communion—BCP

Sundays — *in person only*

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—BAS

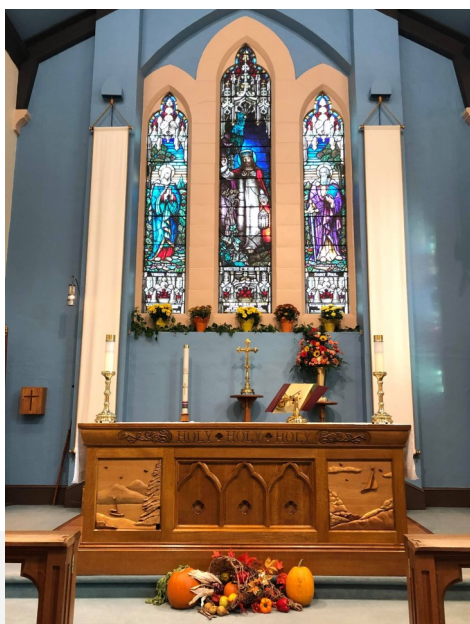
Sundays — *Livestream & in person*

After-Service Fellowship

Sunday after each service — *outside*
**weather permitting*

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

Thank you to our Altar Guild and volunteers for decorating the Church for Thanksgiving Sunday, and also to all those who helped through donations as well!



TREASURER REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT TO END OF AUGUST 2021

After nearly eight full months of being closed. Here is the summary of our financial picture.

Year-to-Date Budget:

YTD Budget	\$161,653
YTD Budget	<u>\$198,622</u>
	<u>(\$36,969)</u>
2020 Carryover	<u>(\$13,528)</u>
TOTAL	(\$50,497)

Year-to-Date Summary:

Income	\$169,674
Expenses	<u>\$193,077</u>
Subtotal	<u>(\$23,403)</u>
2020 Carryover	<u>(\$13,528)</u>
TOTAL	(\$36,931)

As you can see the year-to-date deficit is less than we had budgeted to the end of August 2021. This is mainly due to the \$23,809.11 which we received from the Federal Government's COVID-19, Canada Employment Wage Subsidy. Without that subsidy we would be looking at \$60,740 year-to-date loss.

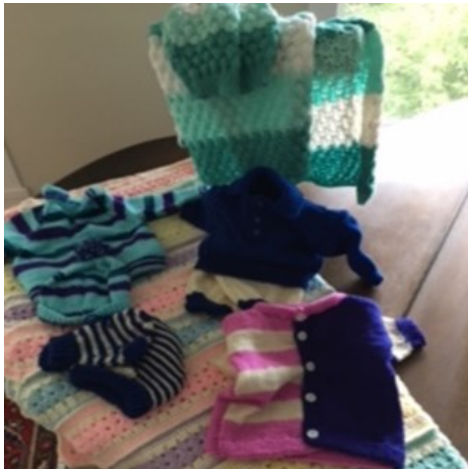
Thanks to everyone in the Parish who have continued their giving during this most difficult time.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Gillett – Treasurer

ACW REPORT & PHOTOS

The ACW members continue to meet each month on zoom. We have been busy collecting toiletry items to turn into Joy bags to be sent to five northern parishes. These items, as well as knitted sweaters, hats, mittens, slippers, scarves, blankets and warm pyjamas (Norma Humphries and Lynn Affleck had fun shopping for them), will go a long way to help many families enjoy the Christmas season. Everything we have collected will be packaged with items from other island ACW groups at St. John's Anglican, in Duncan on Tuesday October 26th. Elaine Collison-Baker and Carol Shaw will be involved with this activity. We would like to thank all those parishioners who have donated money, knitted goods, and toiletry items for this worthy cause. Joy bags will also be ready to hand out with the Grocery cards to needy persons in our own church community this December.



Many thanks go to the faithful members who have participated in our group so far this year. Special thanks to our secretary, Joy Adams Bauer, Treasurer, Sue Gueulette, Sunshine card coordinator, Mary Jackson, Devotional leader, Patricia Sheen, Zoom Hostess, Andrea Biener and Prayer leader, Mary Jane McLaughlin for their strong commitment to ACW. Many thanks to Isabel Murray, Amy Fleming, Elaine Collison-Baker, Chris and Melanie Appleton, Yvonne Oliver, Donna-Lee Criss and Carol Shaw, and others, for the beautiful knitted items they have donated. Thanks also to Rev. Clara for ordering the church calendars. They will be available for purchase in the near future. Please check the church bulletin for the details. There are three dates that you might add to your calendars. Satur-

day October 25, Marilynne Mark will be presented with the Diocesan Order of British Columbia at 10:30 at the cathedral in Victoria. This event will be live-streamed for those who wish to see this special ceremony.

On Friday November 19th online via zoom from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm is a Diocesan-wide free online event entitled Sacred Cloth: Textiles of Faith. It is a workshop at the crossroads of art and religion. Susan Purney Mark is an artist, designer, and teacher who has studied in England and the US, and who has won awards in her textile designs. Pre-registration is required. Check out the following link through the diocese for further information: <https://bc.anglican.ca/events/sacred-cloth-textiles-of-faith>

On Sunday November 21st (the last Sunday before the first day of Advent) we wear white ribbons in honour of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence. Also, ribbons are worn from Nov. 25th to Dec. 10th. Those who wear ribbons pledge never to commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women and girls. Our annual ACW elections will take place at our December 1st meeting. Hopefully we will be able to meet in person by that time.

The ACW always welcomes new members. Please contact Joy Adams Bauer or Marilyn Browning if you would like to participate.

Blessings this Thanksgiving,

Marilyn Browning
ACW President

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry group has contributed 280 prayer shawls that include each child baptized in the church also receiving one. We will be celebrating our eighth anniversary when we return to the church for our meetings.

On behalf of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, I would like to thank Sue McDonald and Sandra Leigh for their donations of yarn to the Prayer Shawl.

This is a relaxed time of fellowship and prayer, all while working on your favourite patterns in knitting or crocheting.

If you love to knit or crochet with a purpose, join us on Zoom every first and third Thursday of each month.

If you have any questions, please contact

Yvonne Oliver
250-754-8614

PRAYER SHAWL PHOTO



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

On October 3rd our parish held a special outdoor service for our annual Blessing of the Animals.

We had 9 dogs in attendance, and one 18 year old cat!
(along with 18 humans)



A REFLECTION ON THE READING OF THE TRC REPORT'S 94 CALLS TO ACTION

As someone whose first and formative career was as a researcher, writer and editor in print journalism and broadcasting, I'm accustomed to as coolly as possible discovering the facts when covering an event.

A few days after Canada's first official Truth and Reconciliation Day, however, our Rector Clara asked me to reflect on the two events of September 30 2021 held at St Paul's.

-At 1 o'clock, four congregation members stood or sat for about ninety minutes, not far from the church's front door, reading aloud the ninety-four Calls to Action, the summary recommendations from the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Four more people sat or stood with them, keeping silence.

-At 3:30 twelve of us met with Clara in the parish hall to begin a six-week study of a novel, *Five Little Indians*, written by Canadian Indigenous author Michelle Good, and published in 2020.

Clara asked me to share with you, the readers of *The Contact*, how I felt – my feelings – at these two events, updating to include the book study's second session the following week. Reconstructing, and shifting to present tense, here's how my feelings moved.

1:00. Four others have volunteered, or been asked, to read. We will hear them with no comment or intervention, except for this announcement before the readings begin: Six years ago (2015) when

the Truth and Reconciliation Commission delivered its summation, these same ninety-four calls to action were read aloud publicly. In the same way, in the same place. We are being asked to listen, and to think: What has changed? What progress, if any, has been made during these six years?

This listening is affecting me differently than merely silently reading the words on a page. Differently than hearing so many news reports over the years on apparent achievements – or, just as frequently, flash-points – in the relationship between those of us of settler origins (including more recent immigrants), and the Indigenous peoples.

This listening, outdoors in an unseasonably cold wind as the rain begins, brings up resonances of our history: long ago, and very recent. One reader, then another, and at length a third and a fourth reader are taking over from each other this public reading aloud of recommendations. These recommendations address various dimensions of this country's governance: federal government, provincial government, municipal and regional bodies. Also entities, professions and groups are addressed that hold and exercise policy-setting and enforcement authority: The courts, justice, penal systems, social welfare, and those that oversee health and education.

The words I hear now are ringing with underlying reproach (regarding many treaty obligations unmet or ignored) and careful legal language

seeking to address much of what is problematic, crippling, injurious.

-Including those missing and murdered – largely Indigenous women.

-And those gone missing and unaccounted for, whose bodies are suspected (as of 2015) to be somewhere near the former Indian Residential Schools – unknown numbers of children.

Horror stirs sharply in me. I know that as of 2021, with ground-searching radar being used on the grounds of a few of the hundreds of former Residential Schools, children's remains are being found. Recent news has galvanized this country, for so far this year the bodies of nearly one thousand children have been discovered in two locations. I feel this news, in the beating of my blood, in shivers of grief that have nothing to do with the rain and wind we stand in.

Issues in reconciliation open up. Although the subject matter is not easy, I find it easier to breathe, and deeply. A new word starts to be heard. As a verb, collaborate. As a noun, collaboration. Though not named as such, hope is moving through these later calls for action, addressing the leadership of key cultural institutions. Collaboration is sought between those of settler heritage and Indigenous peoples in education, libraries, museums and archives, various media including broadcasting, and the churches. There are calls for full and accurate historical records to be kept, and for professionals of every sort including teachers to be taught previously un-

REFLECTION CONTINUED

known histories of settler and Indigenous contact. The learning of empathy and compassion is mentioned, and respect for Indigenous languages, cultures, faith, and ways of knowing.

This personal reflection does not give you a completely exhaustive account of the ninety-four Calls for Action, as read and freshly heard September 30. By the end of the reading, I felt that light and hope were breaking in upon us, in terms of a broader receptivity among the whole population to: Learning truth. Yearning for reconciliation.

Hundreds of people of very many heritages were moving through the downtown area, most wearing orange, for this has been marked for several years more informally as Orange Shirt Day in solidarity with Residential School students who customarily had all their own clothing taken away from them on entering those institutions, their hair cut or shaved away, their own languages and personal connections forbidden. Some of those who passed our group paused, heard what was being voiced, smiled, waved. One man of middle years climbed the path to stand with us for most of that ninety minutes. Let us see what happens in the next twelve months, in our hearts, and in our wills for action.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Pat Horrobin

SEPT 30 TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION OBSERVATIONS



St. Paul Anglican Church members reading the Truth and Reconciliation Report's 94 call-to-actions.



Participants at the first session of a 6 week book study on the novel *Five Little Indians*.

PWDRF REPORT

St Paul's has been a welcoming new spiritual home to me, as I am new to Nanaimo. Arriving from northern Vancouver Island on October 5th, 2020 I had much to be thankful for. Ven. Clara reached out to me, and learned of the lay services and work I had previously done, including my work as parish representative for PWDRF in another Church. So, she introduced me to Janice Valcourt.

Janice has been your faithful, hard working representative for many years, and has decided to retire from this role. Janice and Ven. Clara asked me to assume the work this fall, and I'm glad Janice will be working with me as I take it on.

Communication today often depends on a computer, but even if you don't have one please reach out to me if you have questions. You can also leave a written note or message for me at the office. For those with a computer, you can keep current on project here:

pwdrf.org/subscribe

To receive a regular newsletter.

WORLD OF GIFTS

The Christmas gift catalogue is here!

GIFT IDEA: SHARING FOOD

"Sharing Food" is as cookbook of recipes and stories from around the world.

All gifts must be ordered by November 25th in order to ensure they will be received by Christmas.

FOR ORDERS:

Call 1.877.936.9199

Or online pwdrf.org/worldofgifts

PWDRF CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE BACK FOR 2021!

To order yours go to:

pwdrf.org/christmascards2021

There are two designs, shown below. The Inside message, Christmas in peace, is written in Obji-cree, Inuktituk, and the 5 languages of the Lambeth Conference.



Finally, I was asked to share a portrait of myself, so that you can get to know me. Here it is!



Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Foster

PWDRF Representative

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

During this Covid time, the Contemplative Prayer group has continued to meet each Monday evening at 7:00 pm via Zoom. I find this time to be so very important in my life. Sometimes I feel unsettled by the many issues and concerns that we have all faced and continue to face in this very different time. For me, the contemplative time allows me to pause and to move into the presence of the "Divine". Our lives are crammed with distractions. We seem to be always on the go or instantly available to others and the world's news, pulling us away from reflective quiet times. This quiet time nurtures my soul.

Our contemplative time begins with listening to a short musical selection, followed by a reading of a passage of scripture, and twenty minutes of silence. Music pulls us out of our quiet time, followed by the reading, and the Lord's Prayer. The time spent is about 30 minutes.

If you would like to be part of this Monday evening time, please let me know and I will contact you. We welcome all who are interested in this contemplative time. The coordinators are Sandra Leigh and Les Annesley.

Contact for Les Annesley is at:
250-758-2080 or at inisfail@shaw.ca

Respectfully Submitted,

Les Annesley

Contemplative Prayer

NEWS



FINAL NOTES

God of rising sun, embrace us
God of mist and rain, refresh us
God of flowing stream, revive us
God of gentle breeze, speak to us
God of day and night-time, hear us
God of tears and laughter, bless us
God of love and power, uphold us
Your children and our family, we pray

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Email:

admin@stpaulsnanaimo



CONTACT US

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

9AM—12noon

Monday—Thursday

OFFICE PHONE:

250 753 2523

EMAIL:

admin@stpaulsnanaimo.ca