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Lucas receives the water of baptism.



Lucas is welcomed into the Body of Christ.



The font.



Jack is marked as Christ's own.



Jack is welcomed into the Body of Christ.

Episcopal Visit to St. Cuthbert's, North Delta: Photo Feature
(MORE ON PAGES 10 & 11) Here are five beautiful photos by Wayne Chose chronicling the Baptisms of Jack Stevens Wilson and

Lucas Judah Augustine. The Baptisms were part of the Eucharist on March 20, Lent IV. Bishop John Stephen's was visiting his parish of St. Cuthbert, Delta for their patronal festival day. ✠

Archdeacons With Diocesan Roles Announce Retirement Dates

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The two archdeacons with diocesan roles: Executive Archdeacon and Archdeacon of Vancouver, the Ven. Douglas Fenton; and Archdeacon for Deacons, the Ven. Bruce Morris have both announced their intention to retire.

Archdeacon Morris will retire, May 31, 2022, and Archdeacon Fenton on January 4, 2023.

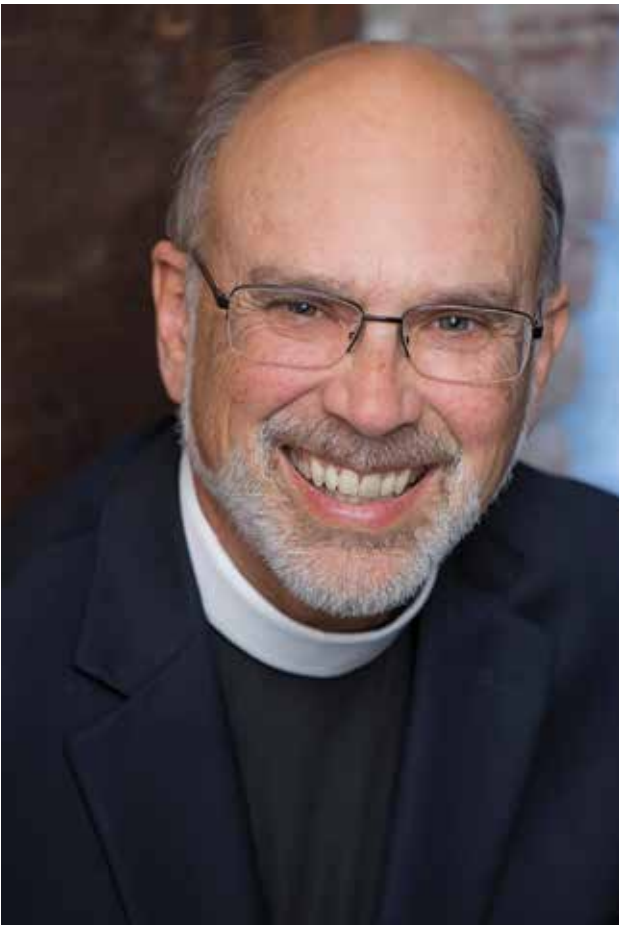
Originally from northwestern Ontario, the diocese of Keewatin, the Ven. G. Douglas Fenton, DD came to the diocese of New Westminster to begin his ministry as Interim Priest-in-Charge of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Port Coquitlam, September 1, 1995. He completed his ministry post there April 1998. He began ministry as Assistant Priest at St. James, Vancouver on Palm Sunday 1998. During his tenure at St. James, he was appointed Regional Dean of Burrard by then-bishop of the diocese, the Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham. In March of 2002, Archdeacon Fenton began a new phase of his ministry as Staff Officer for Young Adults and Campus Ministry at the national office of the Episcopal Church in Manhattan. During his years in New York he served as Assistant Priest at the Church of St. Luke-in-the-Fields and Associate Priest at Christ and St. Stephen in the Episcopal Diocese of New York.

After nine years in Manhattan, Father Douglas and his husband Keith decided that it was time to head back to Douglas's country of birth and citizenship and they chose Vancouver. In 2010, the diocese of New Westminster circulated a posting seeking a Director for Mission and Ministry and Douglas applied. He was appointed to the position by Bishop Ingham on March 1, 2011, and served until the retirement of then-Executive Archdeacon, the Ven. Ronald Harrison December 31, 2012, when Bishop Ingham appointed him Executive Archdeacon of the diocese.

There are many highlights of Archdeacon Fenton's tenure but certainly among them would be: his supervision of the renovations of 1410 Nanton Avenue and the Synod Office move in 2015; the establishment of diocesan-wide dismantling racism training; the Companion Diocese relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines; the updating of, and increase in, the scope of safe church training and Screening in Faith; the receipt of an honorary Doctor of Divinity (DD) degree at the November 2, 2014 convocation ceremonies at his seminary, St. John's College, University of Manitoba; his role in the renewal and revising of diocesan Constitution, Canons and Regulations; in partnership with Archdeacon Morris the development of the Diploma in Anglican Diaconal Studies at Vancouver School of Theology; his leadership on various committees and as a General Synod delegate at the national church; and much more.

Archdeacon Fenton will continue in his role for another seven months and will participate in the transition for his successor. Father Douglas will support his husband Keith as he continues to work and when they have the opportunity, they are looking forward to doing some travelling.

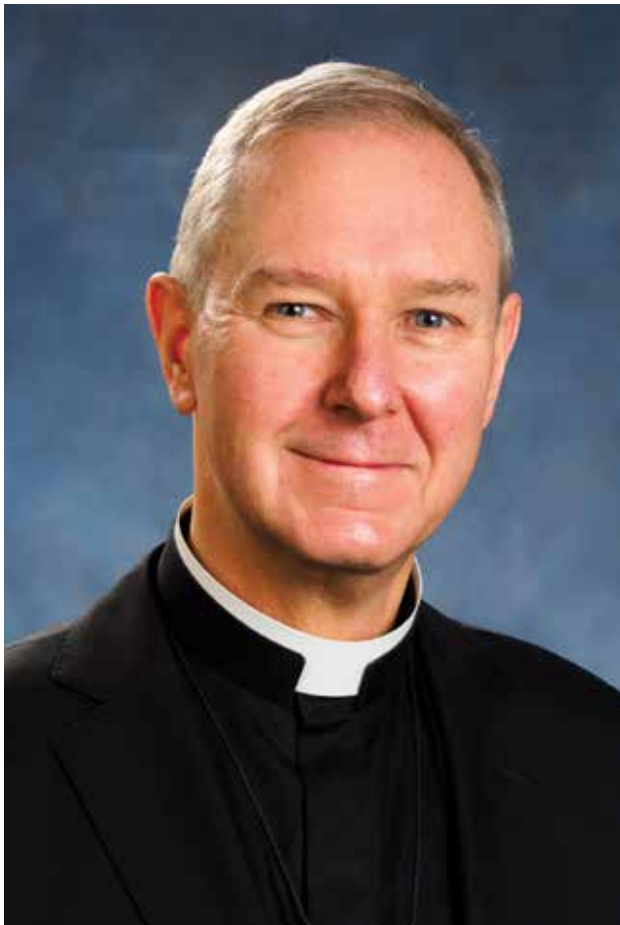
Although there had been deacons in the diocese of New Westminster prior to 1995, June 18 of that year is seen as the date when the diakonia became fully restored in the diocese, with Bishop Michael Ingham ordaining three deacons to the vocational diaconate, not as transitional deacons on the path to the priesthood. Soon there were 12 more ordinands to the diaconate and many others followed answering God's call to serve, taking the Gospel out into the world, through word and action, to people and places yearning to hear the good news. The Ven. Bruce Morris was one of that first



The Ven. Bruce Morris. PHOTO Kallberg Studios

cohort. Appointed to the Parish of St. Hilda-by-the-Sea in his hometown of Sechelt on BC's Sunshine Coast, Archdeacon Morris has been an effective leader and mentor, a true servant of God. He was appointed Archdeacon for Deacons in early 2015 (succeeding the Ven. John Struthers), by then-Bishop Melissa Skelton and collated Archdeacon for Deacons that same year at Diocesan Synod in May. A skilled and successful Chartered Professional Accountant, Archdeacon Morris began his professional career in 1977 and in February of 2017, he was one of the eight fellows named by the British Columbia Chartered Professional Accountants. The fellowship (FCPA) designation is awarded to chartered professional accountants who have provided exceptional services to the profession, or whose achievements in their careers and/or in the community have earned them distinction and brought honour to the profession.

In his ministry he has been a tireless supporter of "vocation" the response to God's Call to ministry. Under his leadership, the annual diocesan Vocation Days were



The Ven. G. Douglas Fenton. PHOTO Wayne Chose

established to reach out into each worshipping community and beyond offering people access to information about, and community where, they could explore Divine Call. In late 2017, and through 2018, St. Hilda's church required significant building remediation and Archdeacon Bruce filled the role of Project Manager for the parish, there every step of the way doing whatever he could, whenever he could to help the project to a successful outcome. He was always present for diocesan worship (ordinations, installations, etc.) and diocesan meetings and events even though the journey from his home in Sechelt to the mainland was not always convenient.

An avid sailor, Bruce plans to spend lots more time on the ocean and lots more time with his family.

The Rev. Peggy Trendell-Jensen, Deacon at St. Clement, Lynn Valley has been appointed his successor and will begin her new ministry on June 1, 2022.

Please keep Douglas, Bruce, and Peggy in your prayers as they enter into this next phase of their lives and ministry. ✚

All are encouraged to submit letters, articles, reports on parish activities, opinion pieces, photos, and more for consideration to be published in Topic

DEADLINE FOR TOPIC SUBMISSIONS JULY 22 FOR THE FALL (SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER) ISSUE

Please email Randy Murray at rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca

All contributions are appreciated • EDITOR

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



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A community of 640,000 members organized into four ecclesiastical provinces, including British Columbia and the Yukon.

The diocese of New Westminster
The Anglican Church in the Lower Mainland, the Fraser Valley and on the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia, located on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish First Nations, consisting of 69 worshipping communities.



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Thank you!

Feed My Sheep

care + share for 2022 – 2023

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ A second time he said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Tend my sheep.’ He said to him the third time, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ And he said to him, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.’ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, ‘Follow me.’” (John 21:15-19)

The above account of Jesus’ post-crucifixion appearance in Galilee from John’s Gospel is the source of the title for the current *care + share* initiative. Although there is much room for interpretation, this passage is generally seen as a metaphor for Jesus requesting that his disciples carry on his ministry. The Mission and Ministry team of the diocese of New Westminster have reverse-engineered this concept somewhat as this new phase of *care + share* really is about feeding people.

Throughout the history of the diocese of New Westminster there’s been fundraising for projects that are diocesan in their planning and implementation. *care + share* is the most recent version. It was established following a resolution at Synod 2011. Ministries included in *care + share* do not receive “funding,” instead they receive financial contributions made by parishes and individuals, sent to the Synod Office finance department which forwards funds several times a year to the current recipients. Recipients are selected every two years at Diocesan Synod. One hundred percent of the donations go to the groups that are supported. These donations come in and go out under the diocese of New Westminster’s charitable tax status but the overhead for fundraising and administration is included in the Diocesan Budget, and not taken from donations. Donations may be directed to all ministries or to individual ministries in any combination or amount. Parish and individual gifts are encouraged. For 2022 – 2023 there are nine recipient groups, for 2020 – 2021 there was one. Historically, *care + share* recipients per term have numbered three or four.

Food insecurity has risen in most of the regions that make up the diocese of New Westminster. There is a deep desire to help alleviate this problem and now thanks to *care + share*, people from our diocese can make a significant coordinated impact.

Here are the recipient ministries for 2022 – 2023:

- St. Thomas, Chilliwack — Food Ministry
- St. Dunstan’s, Aldergrove — Thursday Community Meal
- Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster — The Breakfast Club
- St. Barnabas, New Westminster — Grab and Go
- St. Alban’s, Richmond — The Lunch Box
- St. Augustine, Marpole — St. Augustine’s Community Meals & Marpole Food Hub
- St. Mary’s, Kerrisdale — Food Ministry
- St. Agnes, North Vancouver — Sharing Abundance
- St. David and St. Paul, Powell River — Sycamore Commons Vegetable Garden Community Partnership

The above list contains nine food ministries from a large cross-section of the diocese, from Chilliwack to Powell River that have been selected to help meet the need. These ministries are as diverse as the communities they serve. *care + share* is a way to put our dollars into action. A way to offer in abundance, food security, food literacy, access to social services, shared experiences, and more.

The Mission and Ministry team at the diocese of New

Westminster working closely with the Mission and Ministry Committee of the diocese have developed printed materials for display and distribution in every parish and worshiping community. These materials were distributed in late March and early April. Please look at the materials, share them with friends and consider your gift to *care + share*’s *Feed My Sheep*. ✚





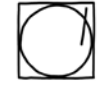
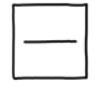
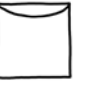
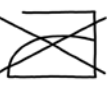



To make a gift online to *care+share* please visit www.vancouver.anglican.ca and click on one of the “Give” buttons.
For giving options and information please call 604.684.6306, ext. 220.
For more information about *care + share* visit www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/careshare



The print materials distributed to parishes early in the spring of 2022.

VESTMENTS

CARE INSTRUCTIONS

 FULL IMMERSION	 SPRINKLING	 ASK SOMEONE FOR ADVICE	 ASK SIX PEOPLE FOR ADVICE	 DON'T WEAR AT CHRISTMAS	 WARNING: YOU'RE PROBABLY GOING TO RUIN IT
 PUT ON SOME LAUNDRY - DAY MUSIC	 NAP WHILST DRYING	 SHOULD BE DRY BEFORE THE CRICKET FINISHES	 SEALED ENVELOPE IN EXCHANGE FOR LAUNDRY SERVICES	 THROW IT IN THE CORNER AND HOPE FOR THE BEST	 LOOK UP WAX-REMOVAL ADVICE ONLINE
 DO I NEED TO IRON THIS?	 NO, I THINK YOU'RE FINE	 DRY CLEAN (ORDINARY TIME)	 DRY CLEAN (PENTECOST)	 SEPARATE ADVENT AND EASTER BEFORE WASHING	 TRY NOT TO SPILL TEA ON IT

CartoonChurch.com



LEFT & RIGHT Villanova University students remove introduced plant species, 2019. PHOTOS Caitlin Beck



Wilna Parry, ODNW protects new plants with Girl Guides' artwork, 2018.



Lini Hutchings, Barry Goodwin and the Rev. Elizabeth Mathers unload native plants, 2018.

Rewild Your Church

LAUREL DYKSTRA
Priest, Salal + Cedar Watershed Discipleship Community

“Herds shall lie down in the city, every wild animal; the desert-owl and the screech-owl shall lodge on its capitals; the owl shall hoot at the window, the raven croak on the threshold; (Zephaniah 2:14)

Pervasive in the Psalms and the Prophets is a threat that is actually a promise. For people who have turned away from God’s rule of justice, non-exploitation, rest and regular economic redistribution, their cities and towns will be occupied, not by foreign nations but by thorns, owls, ravens and jackals, those wild plants and animals that can easily inhabit a site that has been disturbed by human activity.

Recently my mentors’ mentor died. Norman Gottwald who pioneered the use of the social sciences in biblical scholarship and changed the way most of us (whether we know it or not) read the Bible. His most critical assertion was that in contrast to the conquest narratives in the book of Joshua, the Hebrew people were a group of Canaanite social outcasts who joined with some escaped slaves and took to the hill-country in resistance and opposition to the urban corruption and hierarchy.

Both of these biblical examples of “rewilding” speak to our present situation where plant blindness (the human failure to even see plants in our environment) is a documented phenomenon, where most children recognize ten times the number of corporate logos as they do plants, and in the past 50 years 60% of the world’s vertebrates have disappeared, due largely to habitat destruction.

The 2019 United Nations (UN) intergovernmental report on biodiversity and ecosystems said that humans are “eroding the foundations of our economies and livelihoods on earth.” This “erosion” is driven by corporations and governments and work for change must include corporate and government responsibility and accountability. The scientist-authored report noted that in lands controlled by Indigenous groups loss of biodiversity was much less severe, but this was also true in *lands controlled by local communities*. On a modest scale, churches are local

communities with control of land. And for the most part, the land that our churches control is a rectangle of grass, a patch of monoculture ready for rewilding.

Since 2018 Salal + Cedar Watershed Discipleship Community has partnered with St. Clement, North Vancouver in the Lynn Valley neighbourhood to restore the creekside riparian zone on their property, removing introduced plants that had taken over and reintroducing more than a dozen native plant species creating new habitat for birds, small mammals, and a variety of pollinators. Due in part to the success of the Coleman Creek project, the diocese has received a BC Conservation and Diversity Award to support up to ten congregations improving wildlife habitat on their grounds.

If your community has applied for diocesan climate response funds for a project that includes habitat restoration, invasive species removal, a native plant garden, or pollinator garden then this is good news for you. You are eligible for coaching and training workshops with Salal + Cedar that includes: ethical sources for native plants, work with an Indigenous herbalist, metrics for calculating volunteer time and plant costs, strategies for neighbourhood engagement, as well as up to \$550 for supplies and for compensating Indigenous knowledge-keepers. If you have already applied, we will contact you, if you have not yet made an application this might be your prompt to apply.

Habitat restoration is a small but meaningful way for your church community to have an impact on species loss and extinction. ✦

To apply for diocesan climate response funds for your project please go online to <https://tinyurl.com/2p8jmcmy>



LEFT & RIGHT Students from Vancouver Christian School build Bug Hotels to provide habitat for beneficial insects. PHOTOS Courtesy of Laurel Dykstra except where noted

Diocesan Council Strikes Task Force on Homelessness & Housing Affordability

VICKI POTTER, ODNW
Co-Chair for the diocesan Task Force on Homelessness & Housing Affordability; Parishioner, St. John, Shaughnessy

In response to a Synod 2021 *Resolution**, Diocesan Council has appointed a Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Affordability, whose work began in February 2022, and will conclude at Synod 2023.

Bishop John Stephens appointed Co-Chairs, the Rev. Simbarashe Basvi (St. David's, Delta) and Vicki Potter, ODNW (St. John's Shaughnessy, Vancouver) to lead the initiative. Members on the Task Force are: Peter Bailey (Christ Church, Hope); Sharon Cooper (St. John the Apostle, Port Moody); the Rev. Armand Mercier (St. Alban's, Richmond); the Rev. Paul Richards (Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock); David Van Blarcom (The 127 Housing Society); the Rev. Alex Wilson (St. Anselm's, Vancouver); and the Rev. Christine Wilson (St. Mary's Kerrisdale, Vancouver). The Rev. Tellison Glover serves as diocesan liaison. Task Force members bring a wealth of knowledge, experience and faith to this difficult issue.

The Task Force's purpose is to increase awareness and understanding of the issues and causes surrounding homelessness and housing vulnerability, and to provide practical options for the diocese and its parishes to use their gifts and resources to respond

- The Task Force has three areas of focus:
1. To gather and assess information to understand the ways in which race, Indigenous identity, age, socio-economic status, and human sexuality impact accessibility to housing.
 2. To gather and assess information about how churches in the diocese of New Westminster, as well as churches and other organizations in Canada and beyond, have actively responded to homelessness and housing affordability issues.
 3. To develop policy and program options for the diocese and its parishes, supported by the research from tasks 1 and 2, that increase our effectiveness in supporting the homeless and vulnerably housed.

The Task Force is eager to hear from individual parishes in the diocese that currently have or are considering a program that supports homeless and vulnerably housed people. What are the conditions in your community that provide opportunities and challenges to such efforts? How can we work together to overcome these challenges? Share your stories, program experiences, and ideas by emailing the Task Force at homelessness@vancouver.anglican.ca. A member of the Task Force will be in touch with you. ✚



IMAGE Bodnarchuk (iStock ID#914650866)

*** RESOLUTION 01**
MOVED: The Reverend Alex Wilson
SECONDED: Mrs. Shirin Theophilus, ODNW

THAT,

1. The diocese of New Westminster acknowledge the dual crises of housing affordability and homeless-ness in the Lower Mainland.
2. Synod 2021 direct Diocesan Council to create a task force made up of a wide variety of lay, ordained, and Aboriginal voices, to engage with leadership at every level of the church, with other faith traditions, and those in the public square:
 - a) to explore and assess the impact of housing affordability and homelessness within regional and parochial communities, consulting with civic, business, and community support programs to understand the ways in which race, Aboriginal identity, age, socioeconomic status and human sexuality impact accessibility to housing;
 - b) to explore the ways in which other churches, ecumenical, and multifaith bodies across Canada have responded to their own affordability and homeless-ness crises;
 - c) to develop and propose a diocesan response to these two crises that may include, but not be limited to, utilizing current land holdings in this diocese;
 - d) to report its findings and response options, based on those findings, to Diocesan Council in a timely manner.
3. That members of the task force conduct this work in the course of their regular duties, with any budget require-ments identified being allocated from the Diocesan Justice and Peace Fund at the discretion of property and finance.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED ✚

Parish Development Grants for 2023

On March 27, 2022, Laetare Sunday, the Program Development Grants Team of the diocese of New Westminster launched the Parish Development Grants program for 2023.

The overall purpose of Parish Development Grants is to assist parishes in the diocese as they develop, with God's help, into healthier, more faithful, and more effective communities of faith. The Team are interested, therefore, in making grants to parishes that have a vision for their own development and would like diocesan assistance in moving toward the vision.

In preparing an application, parish leaders may find the following definition of parish development helpful:

Parish Development is the development of parishes of all sizes, locations, and conditions into more faithful, healthy, and effective communities of faith that are:

- Focused on and faithful to their unique reason for being/ primary task as parishes, which are local expressions of the Body of Christ that gather people into Christian community, transform people in their baptismal identity and purpose, and send them out to be God's presence in the world.
- Connected to and expressive of their unique ecclesial tradition, ethos, and character.
- Self-renewing and responsive to the challenges and opportunities before them.
- Sustainable or working towards greater sustainability in terms of congruence (or "fit") between the elements of their

- organizational life: vision for ministry, leadership, culture, size, property, finances, etc.
- Nurture a *parish culture* that is transparent, honest, open to learning and hopeful.
- Some examples of the kinds of grants the Team would like to support are:
- Grants that seek to increase attendance, and stewardship within a parish via the development of an additional liturgy that will attract new people and/or a different population to the parish.
 - Grants that seek to build the capacity of a parish to attract and form children in Christian faith via the initiation of Godly Play or some other program of children's formation.
 - Development of pilot programs of any size that would be of benefit to the broader Church and are sustainable by the parish over time.

Over the past few years Grant money distributed has gone to a wide variety of projects, from music concert series produced in partnerships with organizations in the community to new appliances for a commercial grade kitchen to audio/visual/tech equipment to aid in livestreaming, liturgical production and parish communications to establishing programs for Christian formation to serve seekers of all ages.

\$15,000 is the maximum amount which will be granted to a project in a single year. ✚

Intent to Apply *forms and information sheets are now on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-resources/grants-loans/pages/grants-for-parish-development> or scan the QR Code below.*

There is a firm submission deadline of August 30, 2022.

The diocese does not fund capital projects through this Parish Development Grants process, *funds for such projects may be accessed through other granting facilities.*





David Valentine, Aide to the Lieutenant Governor; Her Honour the Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia; and John Horton recipient of the Order of British Columbia. PHOTO Mary Horton

Double Honours for St. David's John Horton

ELIZABETH MURRAY, ODNW

St. David, Delta

Two prestigious awards in the past three months are a unique experience, even in the life of widely acclaimed St. David, Delta's parishioner John Horton.

On the very date (December 9), previously scheduled for John's Induction into the Order of British Columbia (OBC), he and wife Mary attended a Canadian Lifeboat Institute function at Royal Vancouver Yacht Club. Taken completely by surprise, they were piped to the podium where John received the Duke of Kent Gold Medal in recognition of his exemplary dedication to lifeboat service and his captaincy of the *Delta Lifeboat*.

The Biblical words, "They that go down to the seas in ships, that do business in great waters," might once have been the mantra of John Malcolm Horton, a man whose lifelong fascination with the maritime world continues to be exemplified in countless numbers of ways.

John's other momentous event, the Investiture Ceremony for 31 British Columbians appointed to the Order of British Columbia in 2020 and 2021, was able to proceed after several postponements due to COVID-19. Delays, however, did not lessen the expectation of those receiving the province's highest civilian honour of merit. The memorable occasion took place March 3, when nominees gathered in the Ballroom of Government House, Victoria, to receive the Order's coveted insignia.

Individually called to the dais, Lieutenant Governor the Honourable Janet Austin, vice-regal representative of HM the Queen, and Chancellor of the Order of British Columbia, bestowed the silk ribbon and gold medallion on the collar of each new OBC member as Citations were read and congratulations extended by Lt. Gov. Austin and BC Premier, the Honourable John Horgan.

Along with the 475 previously invested members of the Order, John is entitled to wear the stylized flower of

the Pacific Dogwood (official provincial flower) with the obverse in white enamel with gold edging and bearing at its centre the shield of British Columbia's Coat of Arms. All is surmounted by the crown of Saint Edward the Confessor.

John gained his deep respect for dangers faced by commercial fishermen world-wide during his service with the Royal Navy's Fishery Protection Squadron in the late 1950s. The seamanship and search and rescue skills achieved at that time are used by him to this day.

Since joining the Canadian Marine Rescue Auxiliary in 1979, John's main focus has been assisting the Native and Commercial Fisheries in BC, although he obviously helps any mariner in distress. John began volunteering with the Canadian Lifeboat Institute's Search and Rescue Service (SAR) in 1992 and, under its flag, continues to help watch over all who ply Lower Fraser River and Gulf of Georgia waters. Incredulously, Captain Horton was aboard *Delta Lifeboat* supporting the Roe Herring Fishery off Comox almost immediately after the Investiture Ceremony March 3.

The value of the *Delta Lifeboat* and its volunteer crew in patrolling the fishing fleets cannot be over-estimated for it has assisted many injured fishermen over the years. Nor has the City of Richmond's recognition of John Horton as a notable marine artist been overlooked. His commissioned painting, *Arrival of SV Titania's in Steveston Harbour in 1889*, is hung in Richmond City Hall as part of the City's public art collection, inspired by the *Canada 150* project. When South Delta Douglas J. Husband Discovery Centre is officially opened, John's painting *Arrival at Port Guichon* will be on permanent display in the archives. His dedication to furthering awareness of the area's maritime history in pinpointing Port Guichon, triggered presentation of a Friends of Heritage Award to this visual arts historian.

International Exhibitions of his works has given him

a wide following. He is also a Canadian War Artist whose paintings hang in the National War Museum and in the headquarters of the Department of National Defence.

The following quote from John's Citation pays tribute to this facet of his significant contribution: "In his outstanding paintings, over 1,400 in number, John depicts the history of the coast of BC."

A founding member of the Canadian Society of Marine Artists (CSMA) and the Federation of Canadian Artists (FCA), and the Pacific Rim Institute of Marine Artists (PRIMA), John's interest in the exploration and development of Canada's West Coast prompted him to produce more than 60 historical paintings depicting the nautical voyages of both Captain James Cook and Captain George Vancouver. The educational value of his collection, in the form of illustrated lectures, has been shared internationally by interested groups ranging from seafarers, schools and museums to seniors' residences, yacht clubs, and military organizations.

John Horton is a humble and generous soul who uses his God-given gifts to serve and enrich the lives of those around him. Be it his skill as a marine artist, as a commissioned designer of Royal Mint nautical commemorative coins, volunteer historian and lecturer, captaincy of the *Delta Lifeboat* (previously named *Artist's Life* and the *Steveston Lifeboat*), for volunteer service with the Canadian Lifeboat Institute, or passing his sailing expertise on to groups ranging from Sea Scouts and Sea Cadets to Coast Guard and the Canadian Lifeboat Institution (CLI) crews, John continues to multi-task for the benefit of all.

Horton's incredible ability to combine his love of the sea, his seamanship, his historical knowledge, and his artistic talent, has given British Columbians, and others, a lasting legacy. ♦

A New Look for St. Clement's

Pan abode refinishing project

HELEN DUNN
Rector, St. Clement's, Lynn Valley

St. Clement's has completed its pan abode refinishing. In a word, "Wow!"

The project rolled out in four phases:

PHASE I: Ocean Pacific Abrasive Blasting arrived on site. Together with volunteers from the church, they sealed the inside of the building with plastic to prevent as much dust as possible from passing through the logs.

PHASE II: For two days, Ocean Pacific blasted the pan abode exterior, using glass (as opposed to sand) and an approved, eco-friendly product. The wood was taken down to a light grain so that it would be ready to accept the application of a protective stain.

PHASE III: Four layers — that's right, *four* layers — of beautiful, cherry stain was applied to the wood. We were incredibly impressed that the wood accepted so much of the stain as that means we'll have protection from rain, UV exposure, and mould for many years to come.

PHASE IV: Volunteers arrived on site to clean up a fine layer of dust inside the church and to attend to the garden.

Before the project began, we went door to door to give our neighbours a "heads up" about the work. We were encouraged to hear words of affirmation for the project and gratitude for taking such good care of this important gathering place in Lynn Valley. Throughout the course of

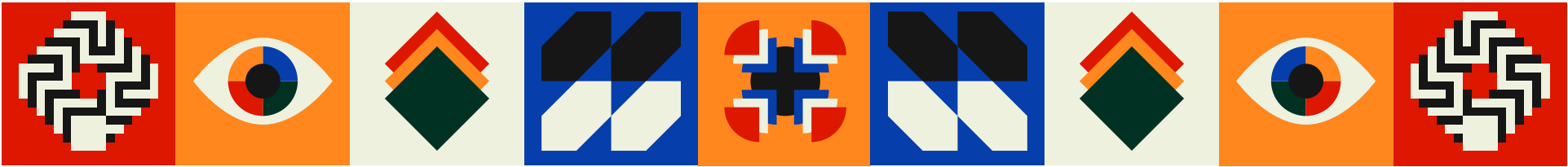
the refinishing, people would stop as they passed by and take pictures of the awesome improvement. We hope you'll come by and see the finished product for yourself!

With thanks to all the St. Clement's parishioners who have been involved in fundraising, planning, and participating in the pan abode refinishing. Glory to God, whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine!

Special thanks to the prep and clean-up crew: Beth Bailey, Eric Cormier, Joanne and Dave Graham, Lynne and Gordon Graham, Tally Keir, Sandra Martin, Elizabeth Mathers, Jeanette and Larry Terrace, Paul Weir, and Carson and Christopher Yong. ✚



PHOTOS Submitted





LEFT Section 8, Act III, Take 1: Videographer, Ross Friesen closes the slate on take one. RIGHT A change of wardrobe and it's time to shoot another episode featuring presenters, Kerry Baisley, ODNW and Hope Sealy, ODNW.

Transforming Questions, Christian Formation Video Series

Over a weekend in March, a homegrown video production crew came together for the second filming session of the *Transforming Questions* video series. Each session in the series explores a big question of faith. Questions such as: Who is Jesus? Why is there suffering? How should we read the Bible? Does God answer prayer? How should we live?

The *Transforming Questions* curriculum is adapted from a Forward Movement program, the creators of which gave generous permission for the diocese to adapt and use as we saw fit. The crew is made up of parishioners from the diocese—everyone from production design to the narrators. The series is being filmed on location in and around the diocesan offices and St. John's, Shaughnessy. Funding was provided by the Anglican Initiatives fund of the diocese. It is an authentic, local snapshot of who we are and what we can do as well as a gift we hope to offer the wider Anglican church in Canada.

When completed, the series will offer parishes a free, accessible resource for deepening the faith of newcomers,



Ross adjusts the speed of the teleprompter before shooting a take with Manay Olosan and Karyl Amayag.

confirmants, and long timers: those exploring faith for the first or fiftieth time. The program presumes we will always have questions and that gathering in the presence of God with one another is the way to live with them and discern responses. It presumes that putting scripture, tradition, and our experiences into conversation with each other provides a faithful way to discover our path in Christ.

The video series allows sessions to be used in a one-off way, for a short series, combined with other materials, and for individuals to watch on their own and then in conversation with others. They will all be uploaded on YouTube. All sessions in the series come with a discussion guide for small groups to use in conversation. These guided discussions are where relationships form and reflection happens. They are integral for any formation.

The production will wrap by late spring/early summer, and we hope to have it available to parishes in time for the beginning of Fall 2022.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



Karyl and Levi Saunders rehearsing.



Hope and Kerry rehearsing.



Hope lets out a laugh during rehearsal.



Videographer, Ross Friesen sets up the lighting intensity.



Levi and Karyl are ready for a take.



The multiple moods of Manay and Karyl.

The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine Companions Program

Applications Close May 15, 2022

Residential Companions Program
The *Residential Companions* program is an immersive opportunity to experience a contemporary monastic community rooted in the Benedictine tradition. It is open to women ages 21 and up regardless of Christian denomination.

Companions live, work, and pray alongside the sisters, learning from them but also sharing each companion's own gifts with the sisters and their ministries. They will:

- Learn to cultivate peaceful and creative ways of living in a diverse intentional community
- Appreciate silence and solitude as well as community and service for a healthy life
- Put down deep roots of spiritual intimacy with God and each other
- Develop a personal path to ongoing spiritual growth
- Discern individual gifts and vocations

Companions Online Program
Open to women of all Christian expressions, *Companions Online* is an opportunity to become “monastics in the world,” living a Benedictine rhythm of prayer, work, study, and recreation. Online Companions learn to develop practices that support and nurture their spiritual life from the comfort of their homes.

They meet regularly for classes and discussion groups and commit to times of personal prayer at home. They share in book studies, participate in online worship experiences, and screen films relevant to spiritual growth and self-understanding. Online Companions also develop spiritual disciplines that follow the liturgical year.

Application start and end dates (both programs):
January 1, 2022 – May 15, 2022

Program dates (both programs):
September 2022 – July 2023

Cost: Residential Companions Program:
suggested \$100/month

Companions Online Program:
suggested \$50/month.

If cost is a hindrance, assistance is available for either program.

To learn more about either program, or to apply, email Shannon Frank-Epp, Program Coordinator, at companions@ssjd.ca or phone St. John's Convent at 416.226.2201, ext. 342. ☩



Pre-COVID gathering around the piano. PHOTO Michael Hudson, diocese of Toronto



2021 Class Photo on Zoom. PHOTO Submitted

Transforming Questions, Christian Formation Video Series

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Principal photography is being directed and produced by Randy Murray, diocesan communications officer; Executive Producer and head writer is the Rev. Jessica Schaap, Missioner for Christian Formation, diocese of New Westminster. ☩



The talent's view of the presentation area.



Manay is a little concerned about Levi's acting.



The crucifer, Aaron John (Prinu) Oomen is ready in the narthex for the procession in.



A view of the nave with the sanctuary party and choir poised for the procession in, to the hymn, *From All the Wind's Wide Quarters*.



Members of the choir process in.



Music in Worship leaders, Laura Pauloski at the piano and Barbara Buxton on guitar.

PHOTO FEATURE

Episcopal Visit to St. Cuthbert's, North Delta

On Sunday, March 20, 2022, Lent IV, the Rt. Rev. John Stephens, Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster visited his North Delta parish of St. Cuthbert on the parish's patronal festival day for a Celebration of the Eucharist with Baptisms and Confirmations. This was also the first Sunday following the new directions regarding how worshippers gather in diocesan churches in response to the Provincial Health Officer's announcements March 10. The information was circulated in a March 15 Pastoral Letter from Bishop Stephens to all clergy, lay leaders, parish officers and

was also distributed widely through the various diocesan communications vehicles and social media sites. Although there were several changes, the most notable had to do with mask wearing, physical distancing and room capacity. The changes to these components are apparent in these wonderful photos taken by diocesan photographer, Wayne Chose. Worship at St. Cuthbert's on March 20, 2022, looked a great deal like worship prior to March of 2020. ✠

More photos on page 12



Members of the St. Cuthbert's Youth Choir under the direction of Barb Buxton sing, *Bought With a Price*.



Bishop John addresses the younger members of the parish. PHOTO Valerie Reimer



Ken De Heer-Amissah shares the Old Testament reading, *Habakkuk 2:1-4*.



The clergy, candidates, families



Hands of praise raised during th



Bishop John welcomes the community and gathers the worshippers in prayer. ALL PHOTOS Wayne Chose except as noted



During the Presentation and Prayer for the Candidates, Bishop John leads the Prayers of the People.



Following the baptisms, Bishop John leads the applause of welcome for Lucas and Jack.



Prior to the laying on of hands, the confirmation of Joan and Jet Takaoka, Bishop John reads the sentence, "Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ."



Parents and sponsors are gathered to begin Holy Baptism. One of Jack's sponsors was Ainsley Johnston who participated via Zoom from Australia.



LEFT & RIGHT Holy Communion.



The Offertory Hymn, *On Eagles Wings*.



The Sursum Corda.



Cookies to go in the form of the St. Cuthbert's Cross, made by professional baker and St. Cuthbert's parishioner, Shama Vimalendiran. PHOTO Paul Woehrlé

PHOTO FEATURE CONTINUED...

Episcopal Visit to St. Cuthbert's, North Delta



The Rector of the Parish of St. Cuthbert, the Rev. Paul Woehrle greets the congregation and offers some additional information about the special day.



Bishop and confirmands, Joan and Jet Takoaka who were marking ten years as members of St. Cuthbert's. PHOTO Paul Woehrle



The procession out to the hymn, *We Sing to You, O God*.

Fundraising Dinner for Ukraine at All Saints, Ladner

LIZ MACDONALD, ODNW
All Saints, Ladner

In response to the increasingly desperate situation in Ukraine, the Men's Group at All Saints offered to host a fundraising dinner for the community featuring traditional Ukrainian dishes prepared with ingredients purchased from the Ukraine Cultural Centre in Richmond, BC.

Event organizers all agreed that all donations be given to the recently launched Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) Ukraine Refugee Relief project which, in collaboration with ACT Alliance member, Hungarian Interchurch Aid, hopes to raise \$50,000 to aid those fleeing to safety from the war-torn country.

The evening of Saturday, March 19, more than 60 guests sat down to a Ukrainian meal prepared, cooked and served by All Saints' parishioners. Rector of the parish, the Rev. Robin Ruder-Celiz greeted each person, checking Vaccination Passports and reminding people of COVID precautions before opening the proceedings with welcoming remarks,

acknowledgements and thanks to those who had organized the evening. The introductory address was followed by *the Grace*.

Blue and yellow table decorations, Ukrainian flags and colourful PWRDF placemats, napkins and printed hand-outs explaining the refugee situation greeted the guests who came from the parish, the Delta area, and beyond.

The cooks in the kitchen worked tirelessly to provide everyone with a delicious meal. Dessert of homemade pies and ice cream, together with wine generously donated by a parishioner and a local couple rounded out the feast. There were many appreciative and thankful comments offered to all involved in the event from the satisfied diners.

The generous donations will enable All Saints to send \$6,000 to the PWRDF appeal, and for that we are truly thankful. ✠



Table set with colours of the Ukraine flag and PWRDF place mats and information sheets.



Brian Redway and Pauline Ingall cutting pies for dessert. ALL PHOTOS Submitted



Donated wine.



Cliff and Grant, chefs in the kitchen.



Margery cuts the cake. ALL PHOTOS Donna Kennedy

Happy 100th Birthday Margery Skerry

DONNA KENNEDY
All Saints, Mission

Margery Skerry, ODNW celebrated her milestone 100th Birthday on March 9, 2022. On March 13, following a week of celebrations, the parishioners of All Saints, Mission gathered in the church hall to celebrate.

Margery was presented with a beautiful card, cake, and a letter of congratulations from Bishop John Stephens which was read aloud to the party attendees.

In 1946, Margery left England with her 3½ month old daughter to join her husband in Alberta.

For the next six years, they lived in two small towns, both with an Anglican church. She attended services and became a member of the Women’s Auxiliary (WA). Thus began many years of involvement in church service and projects.

In 1952, her family moved to BC. They lived in Hatzic in the Municipality of Mission for many years. Their church, St. Peter’s Mancroft was part of the Mission parish. She continued membership in the WA and joined the Altar Guild. There were many families in the parish, and they started a children’s choir. Margery and two other women sewed 18 surplices and velvet caps for the girls. During this time, she taught Sunday School to the younger children. Inevitably the parish declined as families moved away and children grew up. In the 1970s the church was closed, and her family became part of the larger Parish of All Saints, Mission.

Margery was a member of the Anglican Church Women (ACW) and was involved in many projects. Over the years

she helped at bazaars, lunches, teas, dinners, funerals, a few weddings and supported the Mission to Seafarers. For a few years Margery was also parish secretary. Margery continued with Altar Guild, served on Church Council and was a delegate to Diocesan Synod. She sang in the church choir and was a reader.

In 1998, she took part in the prison ministry in Mission prison for the Protestant service. This was followed by coffee and a chance to talk and listen to the inmates. Margery says she received more than she gave.

Margery also participated in an outreach group that served a community dinner once a month.

For All Saints’ 100th Anniversary, she served on the committee that planned the celebration. Margery was responsible for the *100 Years of Fashion* show and planned the Devonshire Cream Tea.

Margery also helped make pies as a fundraiser for outreach. The money goes to local agencies working with the poor and to two overseas projects.

Up until COVID-19 she enthusiastically attended ACW meetings and on Fridays put together the bulletin for Sunday worship.

Margery’s children are all married, she has six grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Margery feels very blessed because they all live close by which enables the family to get together often.

She says, “My life is good.” ☩



The Rev. Paul Bowie, Rector of All Saints reads the bishop’s letter of congratulations.



Four generations pose for a photo in honour of Margery’s milestone birthday.



The Cake.



Daffodils decorating the reredos.



St. Martin's is home to some beautiful and unique stained glass. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray



The "outside, unmasked, vested, archival episcopal visit group shot." With masks no longer mandatory for indoor worship services as of March 15 (of course this could change before the May issue of *Topic* is out), this will just be a "vested clergy photo." Here we see the Rev. Mark Munn, Bishop John, and Deacon, the Rev. Elizabeth Mathers.

Episcopal Visit to St. Martin, North Vancouver for Lent II

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On Sunday, March 13, the Second Sunday in Lent, Bishop John Stephens made an episcopal visit to his Parish of St. Martin, a beautiful gothic revival church constructed of various Pacific Rainforest woods that has been in North Vancouver's Upper Lonsdale neighbourhood for the past 110 years.

The Rev. Mark Munn, Interim Priest-in-Charge, the lay leaders, music leader, choir and congregation welcomed the bishop and the deacon, the Rev. Elizabeth Mathers. The Rev. Mathers is a retired deacon of the nearby parish of St. Clement, Lynn Valley. Rev. Mathers maintains a current appointment as Deacon of Salal + Cedar Watershed Discipleship.

The liturgy was Holy Communion from the *Book of Common Prayer* complete with the Merbecke Mass Setting. Music in worship was led by the St. Martin's Choir under the leadership of Music Director/Organist, David Millard. The choir consisting of eight singers augmented by the Priest-in-Charge made a lovely sound and did a great job leading worship: mass setting, psalm, hymns, with the inclusion of a Motet during Communion, Jean Pasquet's *Lord, Sanctify Me Wholly*. Bishop John who is a very good singer was very comfortable in the role of presider/cantor.

Lay leader and long-time parishioner, Dr. Joy Wee ably handled the MEVO livestream/Zoom hybrid broadcast of the liturgy.

Following the procession in, to the Introit Hymn, *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*, Bishop John asked that the congregation observe a few minutes of silence to pray for peace in the world and to reflect on the war in Ukraine.

Although there were a good number of folks present onsite, the younger members of the congregation attended via Zoom and Bishop John was happy to address that group via Zoom. He positioned himself directly in front of the camera while Dr. Wee set up the shot and spoke to the younger members about God's love and protection. He used the metaphor of a "Mother Hen" and illustrated his message by holding up a vivid photograph.

In his sermon which you can find on the diocesan website in video, audio and text, Bishop John shared at message about Lent and the importance of savouring the many components of Lent and what Lent has to offer all of us in our faith journeys.

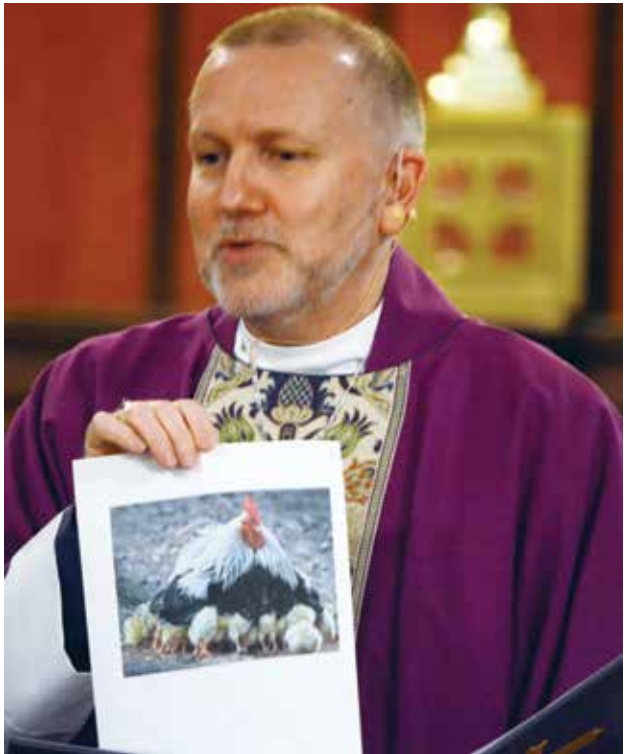
Towards the end of the sermon, he shared the following quote from Michelle DeRusha, an American author and blogger who is well-known for a number of books, amongst them are *Katharina and Martin Luther: The Radical Marriage of a Runaway Nun and a Renegade Monk* and *50 Women Every Christian Should Know: Learning from Heroines of the Faith*. The quote helped to illustrate his message that "Lent is a pilgrimage not a sprint."

"I learned over the weeks and months of sitting in nature in quiet solitude that I am a lot like the oak tree that clings so fiercely to its leaves. I suspect a lot of us are. We, too, clutch our

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



Dr. Joy Wee sets up the MEVO livestream shoot to be integrated into Zoom for the folks at home.



Part of the Children's Talk, Bishop John exhibits a photograph of a "Mother Hen."



Following the procession in, Bishop John leads the prayers for peace.



Deacon of the Word and the Table, the Rev. Elizabeth Mathers proclaims the Gospel, Luke 13:31-35.



The Intercession.



LEFT The Rev. Mathers returns the wine to the liturgical assistant during the Offertory Hymn, Dear Lord and Father of Mankind.
RIGHT Bishop John who is a very good singer led the sung parts of the Eucharist.



Administering the Body of Christ to the choir.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

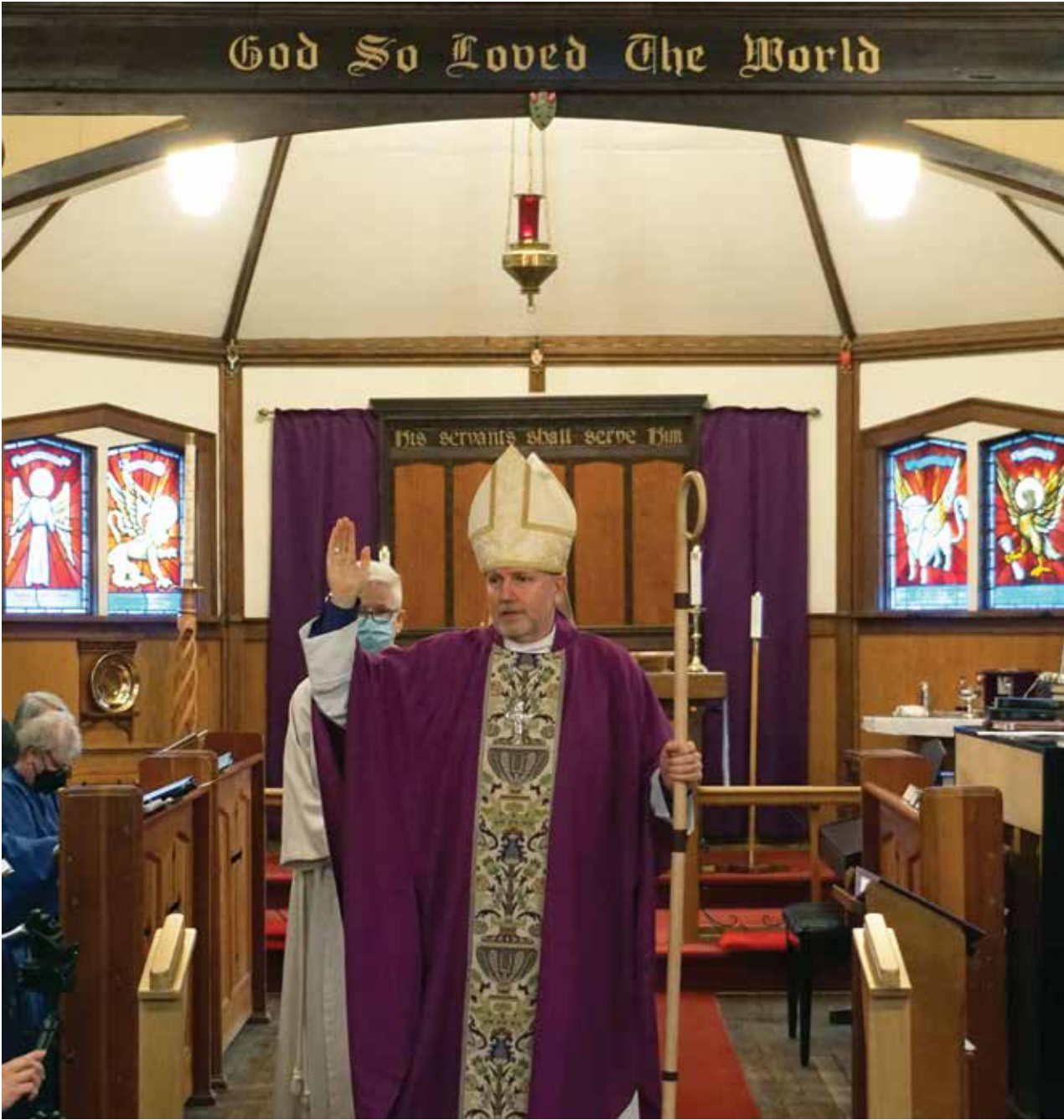
camouflage—the person we present to the world, to our own selves, and even to God. We, too, are unwilling to shed our false selves, to let go, to live vulnerably and authentically... Sitting in silence every day helped me see that my 'leaves' of choice are busyness and productivity, drive and efficiency, achieve and success... I clung with an iron grip to my false self, to the false identity I'd meticulously crafted over the years. I was busy, productive, and driven. I pushed myself to accomplish, achieve, and succeed...

The truth is, God does not wish for us to stand stubborn like the autumn oak tree, cloaked in a façade of protection, our truest, most authentic selves obscured beneath a tangled bramble of false security. Rather God desires us to live with our true essence revealed and flourishing, our true self front and centre, secure and thriving. God yearns for us to live wholeheartedly and truthfully as the unique, beautiful, beloved individuals God created us to be. Most of all, God's deepest desire is for us to know God, to root our whole selves in God like a tree rooted by a stream and to know God's deep, abiding love for us... God invites us into intimate relationship... so that we may then live more compassionately and intimately with those around us."

And there will be changes coming to the Parish of St. Martin. In the days that followed the Lent II episcopal visit, there was a Special Vestry meeting and the members of the parish voted to merge with the Parish of St. John the Evangelist which is located a couple of kilometres south and west of St. Martin's. Bishop John has been informed of the decision and as of this writing in late March details of the merger are not yet available.

Please keep the members of St. Martin's in your prayers as they move forward into the next phase of their faith journeys and of their ministry as a community. ✠

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Bishop John Stephens sermon can be found online at
<https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2022-03-13-lent-a-pilgrimage-not-a-sprint>



The Episcopal Blessing.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Pathways to Reconciliation

Gathering #2
SUBMISSION Simon Johnston, ODNW

Under the umbrella heading of *Pathways to Reconciliation*, Church of the Holy Trinity and St. Mark-Ocean Park co-hosted the second of four gatherings on Saturday, March 5 at St. Mark's church hall.

More than 50 from both parishes gathered to hear Lynda Gray present on her book *First Nations 101: tons of stuff you need to know about First Nations people*. Lynda is a member of the Tsimshian Nation and the Gisbutwada Clan (Killerwhale). She captivated the audience for over an hour sharing her perspective of how the British North America Act and later the Indian Act were used to colonize and subjugate Indigenous Peoples. These two Canadian Laws laid the foundation for residential schools built across the country as a way to "kill the Indian in the child."

After Lynda's inspiring address, she took questions and comments from the floor. Of the many positive perspectives one common thread arose: participants were surprised that none of the issues raised in Lynda's book were in the curricula of Canadian schools. Many expressed their astonishment at learning from Lynda how

governance systems dismantled traditional structures, how Indigenous economies were obliterated, and how residential schools tore families apart, to mention a few of the themes raised by members of the audience.

Lynda reminded the gathering that Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 *Calls to Action* provide a roadmap for the future. She also gave examples of simple, and meaningful actions that every Canadian can perform if they wish to be allies with First Nations, Métis and Inuit. She stressed that listening to Indigenous voices, reading the truth about our share history, and gathering to share knowledge will contribute to reconciliation.

The gathering gave Lynda a standing ovation and, through the moderator, thanked her for her grace, her willingness to share and for her leadership. ✦

.....
For more information on Lynda Gray and to purchase her book *First Nations 101: tons of stuff you need to know about First Nations people* please go online to <http://www.firstnations101.com/purchase-fn101.html>



The Rev. Billy Isenor, Kerry Baisley, Lynda Gray (seated), Mari Anne Hussen and Simon Johnston, ODNW hold copies of Lynda's book. PHOTO Submitted

Origami For Ukraine

Many thanks to Michiko Tatchell, ODNW of St. Michael's Multicultural Church for sending in this photo. In her message to diocesan communications, she wrote: "I

was praying for Ukraine and started to fold paper to make a crane." After folding the crane, Michiko coloured the paper to match the colours of the Ukrainian flag. ✦

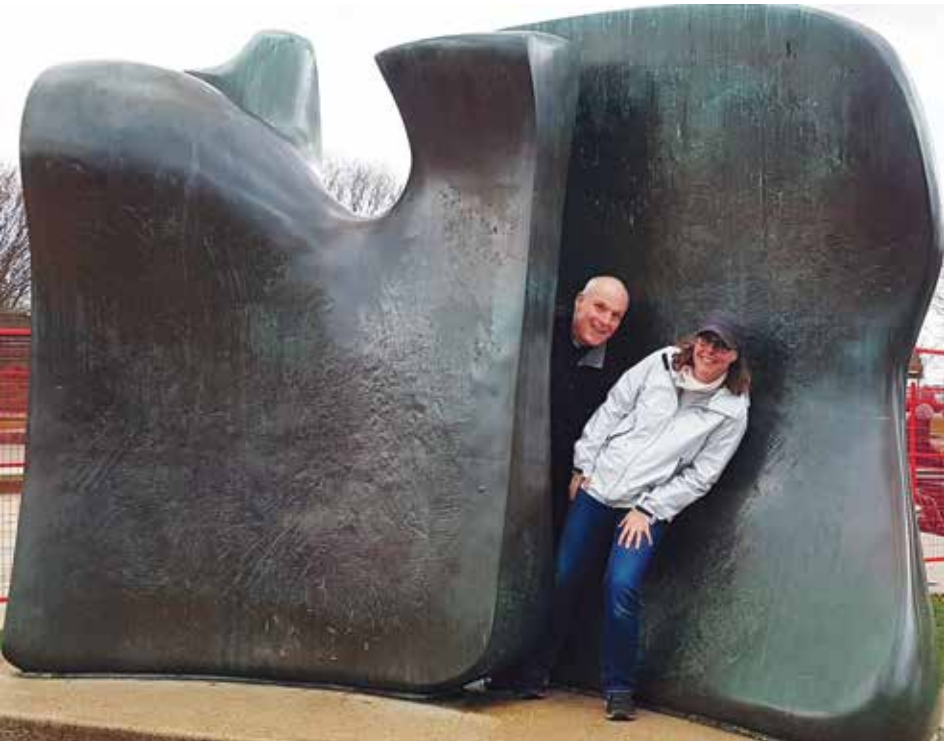


PHOTO Michiko Tatchell

Burrard Deanery Clericus Goes to the Park

Many thanks to the Vicar of Holy Cross, Vancouver, the Rev. Alecia Greenfield for sending in these photos of the March Bur-

rard Deanery/Archdeaconry meeting held at Queen Elizabeth Park. ✦



The Rev. Michael Batten, Rector of St. Thomas, Collingwood and the Rev. Alecia Greenfield check out the Henry Moore sculpture at Queen E. Park.



Saying "hello" to the ducks: in the foreground standing, the Rev. Heidi Brear, Rector of St. Margaret Cedar Cottage; kneeling, the Rev. Philip Cochrane, Rector of St. Paul's; in the cap, the Rev. Expedito Farinas, Rector of St. Mary, South Hill; behind, Regional Dean of Burrard, the Rev. Wilmer Toyoken, Rector of St. Michael's, Vancouver (AKA St. Michael's Multicultural Church).

The Justice & Peace Unit of the Diocese of New Westminster

SUBMISSION Margaret Marquardt

The Eco-Justice Unit of the diocese (AKA Anglicans for Eco-Justice) in showing its support for the diocese in the direction of ecological work and to prevent confusion have requested and received permission from Diocesan Council to change the name. The Justice and Peace Unit was the former name of this unit and over ten years ago added the ecological work. Now with our

Synod motion of direction for ecological work in our diocese and staffing coming along, it is a way for the unit to show full support.

The Peace and Justice Unit understands fully that there will always be ecological issues within justice and peace issues and will be working closely with the ecological work of the diocese. ✦

All are encouraged to submit letters, articles, reports on parish activities, opinion pieces, photos, and more for consideration to be published in Topic

DEADLINE FOR TOPIC SUBMISSIONS
July 22 for the Fall (September/October) issue

Please email Randy Murray at rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca
All contributions are appreciated • EDITOR

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Haiku for Spring & Cherry Blossoms

SUBMISSION Alecia Greenfield

Again *Topic* thanks the Rev. Alecia Greenfield for forwarding this photo taken by Midori Seo, ODNW of folks from Holy Cross walking out in the neighbourhood to see the cherry blossoms during the last week of March. And then wrote a Haiku for the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival. ☿

May God's blessings fall
As cherry blossoms in wind
On all the wide world



Vancouver School of Theology Convocation for 2022

Tuesday, May 10, 7pm at Christ Church Cathedral

The convocation speaker will be Dr. Elin Kelsey, author of *Hope Matters: Why Changing the Way we Think is Critical to Solving the Environmental Crisis*. She is a scholar, speaker, educator and award-winning author. Over 40 graduates will receive degrees and diplomas.

There will be an acknowledgement of the Rev. Germaine Lovelace, winner of the President's 2022 Thoughtful, Engaged and Generous (TEG) Christian Leader Award. ☿

VST VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



Welcome to the Synod Office Aahana Rose

Aahana Rose Glover the daughter of Karen and the Rev. Tellison, Director for Mission and Ministry, diocese of New Westminster, visited the Synod Office, March 31, 2022.

Although she slept through most of it, she got to see where dad works and also meet his colleagues.

Synod Office staff were delighted to welcome Aahana Rose. She was born February 5, 2022, and all reports are that she is doing great. Many thanks to Eli Neto (far right) for organizing the photograph. ☿



The Synod Office Staff. PHOTO Elias Neto

Clergy News Around the Diocese

A New Assistant Curate for the Diocesan Cathedral

Bishop John Stephens has appointed Adam Dawkins to be an Assistant Curate at the Parish of Christ Church, Vancouver (AKA Christ Church Cathedral) effective June 1, 2022. Adam is a postulant in the diocese of Massachusetts and has just completed his Master of Divinity at the University of the South, School of Theology in Sewanee, Tennessee. He was scheduled to be ordained to the diaconate on the Feast of St. Mark (April 25) in All Saints' Chapel, Sewanee by the Rt. Rev. James Tengatenga. Some of you will recall that Bishop Tengatenga addressed our Synod in 2013.

He also holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of South Carolina and an MBA from Trinity University in Washington, DC.

Prior to attending seminary, Adam served as Director of Stewardship at Trinity Church in Boston, Massachusetts, the largest Episcopal parish in New England. There, he directed a \$28 million capital campaign to restore Trinity's iconic church building in the heart of the city. He has directed capital campaigns and fundraising efforts for several parishes, dioceses, and religious organizations. For three years, Adam served as rector's warden at his home parish, Trinity Church in Stoughton, Massachusetts. He also served the Town of Stoughton as Town Moderator. He has a background in youth and young adult ministries, having directed ministries with young people in the diocese of Nevada and two parishes in South Carolina. During summer 2021, Adam was an intern in the Office of Indigenous Justice Ministries in the diocese of New Westminster. Adam learned histories of Indigenous communities and experiences, and he is deeply interested in seeking restorative justice with Indigenous peoples.

A native of Greenville, South Carolina, Adam is married to Adam Hartsock. They are elated about their upcoming move to Vancouver, a city they have both loved visiting for many years. They will arrive later this spring along with their dogs Marvin, Quincy, and Grimace. Adam and Adam cannot wait to be part of the Cathedral community.

The former assistant curate, the Rev. Jonathan Pinkney completed his curacy at the Cathedral, January 31, 2022. He currently serves as Interim Priest-in-Charge at St. Christopher's, West Vancouver

Please keep Adam and Adam in your prayers as they travel to Vancouver and embark on this new phase of their lives.

Bishop Stephens has appointed the Rev. Lorne Manweiler as the next Regional Dean of Point Grey effective April 1, 2022. The Rev. Manweiler is the Rector of St. Philip, Dunbar and succeeded the Rev. Christine Rowe who will retire as the current Regional

Dean of Point Grey on March 31.

Deacon, the Rev. Peggy Trendell-Jensen has been appointed as the next Archdeacon of Deacons effective June 1, 2022. Peggy will succeed the Ven. Bruce Morris who will retire on May 31, 2022. The Ven. Trendell-Jensen is one of the deacons at St. Clement, Lynn Valley. The Ven. Trendell-Jensen's grandfather predeceased her as an archdeacon: the Ven. Archdeacon Trendell, after whom the Trendell Lounge (the gathering space shared by the Synod Office and St. John Shaughnessy) is named, was rector of St. John Shaughnessy from 1950-1963.

The installation of the next Regional Dean of Point Grey and collation of the next Archdeacon for Deacons will occur as an additional liturgy during the Ordinations on June 11 at Christ Church Cathedral. ☿



Adam Dawkins. PHOTO Submitted



The Rev. Lorne Manweiler. PHOTO Derek Simpkins



The Ven. Peggy Trendell-Jensen. PHOTO Wayne Chose

Love is a Many Splendoured Thing

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

Retired Priest of the diocese of Calgary; Former Dean of the diocese of New Westminster & Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver

You may remember this as the title of song in a long ago movie of the same name. The stars, as we used to say, in the movie were William Holden and Jennifer Jones. The other day I found myself humming the melody, and since a remembered melody is a sure way to open one's memory banks, I found myself recalling two quotes I had saved, two beautiful expressions of human love.

As you well know, the fact that something is long ago does not mean it cannot become a gift again when you rediscover it in your study or wherever. For a fair number of years, I have been adding to what is now a sizable personal anthology of both prose and poetry. So, without more ado, I reach for one of the—no less than—five large three-ringed binders.

Here we are, under the L's. Madeleine L'Engle was married to Hugh Franklin for many years. After he died, she used that experience of their years together as the basis for one of her many books. She called it *Two Part Invention: The Story of a Marriage*.

When you come to think of it, that title "a two-part invention," defines exactly what a marriage must be if it's to survive. Here is a short extract...

"Our love has been anything but perfect and anything but static. Inevitably there have been times when one of us has outrun the other and has had to wait patiently for the other to catch up. There have been times when we have misunderstood each other, demanded too much of each other, been insensitive to the other's needs. I don't believe there is any marriage where this does not happen. The growth of love is not a straight line, but a series of hills and valleys. I suspect that in every good marriage there are times when love seems to be over. Sometimes these desert times are the only way to the next

oasis, which is far more lush and beautiful after the desert than it could possibly have been without it."

The second thing that I brought up from the depths of my study is from a book called *Mortal Lessons*, written by a surgeon named Richard Seltzer, who also had a gift for reflecting on the human condition.

He describes a visit he made to a young woman he had just operated on. When he arrived in the ward she was just waking from surgery. Sitting by the bed, holding her hand was her young husband. They had been married a very short time.

The surgery had entailed severing a

tiny but significant nerve that affected the muscles of her mouth. As surgeon Seltzer had made every possible effort to follow the curve of her flesh so that he could remove the tumour, but it was simply not possible to avoid severing this tiny twig of the nerve. As a consequence, her mouth was twisted.

The young woman spoke, drowsily and indistinctly. "Will my mouth always be like this?" "Yes," Seltzer said, "it will. It's because a nerve has had to be cut." She nodded and was silent.

Very quietly, her husband broke his silence. "I like it" he said, "It's kind of cute." Then getting up from his chair he bent over

his wife to kiss her now crooked mouth. As he did so Seltzer could see that he twisted his own lips to accommodate to hers, showing her that their kiss still worked.

In his book, Seltzer speaks of this moment as unique in his experience. He found himself recalling the ancient Greek belief that the gods were known to appear as mortals, and he let the wonder of the moment hang in the silence of the dimly lit ward.

Two moments of human love as "a many splendoured thing." As I replaced the original quotes in the large ring binder, I resolved to take it from the shelf more often so that together we may share other wonders. ✦



Jennifer Jones and William Holden, *Love is a Many-Splendored Thing*, 1955.

Every Nation & Tribe & Language & People

LESLIE BUCK

Topic Contributor

On March 6, 2022, the First Sunday in Lent, I listened to a sermon on Christ's three temptations in the wilderness. The preacher placed each temptation first in the context of the Gospel writer's time, and then of our own time. It was an insightful and helpful presentation.

I was struck particularly by the account of the second temptation. Our Lord lived in a time and place marked by the *Pax Romana*, a peace that had been imposed by military conquest and maintained by imperial oppression. His temptation was to replace Roman peace with the peace of God by using the same method, the devil's method.

As the preacher pointed out, that situation is not unlike that of our own day where the *Pax Britannica* has been imposed by force on the Indigenous people of our country. He went on to challenge us to ask whether we had, in fact, used the devil's method to preach the Gospel. His point was well taken.

I then began to reflect on the more immediate situation: the present-day situation, that is, of the people around me. Sitting there among us all were persons who were clearly not of European descent including,

I may well imagine, some of Indigenous or part-Indigenous descent. I began to feel ill at ease because they had not been participants in the conquest and oppression for which we were being called to account.

It is an easy trap to fall into. We—we, that is, of European decent—often chastise ourselves without noticing that we are including non-Europeans in the condemnation. So let us step back for a moment and re-examine the situation we—we all—find ourselves in.

I look back to the past and remember sitting in church in London within an exclusively British, or more precisely English, congregation. The people were English, and so also in appearance were the blue-eyed, blond-haired *Christs* in our stained-glass windows, even though the historical Jesus didn't look like that. But change was coming, for I also remember at that time welcoming our first West Indian family, who were received (I am very happy to say) with warmth and affection.

In the more recent past in Vancouver, I recall sitting, at different times, with persons of almost 30 different national origins (as well as of some 16 maternal languages

and various confessional backgrounds other than Anglican). Most of our fellow Anglicans in our part of the world, I suggest, can say something of this kind. We have moved ahead.

This is not to say that no more need be done in eradicating prejudice due to ethnic origin, and in correcting injustices perpetrated by our predecessors. But we must avoid blinding ourselves to what has already been achieved, for past achievements augur well for future improvements. More importantly, we must avoid talking *about* or *of* people as if they were not already present, beside each of us.

We must also recognize that there are many forms of diversity. Our diocese has been in the forefront of breaking down barriers associated with sexual orientation, and that, too, augurs well in dealing with barriers associated with gender. But these are not the only sources of prejudice, for there are many aspects of human diversity.

For me, the most sensitive source of prejudice is that associated with social class and inherited entitlement. As a child and young person growing up in Britain, it was a constant source of discontent, one I was

very happy to escape when I chose to live in Canada. Even so, when I look around our churches and thank God for the presence of so many people of differing origins and backgrounds, it seems that some—those of a social group differing from mine—are missing.

To return to the sermon, the preacher's point was indeed well taken. But in assessing the present situation and the need to eradicate prejudice of whatever kind, we must hold the past in mind, and not let ignorance of the past lead us into new forms of exclusion.

So, I make my request to persons who speak in our churches. Do not address us as if we were all of one kind. Do not urge us to welcome persons of other ethnicities if we are already multi-ethnic. Do not urge us to be open to LGBTQ2SIA+ persons if LGBTQ2SIA+ persons are already sitting among us. Do not assume that English is the only language known among us but learn to address us in many languages. Recognize what has been achieved and build on those achievements to make the Gospel as all-embracing as it surely truly is. ✦

All are encouraged to submit letters, articles, reports on parish activities, opinion pieces, photos, and more for consideration to be published in Topic

DEADLINE FOR TOPIC SUBMISSIONS JULY 22 FOR THE FALL (SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER) ISSUE

Please email Randy Murray at rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca • All contributions are appreciated • EDITOR

OPINION

Slow Travel in a New/Old Land
Re-Discovering the Lectionary

HANNAH MAIN-VAN DER KAMP
St. David & St. Paul, Powell River

“Pent-up travel demand,” reads a headline. “Airlines brace for full planes.” Travelers have not been away from home for two years and have money to spend. In spring/summer, now with relaxed travel restrictions, many, including me, are eager to go somewhere.

There are many kinds of travel; fast/ slow, entertainment/research, short stay/long stay, backpack/luxury coach. Transportation is costly to the Earth as well as to the credit card. Some families feel they have an entitlement to travel to sunny places away from cold Canadian winters for health reasons. Who in our diocese does not dream of that? Some folks get addicted to the “highs” of travel. Many travel to be with family and friends.

Tourism and travel are not the same. Hearing snippets of familiar passages is not the same as in-depth contemplation of scripture. The difference between tourism and travel is like the difference between fast food and a gourmet meal.

Mass tourism has a negative impact on rich traditions of other cultures making them a “consumable” and therefore banal. What are we really seeking when we leave our homes to be “somewhere else?” Many seek a break from routine, newness, stimulation, a fresh perspective on our “at-home” lives, thrill, romance, deep engagement with other persons and their culture/religion/history. Not to mention creativity and inspiration. What part does desire for distraction play?

In 1992, a group of bible scholars, theologians and church leaders from about 25 denominations consulted on the choices of Scripture readings to be included in a new lectionary. In 1994, the *Revised Common Lectionary* was publicly released and is now widely used. The readings were sensitively selected to reflect the historical tradition of the liturgical calendar and of pairing Old Testament (OT) texts with those in the New Testament (NT). The texts have subtle resonances with each other; they are not random. Alternate readings were included to ensure that commonality had flexibility. They are never banal.

It is a privilege to travel deeply in this collection. To broaden the impact of the text, good readers will also read around the text, the preceding chapter or additional verses. Good to check out footnotes if your bible includes them. But be aware! Should you really, really explore it, you will experience confusion and discomfort as well as delight and insight. It’s not easy tourism. You will be confounded by texts that are hard to accept. Making it even more difficult is the careless way in which the texts are sometimes proclaimed in the Sunday service; poetry mangled, names mispronounced, too fast, too soft or inarticulate, not to mention technical audio hitches. This is not gossip about my own parish where there are some very good lectionary proclaimers: but I have observed this sloppiness in many a diocesan parish. The subtle thematic connections between the readings may not be referred to by either the reader or the homilist.

As I draft this piece for *Topic*, I am considering the OT reading for next Sunday, *Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18*. Why are verses 13–16 missing? Read them anyway. There you will find a troubling promise that has never been fulfilled and is highly contentious if not repugnant. Without historical/cultural context, how could any listener make sense out this. We don’t know how to deal with the hyperbolic speech habit of

the ancient world. It may just be a way of expressing the largesse of Abram’s god, but... And what of the weirdness of the ancient ritual of ratifying a covenant; cutting up birds and walking through them? And we wonder why our Sunday service does not

attract seekers.

Give up on it? When we travel deeply far away, we put up with bad food, risky activities (amateur spelunking, paragliding, zip-lining anyone?), getting lost, fleeced, or bitten all in the spirit of adventure. You do

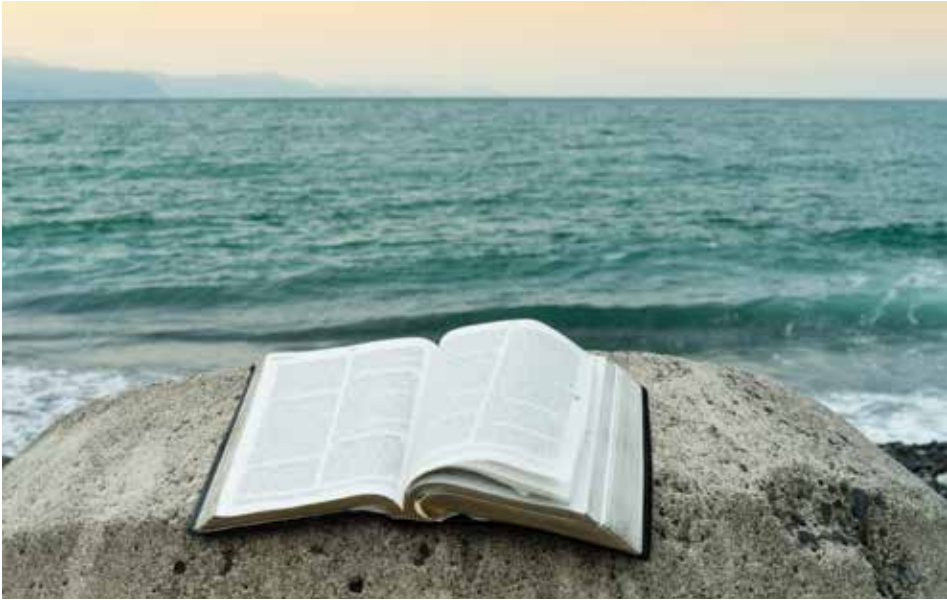


PHOTO Sergio Yoneda (iStock ID #972349886)

Vocation or Vacation

STEPHEN ROWE
Rector of the Church of the Epiphany, Surrey; Regional Dean of Peace Arch

In the early part of Lent, we spent a week’s vacation on the east coast of Vancouver Island. As we sometimes do, we had taken

a peep at the weather forecast before we left. Each time we looked it was different. Finally, the week itself began and the sun



PHOTOS Christine Rowe

research before you travel, study the phrase book, read up on the history, examine the maps, why wouldn’t we do the same when we travel in the lectionary?

When you return from travels abroad, you bring back mementos (probably overpriced, soon charmless and headed for a thrift store). Who needs five selfies of self on Eiffel Tower? Who needs the Eiffel Tower?

When you travel deeply into scripture, the lectionary is a map and a calendar guiding you to fresh adventures both daily and Sundays. It’s free and you don’t need sunscreen or bug spray. Take along the stout walking stick of a good bible commentary and you won’t stumble. Occasionally you will be a little lost; trust the way. ✚

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An excellent source for more information plus readings, hymns, art can be found at lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu

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Hannah Main-van der Kamp discovered the lectionary treasure 40 years ago and, most days, makes exploratory forays. No packing!

.....

was shining as we left North Vancouver. As we drove north on the Island we were treated to a lovely spring like sunset, with the mountains to the west.

The first morning, we awoke to a beautiful sunrise and the weather was warm for the time of year. With few exceptions, the whole week consisted of sunny days and often without a cloud in the sky. It didn’t seem like March and technically still winter. We found a sun trap on the beach and read and took it easy for a while. We were even treated to a few late winter sunsets.

Towards the end of the week, it suddenly occurred to me that the word vacation is only one letter different from vocation.

I was reminded of the “vacations” Jesus took during his ministry. Time to be alone with God, away from the crowds, and even the disciples. It was a space for reflection, for resting and preparing for what was to come. Often perhaps it was a chance to think more clearly about the call from God. During Lent we recall the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness in preparation for the beginning of his ministry. Each year we use this season to take stock, reflect and prepare for Holy Week. Part of the focus for these days is being able to stop, and think about our lives, where we are headed, and whether we are in harmony with God.

Perhaps our own lives are little different from the life Jesus lived. We live our vocation in seeking to be faithful to the *Call* we understand we hear from God. That call is lived partly as an individual, but most often in community, with other people in some specific context.

God calls us to live our life to the full and live it, not for ourselves, but for one another and for others, for our loved ones, for those with whom we share a common life. And God call us to vacation to step aside at times to reflect, to refresh and rest in readiness for continuing with our vocation.

We were so blessed to have a full week of sunshine for our vacation. Time to rest and reflect and prepare for the next leg of the journey. ✚



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