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The 8th Investiture of New Members to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

More than 1000 folks braved the rain and chilly winds on the morning of Saturday, November 5, 2016, to attend the 8th Investiture of New Members to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW) at the Massey Theatre in New Westminster.

47 of the 49 parish nominees and all nine of the bishop's nominees were present to receive the medal and ribbon on the stage of the Massey while the Warden of the Order, Robert Watt read their Citation. The purpose of the ODNW is to honour people who have distinguished themselves in living out their baptismal identity and purpose in an exemplary way through service in their parishes, in their broader communities and in this diocese.

For the first time in the history of the event the investiture did not take place within the context of a Celebration of the Eucharist but during the service of Morning Prayer. Michael Dirk, organist and director of music at St. John's, Shaughnessy (SJS) prepared the music and assembled a choral octet from SJS under the direction of Ann Chen to lead the music in worship. Michael also arranged to have an electric three manual organ delivered from Carillon Music along with nine portable speakers to accurately cover the entire frequency spectrum of the instrument. The set-up of the organ began at 6:30 am.

Jane Dittrich of Christ Church Cathedral (CCC) assembled a skilled and experienced team of 12 greeters consisting of: Linda Blizzard, Alexandria Cluver, Charlotte Culver, Erin Davis, Steve Dunbar, Chris Ellison, Jae Bun Henry, Jon Paul Henry, Tomoko Ito, Leslie Roach and Larry Young who took on the tasks of managing the reserved seating, ushering, bulletin distribution, information services and the Offertory. Jane was on site by 6:45 am to ensure that all would be in order.

The Reverends Jeremy Clark-King and Liz Ruder-Celiz of St. Mary's, Kerrisdale (SMK) were the MCs and they had a variety of responsibilities, including planning the flow of the liturgy, organizing the two clergy processions, the Offertory and helping the recipients through the process of leaving their designated seats to line-up, receive the medal and ribbon, be greeted by the bishop, pose for a photo by diocesan photographer Wayne Chose, and return to their seats.

The readers and intercessor for the service were new members of the ODNW. Brigette Castro, ODNW of St. Michael's, Multicultural Church in Vancouver, offered the first reading, *Sirach 51: 1–12* in her first language, *Tagalog*; Chris Barr, ODNW of St. Laurence, Coquitlam read the Gospel passage, *Luke 14: 1–11*; and the intercessor was Dr. Robyn Woodward, ODNW of SJS. The office of Morning Prayer does not require a full cohort of servers and acolytes but there were two crucifers, Greg Kennelly, ODNW of Holy Trinity Cathedral, and Hootan Alaei of St. Barnabas, New Westminster. Bishop's Chaplain was Kerry Baisely, ODNW.

In her homily, Bishop Skelton shared a personal story, a remarkable experience regarding participation in a meal during her ministry in the US south, and then she connected the Gospel reading to samples of quotes taken from the Citations to be read during the investiture ceremony that illustrate the diversity, commitment and contribution of the recipients. Bishop Skelton closed out her address referring to the text of the Edward Bairstow anthem, *I Sat Down Under His Shadow (Song of Solomon 2: 3–4)*



Alex Starr, ODNW was the final recipient of the medallion and ribbon and he ended things in style by snapping a "selfie" with Bishop Skelton. PHOTO Wayne Chose

"The purpose of the ODNW is to honour people who have distinguished themselves in living out their baptismal identity and purpose in an exemplary way through service in their parishes, in their broader communities and in this diocese."

beautifully sung by the SJS choristers following the Gospel reading and prior to the address.

(Bishop Skelton's address is available on the World Wide Web at <http://bit.ly/2foD10H>. Due to a technical glitch the first section of the homily is not present in the audio file but the complete text of the sermon is downloadable.)

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Elsie Preedy, ODNW is beaming with joy as she poses for the individual portrait shot with Bishop Skelton. Ms. Preedy has been in a variety of leadership positions at St. Oswald, Port Kells and her energy and commitment have served that parish well. PHOTO Wayne Chose

The 8th Investiture of New Members to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster

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Bishop Skelton's and Michael Dirk's choice of all eight verses of *For All the Saints* combined with the organizational teamwork of Jane Dittrich, and the Reverends Ruder-Celiz and Clark-King proved to be a perfect fit for the Offertory and a congregation of over 1000 in a theatre. This year's offering will be directed to a fund to stimulate new



Not quite 7 am and the Carillon Music folks are wiring the nine speakers placed at the front of the stage for the organ. PHOTO Randy Murray



Roy Hepworth of Carillon Music makes some adjustments to the organ. PHOTO Randy Murray

congregational starts and new parish initiatives as a way to honour the members of the ODNW and their dedication to the building up of the Church. This was also the first time that the diocesan online giving capability was used at a worship event. The total donated to this fund at the ODNW Investiture was \$5,553.

Following the Offertory, Warden of the Order, Robert Watt, ODNW stepped up to the lectern and for the next 55 minutes read the Citations of the 56 new members present that morning. The congregation was asked to hold their applause until all the nominees had been inducted, however there were a couple of exceptions. The first occurred about halfway through the process when Stan Horton, ODNW the parish nominee from St. Catherine, Port Coquitlam quietly listened to the reading of the Citation (albeit with a very big smile) as he stood with Bishop Skelton until the Warden had finished the text at which point he raised his walking stick and said "Come on now... give me a big cheer." The second event prompted laughter and applause and didn't involve any speaking as Alex Starr, ODNW of SMK, the youngest ever recipient of the honour brandished his smartphone in the well-known "selfie" position, and with Bishop Skelton happy to cooperate by turning her head toward the device snapped a shot of the memorable moment.

Before the intercessory prayer a medical emergency in the theatre was communicated to the greeters and then immediately to Massey Theatre staff. Quickly, contact was made through 911 with the result being the arrival of a team of first responders on the scene within minutes. Following the Benediction and prior to the Closing Hymn the congregation was asked to remain in their seats after the hymn to enable the paramedics to do their work in caring for the individual in distress. The onsite evaluation proceeded efficiently and the patient was removed on a wheeled stretcher within minutes. The good news is that

reports came in within less than 24 hours to say that the patient was feeling much better and had attended worship at their parish the next morning.

The liturgy was followed by many photographs and a celebratory reception in the small gymnasium of New Westminster Secondary School with food for 1100 prepared by Bette Geddes and her team.

Due to the changes in Regulation 22 the regulation of our diocese that governs the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster passed by Diocesan Council May 11, 2016, the ODNW nominations process and investiture now takes place every two years. The next investiture event will be on or around All Saints' Day in 2018. ✠

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Current members of the ODNW arrive more than an hour ahead of the event to get good seats. PHOTO Wayne Chose



LEFT Greeting Team leader, Jane Dittrich gets the stage seating reserved and in order. PHOTO Randy Murray RIGHT The choristers from St. John's, Shaughnessy rehearse. PHOTO Wayne Chose



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



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Editor Randy Murray
rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca

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The Bishop of New Westminster

The Rt. Rev. Melissa M. Skelton

Address

Diocese of New Westminster
1410 Nanton Avenue,
Vancouver, BC V6H 2E2

Phone 604.684.6306 ext. 223

Website

For the latest news and features go to www.vancouver.anglican.ca

Contributors & Helpers for this issue

Patrick Blaney, David W. T. Brattston, Wayne Chose, Bridget Edgerton, David Edgerton, Douglas Fenton, Getty Images, Clarence Li, Margaret Marquardt, Stephen Muir, Herbert O'Driscoll, Sheila Puls, Gail Revitt, Bill Siksay, Art Turnbull, and Dave Walker.

Thank you!

The 8th Investiture of New Members to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster

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Nominees arrive and sign in at the registration table. PHOTO Wayne Chose



LEFT Nominees wait in the Massey Theatre Gallery before being escorted to the stage. PHOTO Wayne Chose RIGHT A meeting on the stage: Archdeacons, MCs, Crucifer and Bishop's Chaplain. PHOTO Randy Murray



The MCs for the liturgy, the Reverends Jeremy Clark-King and Liz Ruder-Celiz. PHOTO Wayne Chose



LEFT The Rev. Liz Ruder-Celiz organizes the stage right procession in the Massey Theatre Lobby. RIGHT Greg Kennelly, ODNW of Holy Trinity Cathedral prepares to lead the stage right clergy procession. PHOTOS Randy Murray



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Bette Geddes, the Rev. Lizz Lindsay and members of their team have the food ready to serve by 9:30 am. PHOTO Randy Murray

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

compiled by Anglican Archivist Melanie Delva

- 20 years • 1997** Church voices support the Nisga'a tentative treaty agreement at a two-day public hearing.
- 30 years • 1987** Topic Editorial Board thanks readers for their generosity in its first ever fundraising campaign.
- 50 years • 1967** It is reported that "many church members have been seriously disturbed" by a "Psychedelic Worship" service put on jointly between University Hill United and St. Anselm's parish.

CYBER ATTACKS

HOW THE MODERN-DAY CHURCH IS RESISTING THEM

PRINTING EMAILS AND DELIVERING THEM BY HAND

MAINTAINING ANTIVIRUS PROTECTION

KEEPING UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION OFF THE WEBSITE

NOT PLUGGING THE OHP INTO THE INTERNET

CartoonChurch.com

The 8th Investiture of New Members to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster

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Citations as Read by the Warden of the Order, Robert Watt, ODNW

The following are the Citations for the 56 new members that were invested into The Order of the Diocese of New Westminster on November 5, 2016, at 10:30 am at the Massey Theatre in North Vancouver. For continuity purposes the style and formatting have been retained. Many thanks to Bill Siksay, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop's and Executive Archdeacon's Office for his editing

CAPILANO ARCHDEACONRY

• The Venerable Lynne McNaughton, Archdeacon

Mrs. Laurelle Ellene Findler
St. Hilda, Sechelt

Laurelle transferred her energies from St. Stephen, Burnaby to St. Hilda, Sechelt in 1988. Jumping into parish life as Secretary of the Church Committee and the Anglican Church Women (ACW) and then as People's Warden in 1992. She deftly guided the parish through many upheavals including two new priests. As President of the ACW for nine years she oversaw innumerable fundraisers and projects. Her "swan song" was financing a new kitchen, which is now available for community meals. Her latest project is figuring out her new iPad. ✦

Mr. Bertram John Alan Finnie
St. Stephen, West Vancouver

Alan grew up in St. Stephen, West Vancouver and returned there when he retired in the 1990s. He has been a "jack of all trades" since then, serving on Parish Council, Finance, Stewardship and Outreach Committees, and as a Trustee, Head Sidesperson, Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, and fundraising organizer, to name just a few of his ministries. Alan has used his expertise in insurance to help both the parish and the diocese review their insurance policies. ✦

Ms. Sara Hanney
St. Clement, Lynn Valley

Sara's ministry at St. Clement, Lynn Valley has included the Sunday School, Parish Council, being a Warden, and leadership in worship and through music. She has provided a calm, affirming presence during turbulent times of transition. Unassuming in the way she offers leadership, Sara celebrates the gifts and ministry of others. She knows when to step up and when to step back. Her strong commitment to the well being of the community includes respecting diversity and a deep incarnational faith. Grace shines through her. ✦

Mrs. Linda Joan Harrison
St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver

Linda is a cradle Anglican. She has been a more than capable leader and champion of the parish of St. John the Evangelist since 1998. St. John's and the deanery have been blessed by her dedication and spirit as she served as Warden for several terms, participated in two canonical processes, revitalized the Hospitality and Fellowship Group, organized church refugee sponsorship programmes, created outreach programmes to the neighbourhood, hosted international choirs, participated in Caring Ministry and much more. ✦

Mr. James Joseph Hylands
St. Christopher, West Vancouver

A parishioner of St. Christopher, West Vancouver since 1986, Jim has greeted people at the door with a friendly smile. While in Tanzania from 1994 to 1999, Jim connected the parish to local missions for lepers and street children orphaned by parents who died of AIDS. St. Christopher's appreciates Jim's amazing "do it yourself" skills, from laying plaques in the memorial garden to laying a new floor in the church basement. The rector appreciates Jim's ability to find just the right time to send the perfect humorous email! ✦

Mrs. Mary Anne Koning
St. Catherine, Capilano

Molly has been a faithful parishioner at St. Catherine, Capilano since the early 1960s. She has steadfastly held the position of President of the Altar Guild for approximately ten years. In her quiet, unassuming manner, Molly has led by example with her strong dedication to perfection as she devoutly prepares the worship space. She has also served as Eucharistic minister, greeter, receptionist, and Sunday School teacher over the years. Molly's lovely Scottish sense of humour, caring nature, and warm smile have endeared her to the parish. ✦

of the nomination statements, and also for his diligence and keen attention to detail.

The list published here is the order in which the nominees received their medallion and ribbon from the Archdeacon of the Archdeaconry where their parishes are situated. The dean of the diocese bestowed the medallions and ribbons on the Bishop's Nominees. • *Editor*

Ms. Marguerite Irene McMillan
St. Agnes, North Vancouver

Peggy is a dedicated member of St. Agnes, North Vancouver. For over 60 years Peggy has graced the community as a member of the choir, envelope secretary, prayer team member, and Curillista. She has made innumerable handcrafted items to sell at the Christmas Fair, and her seasonal packages of homemade baking have been appreciated by many local shut-ins for years. Peggy has volunteered at a nursery for impoverished children in Jamaica, and helped build a church in Guatemala. ✦

Ms. Heather Elizabeth Winifred Rhodes
St. Martin, North Vancouver

Heather's 56 years' service includes 27 years with St. Martin's Sunday School, and ten more in other parishes. Her volunteerism includes weekly help in the office for 27 years, driving for North Shore Seniors' Hub, phoning vulnerable "Telefriends" parishioners daily since 1985, and coordinating hospital chapel volunteers weekly since 1984. Heather humbly and accurately provides a longstanding and much-appreciated "extra set of observant eyes, willing hands and compassionate ears" as well as "institutional memory" of St. Martin's individuals and events. ✦



Bishop Skelton was the preacher. PHOTO Wayne Chose



The Warden of the Order, Robert Watt, ODNW read the Citations. PHOTO Wayne Chose



The choir just prior to singing Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Benedictus Dominus Deus*. PHOTO Randy Murray

BURRARD ARCHDEACONRY

• The Venerable Philippa Segrave-Pride

Mrs. Jennifer Howard Birtwell
Christ Church Cathedral

Born and growing up in the shadow of York Minster, Jenny is truly a cradle Anglican. Jenny has been active in the ministry life of Christ Church Cathedral for over 40 years. Her early ministry was with the Church School and educational events. Jenny was active in leadership roles as chair of Parish Council, People's Warden, Rector's Warden, and co-chair of Legacy Stewardship. Jenny is a leader in worship and pastoral care, as an intercessor, reader, and in offering Healing Prayer and Healing Touch ministry. ✦

Mrs. Betty Carlson
St. James, Vancouver

Betty's first visit to St. James, Vancouver was on a date on Easter Sunday 1975. So began a wonderful relationship! Betty and Carl were married at St. James in 1980. They served together as narthex members, coffee hour hosts, counters, and stage directors of the Christmas pageant. Betty is still a counter, in the Sanctuary and Women's Guilds, and on the Renovations Committee. She has served as Trustee, and two terms as Warden. Betty's dedication and attention to detail is appreciated by the parish. ✦

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Ms. Brigitte Castro
St. Michael's Multicultural, Vancouver

For over 16 years, Brigitte has served in essential roles during the miracle resurrection of St. Michael's, Vancouver, including 16 years with the Meal Ministry, ten years on Church Council and the Rental Committee, seven on the Canonical and Stewardship Committees, four on Seafarer's and three on Strategic Planning. The Meal Ministry is St. Michael's primary mission, and Brigitte has led all the way — the *Feeding of the Five Thousand Programme* (literally 5000!) should have Brigitte's name in front of it. ✦

Mrs. Joy Stuart
St. Thomas, Vancouver

Joy has, for 80 years in four parishes, carried out each of her many ministries confidently, with commitment and without fuss or fanfare. From her ministry to feed the lonely and those with little income in Kitsilano, to her current passion, ending social isolation, Joy has brought Christ's love to her community. While the people of St. Thomas, Vancouver know that Joy doesn't want thanks, they want to thank her for all her contributions to life in the church and community. ✦

Ms. Gail Anita Kiyomi Tamagi
Holy Cross Japanese Canadian, Vancouver

Gail has been a faithful fourth generation (Yonsei/Sansei) member of Holy Cross all her life. In her early teens she began helping her mother with Sunday School, eventually taking over the leadership. She still volunteers for special occasions. Gail has continued her ministry as a Lay Eucharistic Assistant, Church Committee Secretary, and Alternate Delegate to Synod. She is an active, dependable participant in all aspects of parish life, and her quiet dedication is valued and respected. ✦

Mr. John Hugh Wood
St. Paul, Vancouver

For 20 years, Jack has served with humbleness and steadiness. His dedication to keeping the books in good order, clear communication to the Church Committee, and written expressions of gratitude to all donors has made a lasting impact on the health and morale of the congregation. His friendliness to newcomers and commitment to clear and thoughtful reading of the Scriptures have also enriched the community's life. Jack is someone you go to for sage advice with a good dose of humour. ✦



Brigitte Castro, ODNW of St. Michael's Multicultural Church reads the first reading, *Sirach 51: 1 – 12* in her first language, Tagalog. PHOTO Wayne Chose



Gail Tamagi, ODNW of Holy Cross Japanese Canadian Anglican Church speaks with Bishop Skelton before her Citation is read. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Ven. John Stephens, Archdeacon of Vancouver, rector of St. John's, Shaughnessy enjoys watching Jack Wood, ODNW of St. Paul's as he and Bishop Skelton pose for their photo. PHOTO Randy Murray

FRASER ARCHDEACONRY [The Venerable Stephen Rowe](#)

Ms. Priscilla Archer
Holy Trinity, White Rock

Priscilla has served Holy Trinity, White Rock in numerous "official" ministries over the years including: Warden, Synod Delegate, Fundraiser, member of the Altar Guild, and in Pastoral Care. She is a wonderful example of Christian discipleship. She notices if people are not at church and gently follows-up. She takes time to thank and affirm people. Her suggestions are creative and helpful and her feedback is always thoughtful and respectful. In all she undertakes, she shows warmth, generosity, humour, humility and above all, love. ✦

Ms. Kim Hodge
St. George, Fort Langley

Always smiling and leading at St. George, Fort Langley for many years, Kim has served Parish Council as Secretary, Rector's and People's Warden, and on the Canonical Committee. Her cheerful organizational ability ensured several successful Spring Sales. She has ministered as a Reader, Intercessor, Eucharistic ministries, Altar Guild, Choir and EfM mentor. Kim's caring spirit, teaching skills, and willing leadership have led to service with the Diocesan School for Parish Development, the Mission and Ministry Development Committee and the Diocesan Consultant Network. ✦

Mrs. Carol Lynne Hurd
St. Mark, Ocean Park

Lynne unfailingly gifts our diocese, parishes and the wider community. A Home Care Registered Nurse, she was active at St. Matthew, Abbotsford for 20 years. On her move to Surrey, Lynne was appointed sole nurse to the Musqueam Band. At St. Mark, Ocean Park the Hurds host a weekly Bible study. Significantly, Lynne's indefatigable leadership for seven years as Rector's and Bishop's Warden was key to the parish moving through a difficult transition. Lynne was recently appointed Coordinator of Pastoral Care Ministries. ✦

Mrs. Beverly Elizabeth Kreller
Christ Church, Hope

A proud cradle Anglican, Bev has guided Christ Church through a challenging discernment year with grace and poise. She is involved with every aspect of the Church. Bev is the People's Warden, an active member of the ACW, Altar Guild and the Christ Church National Historic Site Committee. Through her energies, Bev has ensured Christ Church continues to thrive. Her leadership and communication skills have brought about inclusion and engagement of parish members. Bev's work continues to build a community of faith. ✦

Mrs. Audrey McAuley
St. Dunstan, Aldergrove

Audrey has been a devoted Anglican from an early age, remaining true to her baptismal and confirmation commitment throughout her life. She has been a St. Dunstan's Parish member for 27 years. She has fulfilled every role one can in St. Dunstan's, involved in the ACW, Parish Council, and as a Warden, including providing input and design ideas as part of the Building Committee for the new church built ten years ago. Audrey is a beloved and admired member of the St. Dunstan's congregation. ✦

Mr. Anthony Francisco Picher
St. Michael, Surrey

From the mid 1970s, Tony has been very active at St. Michael, Surrey. He is always ready to help set up for functions, and to do the clean up afterwards. Tony has been a greeter since 1992. He helps with repairs around the church. Tony has served on the Church Council and been a delegate to Synod. For the past three years he has made soup for 70 to over 100 homeless people as part of Nightshift in Surrey. ✦

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A view of the stage as Dr. Robyn Woodward, ODNW of St. John's, Shaughnessy leads the prayers. PHOTO Wayne Chose

Ms. Elsie Rosemary Preedy
St. Oswald, Port Kells

Elsie has a long and varied record of service to the parish of St. Oswald, Port Kells. Her special talents include planning and organizing fundraisers. Elsie is well known for her ability to turn castoff items into cash for the parish. She played a vital part in raising funds for additions to both the church and the hall. Elsie helps maintain the church cemetery and burial records, both dating back to 1919, and she played an important role in establishing the Memorial Garden. ✦

Mrs. Helen Riel
St. Cuthbert, Delta

Helen has faithfully "let her light shine" for over 60 years through her service as a teacher and Superintendent of the Sunday School, in the choir, on the Pastoral Care Team and with the Mothers' Union at St. Cuthbert, among others. One can perceive the light that is within as well as the love and genuine concern she shares with everyone, born out of deep, yet practical faith in Christ. Helen is well known and well loved by her parish. ✦

Mr. Donald Charles Rodger
St. Thomas, Chilliwack

Don has served in many administrative capacities of the last 20+ years. He has been People's Warden at St. John, Sardis, St. Peter, Rosedale, and St. Thomas, Chilliwack, and was involved in the buildings and maintenance in all three parishes. Don is the Chair of the Heritage Committee and the Screening Coordinator at St. Thomas. He and his wife Marlene are lay administrators, and they sing in the St. Thomas Choir and in the THE singing group. ✦

Ms. Margaret Strocel
St. Matthew, Abbotsford

Margaret has served three Anglican parishes for decades. In each she has served significantly as Outreach Co-ordinator, ACW President, and ACW Diocesan Board Member. She is a tireless fundraiser. Margaret is a true community organizer who really gets going when others quit or when a parish is going through a hard time. By refusing the naysayers she has galvanized the women of St. Matthew, Abbotsford into an ACW Chapter that is active in community and national outreach programmes. ✦

Mrs. Carol Ann Williams
Church of the Epiphany, Surrey

45 years ago, Carol became a Junior Auxiliary leader, working with young girls for 13 years. She served on Council as a lay delegate to Synod, a Warden, and she served on a Canonical Committee. Carol has been heavily involved in and committed to stewardship for 25 years. She is also a sidesperson, a lay administrator, envelope secretary, on the Building Committee and she co-chaired the successful 2013 Capital Campaign. Carol enjoyed co-ordinating pancake suppers, stewardship meals, strawberry teas and receptions of all kinds. ✦

LOUGHEED ARCHDEACONRY
• The Venerable Karen Urquhart

Mr. John Walpole Binns
St. John the Apostle, Port Moody

John is a conscientious, cheerful and dedicated member of St. John the Apostle, Port Moody, who has provided insight and leadership relating to the building and grounds for over 15 years. If the term "go the extra mile" applies to anyone, it applied to John, who, along with his wife Brenda, has been positively involved in the parish supporting every event. John's wisdom, expertise and hands-on oversight regarding the buildings have been deeply appreciated by all over many years. ✦

Ms. Colleen Mary Butterley
St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby

Colleen has been a valuable member of St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby since 1996. She has spent many years on Parish Council as People's Warden and Member-at-Large, and she is currently Synod Delegate and on the Diocesan Parish Development Grants Team. Her good heart, enthusiasm and tireless volunteerism allowed her to accept nothing less than perfection when it came to co-chairing all of St. Stephen's 100th Anniversary events, including the Downton Abbey Tea and a Wine and Cheese Reception and Art Auction. ✦

Mrs. Phyllis Donalda Foerster
St. Timothy, Burnaby

Grandfather George Rix, Bishop of Caledonia, helped set Donnie on track for a life of service. For 50 years, Donnie has assisted as a lay leader in parishes in Ocean Falls, Campbell River, and Burnaby, encouraging congregations to sing a new song unto the Lord. She raised a strong family, loved her husband deeply, and enfolded many more as kin. Known as the "energizer bunny" at St. Timothy, Burnaby, Donnie has a triune love of the Anglican Church, quilting, and the Girl Guides. ✦

Mr. Stanley Clifford Horton
St. Catherine of Alexandria, Port Coquitlam

Stan has been a valuable member of St. Catherine's since 1960 and he has proved his undeniable loyalty to God and his church. Stan has a wonderful sense of humour and an infectious smile that have helped him "sweet talk" other parishioners into helping him attain the goals of the parish. For 27 years Stan produced the Courier, the parish newsletter, and he organizes the Christmas seniors' lunch and camping weekends. Stan has been a proud leader in the Air Cadets since 1968. ✦



Stan Horton, ODNW of St. Catherine's, Port Coquitlam, holds out his walking stick, requesting a cheer. PHOTO Wayne Chose

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Mrs. Nancy Konsmo
St. Laurence, Coquitlam

Nancy has been a member of St. Laurence, Coquitlam since 1964 and she has fulfilled countless roles including as a Sunday School teacher, Pastoral Care Co-ordinator, Synod Delegate, Warden, and this year, returned to the Church Committee. She continues to be a reader, intercessor and chalice administrator. Nancy coached girls' softball for 11 years, chaired the 1991 Coquitlam Centennial Committee, and was the Director of Volunteers for the BC Special Olympics Summer Games. Nancy's kindness and grace have been wonderful gifts to the parish. ✦

Mr. Edward Evans Meredith
Holy Spirit, Whonnock

Ed was born in North Wales in 1926, moved to Canada as a young man and has been a contributing member at four different churches in this diocese for the last 65 years. The last 24 years has been with Holy Spirit Anglican Church, Whonnock, where he has been the Sextant and on Church Council since 1998. Every Sunday Ed is at the church door, greeting one and all with a smile and the bulletin of the day! ✦

Mrs. Anne Schaffar
St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge

Anne became a parishioner in 1998. She cheerfully is involved in various ministries such as sidesperson, greeter, Counter, head of the Altar Guild, server, facilitator for weddings and funerals, Lay Administrator, Sunday coffee, and Synod delegate. Anne regularly visits the care home and assists with Communion services. Anne was on Church Committee, in the choir, taught Church School for a number of years, and was a leader in the Alpha Programmes. She has also served as Rector's Warden for two years. ✦

Ms. Kathy Stubleby
St. George, Maple Ridge

Kathy has been involved with the Anglican Church her entire life — she even married her Sunday School teacher, Ron. For Kathy being involved does not mean simply attending on a Sunday. She takes part in almost all areas of service. Her greatest test came when she was People's Warden from 2013 to 2014. During those years St. George's underwent an extremely difficult time and Kathy's strength of spirit and prayer-led ministry helped the church to survive and prosper. ✦

Mr. Robert James Wilson
All Saints, Mission

Jim has served on Church Council as Associate Warden for two years during a time of transition and has been a Synod Delegate for the past three years. With his volunteer work in the community he brings insight and connections to the All Saints Outreach Committee. He is a greeter, Lay Administrator, and official bell ringer. A graduate of Education for Ministry (EFM), he attends all Bible studies and workshops. As his wife Marci says, "Call it a committee, and he will be there." ✦

VANCOUVER ARCHDEACONRY
• [The Venerable John Stephens](#)

Mrs. Johanna Finlay
St. Mary, Kerrisdale

Johanna has been a member of St. Mary's since soon after moving from Scotland. She served as Sunday School and Confirmation coordinator, writing and developing curricula and courses. Johanna has been President of the Chancel Guild, Warden, Parish Councillor, Delegate to Synod and much more. In the wider community she has been President of Kid Safe providing support to at-risk children. Johanna excels at building connections across generations and fostering ways of people learning together of God's love in action. ✦

Dr. John Miller Munro
St. Philip, Dunbar

Jock is a distinguished academic having held leadership positions at Simon Fraser University including Provost and Vice President, Academic. St. Philip's has benefitted from Jock's financial expertise since he joined the parish in 1980. For many years, Jock served as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee. He continues his dedication to the wellbeing of the parish as Sidesman, Envelope Secretary (since 2002) and Counting Team member. Jock serves St. Philip's with diligence, competence and much good humour. ✦



The Closing Hymn, *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*. PHOTO Wayne Chose



Everyone is in place for the 2016 group photo. PHOTO Randy Murray

Ms. Wendy Ann Nilsen
St. Faith, Vancouver

Wendy, a St. Faith's parishioner since 1980, brings a passion for the Church's ministry within and beyond its doors. Her media design gifts have helped the Parish present itself to the neighbourhood. As Chair of the Parish Outreach Committee she has personified Archbishop Temple's statement that the Church exists primarily for its non-members. In all she does, Wendy shares a compassionate and gentle presence that enriches the life of the Parish and all those who enter within its reach. ✦

Mrs. Monica Jill O'Brien
St. Helen, West Point Grey

Monica commands deep respect and love from everyone because of her selfless dedication in Christ's ministry. Faithful, humble, good at math, an organizer, amazing family, fun, positive, appreciative, loves Belgian beer! Monica's willingness to serve inspires awe. When no treasurer could be found, she piled in and did the job without hesitation for a year while she was also Envelope Secretary and Rector's Warden and led the Teddy Bear Bazaar for almost the 20th year. Words fail. She's amazing. ✦

Mrs. Grace Tanaka
Holy Trinity, Vancouver

Since coming to Holy Trinity, Vancouver Grace has established a dedicated and growing group supporting the Tumaini Fund in the Anglican Diocese of Kagera, Tanzania. This bears out Grace's belief that contributing to a worthwhile cause keeps not only seniors but all members vibrant and brings purpose to the community. A member of the Chancel Guild, she also nurtures a Sunday Evening worship Service at Chalmers Lodge. Busy, happy, and wise, she is an inspiration to all. ✦

Dr. Robyn Woodward
St. John, Shaughnessy

Robyn's family has been part of St. John, Shaughnessy since it was built in 1949. Early on she helped her grandmother with flower arrangements, something Robyn continues today. Returning to Vancouver after her studies, she became active at St. Mary, Kerrisdale. When St. John's was returned to the diocese, Robyn also returned, serving as People's Warden and now as Rector's Warden. She has made remarkable improvements to the parish website and to the parish gardens, served on a canonical committee, and helped with the transition of the Administration Building to the Synod Offices. ✦

The 8th Investiture of New Members to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster

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The staff of the Massey Theatre were delighted to see Massey Theatre usher, Helen Nebbeling, ODNW of St. Barnabas receiving the medallion and ribbon. PHOTO Wayne Chose



The 7th Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster, the Most Rev. Douglas Hambidge. PHOTO Wayne Chose



Dean Peter Elliott and the Rev. Canon Dr. Herbert O'Driscoll congratulate Jenny Birtwell, ODNW of Christ Church Cathedral after the liturgy. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT The Rev. Lizz Lindsay and members of the Bette Geddes and Associates catering team made sure the food service was smooth sailing. RIGHT On the right the Executive Archdeacon of the diocese of New Westminster, the Ven. Douglas Fenton, DD (Doctor of Divinity) with Linda Adams, ODNW. Linda was the first person invested in to the ODNW in 2009. PHOTO Randy Murray



WESTMINSTER ARCHDEACONRY

• The Venerable Elizabeth Northcott

Mr. Ray Duff
All Saints, South Burnaby

For 63 years, Ray has made significant contributions to All Saints, South Burnaby, working with 12 different priests, starting from the late Canon De Pencier to the Rev. Shirley Stockdill. In 1958 Ray watched the new church being built and was confirmed at age 12. Ray brings financial, computer and data base skills to the leadership team and is a choir member. He was involved in the successful 100th Anniversary Celebration in 2012. Ray is currently Treasurer and Head Sacristan. ✦

Mrs. Rosemary June Exworthy
St. Alban the Martyr, Burnaby

June is one of the oldest members of St. Alban the Martyr, Burnaby, having been a parishioner for 63 years. Since the 2015 fire she has spent countless hours on her artist stool repairing the fine details of the wood that “speaks” to her, taking great pride in ensuring that all the wood is lovingly restored to its former beauty. June is an inspiration and her strength of character, her indomitable spirit and her deep sense of service bring great joy to the parish. ✦

Mr. Neville Roger Kim Sing
St. Anne, Steveston

Neville is the “Mr. Fix-It” of St. Anne, Steveston. Recruited some 15 years ago, Neville has and continues to do so much around the church. He works around the church behind the scenes, quietly, so that everything runs smoothly including painting, carpentry, electrical work, overseeing all maintenance and repairs. He also generously offers his talents to parishioners who need help. Neville’s keen, resourceful, scientific and mathematical mind lends him to be named the “MacGyver” of St. Anne’s. ✦

Mrs. Elizabeth Frances MacDonald
All Saints, Ladner

For the past 34 years Liz has been a worshipful member of All Saints, Ladner. She has participated fully in many Parish ministries, activities, and functions including the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), the Health Committee, Hospital Visiting Team, Parish Council, Rector’s Warden, youth ministry, Choir and Sunday School. Liz is held in high esteem as a compassionate and very caring person. Her gracious manner, vibrant personality, commitment to our Lord, and deep pastoral concern reflect her strong personal faith and dedication to All Saints. ✦

Ms. Helen-Louise Nebbeling
St. Barnabas, New Westminster

Helen has been a dedicated Anglican since she was baptized at Holy Trinity, White Rock at age 11. At St. Barnabas for the past 14 years, she took on the life of an active Anglican, assuming major leadership role in the hospitality ministries, in parish food programmes, with the Thrift Store, and with five years of dedicated service on Church Committee. Helen’s great gift has been in Pastoral Care, and she has brought the love of Christ of many in this role. ✦

Mr. Donald William Neilson
Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster

Don has served as an integral member of Holy Trinity Cathedral since 1977 with a few years off for good behaviour in between to accompany his wife, Deacon Carole, in a pastoral appointment at St. Christopher, West Vancouver. Don has served in a variety of roles over the years, including as Rector’s Warden, Synod Delegate, People’s Warden, Breakfast Volunteer, member of Parish Council, and member of the Building Committee. He is known for his quick wit, dedication, and faithfulness. ✦

Mr. Charles Digby Turney
St. Mary the Virgin, Sapperton

Digby’s great-grandfather was a founder of St. Mary’s in 1865. Baptized, confirmed, and married at St. Mary’s, Digby represents the fourth generation of his family’s active continuous membership in the Parish. From assisting the Rector with Communion at the Penitentiary as a teenager, to more recently compiling a book on the church’s stained-glass windows, Digby’s faithful service has been lifelong. An electrician, he gave by endlessly maintaining church buildings. At age 88, he continues his deep faith and commitment to God. ✦

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The 8th Investiture of New Members to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster

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The 2016 Group Photo. PHOTO Wayne Chose

BISHOP'S NOMINEES

• The Very Reverend Peter Elliott

Dr. Starr Leona Allaby

Starr was the lay representative to the Ministry Assessment Process (MAP) for the three New Westminster parishes and a MAP Mentor/Facilitator. She chaired the Ministry and Congregational Development Committee from 2011 to 2014. A participant in every Synod from 2005 to 2014, she was also on the Electoral Synod's Selection and Nomination Committee. Active at St. Barnabas, Starr was a warden for ten years, engaging many tasks, and hosting meetings and retreats in her home. She is now at Holy Trinity Cathedral. ✦

Mr. Christopher Robert Barr

At St. Laurence, Coquitlam, Chris was on the Youth Advisory Committee, and he was the youth representative to Parish Council and Synod. He was on youth and leadership staff at the Sorrento Centre and helped lead youth retreats in the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia. Chris has served as Youth Leader at St. Laurence, and as Co-Chair and Chair of the Diocesan Youth Movement (DYM). Most recently he has worked on the second annual Diocesan Junior Youth Retreat and the BC Yukon Anglican Youth Movement (BCYAYM) Fall Conference. ✦

Mrs. Johanna (Joan) Cope

Moving to Hope from Vancouver in the 1960s brought Joan to a new church home at Christ Church, Hope. She has served in all aspects of church life and has been very active in the ACW. For the last 20 years she has been a delegate to Synod and since 2014 she has served on Diocesan Council. While Christ Church, Hope awaits a new priest, Joan and other lay parishioners lead services on two to three Sundays each month. ✦

Mrs. Sylvia-Anne Enga

In the 1980s Sylvia chaired the Stewards in Action Grief Recovery Unit and the Board of Abbeyfield House, Burnaby. She has been deeply involved with Camp Artaban, as a Board member, volunteer Registered Nurse, and Director of various camps, including her favourite, Family Camp. Active with the Diocesan ACW, Sylvia oversees the collection of hundreds of tiny hand-knitted sweaters and toques that are sent around the world. At St. Agnes, Sylvia continues to teach Sunday School and work with the refugee family from Syria. ✦



Chris Barr, ODNW of St. Laurence, Coquitlam read the Gospel passage, Luke 14: 1 – 11. PHOTO Wayne Chose

Mr. Simon Johnston

As a member of St. Mary, Kerrisdale from 2000 to 2012, Simon was an intercessor, reader, Parish Council member and member of the Synod. After retiring in 2012, he moved to Holy Trinity, White Rock. That same year he was appointed Chair of the Synod Planning Committee for the diocese of New Westminster and he continues in that capacity. He is now also Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2019 General Synod that will convene in Vancouver. ✦

Mrs. Margaret Elizabeth Jonsson

Margaret's passion is encouraging lay ministry. She was the first woman appointed as a Rector's Warden in the North Vancouver Deanery. In the 1980s Margaret led the study portion for Anglicans in Mission and was Diocesan Christian Education Coordinator, developing workshops for church secretaries and wardens and a lay ministry certificate programme. Margaret led workshops on stewardship, small church development and adult education. An Advisory Committee on Postulants for Ordination (ACPO) Assessor and leader at the Sorrento Centre, Margaret taught congregational development at Vancouver School of Theology (VST) and introduced the Disciple Bible Study Programme. ✦



Thomas Roach, ODNW receives the ribbon and medallion from his husband the Very Rev. Peter Elliott, DD dean of the diocese of New Westminster and rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver. PHOTO Wayne Chose

Mr. Thomas Alexander Roach

A liturgical textile artist, Thomas shares his creativity within the parish, the diocese and beyond. Thomas has organized many diocesan events, including Synod in 1996 and 1997, conferences, Bishop Melissa's consecration, and the 2015 ODNW Investiture Service. At Christ Church Cathedral, Thomas served on Parish Council, as Stewardship Chair, a server and an honorary member of the Altar Guild, coordinating festival decorations. A member of General Synod in 1989 and the National Stewardship and Financial Development Committee, Thomas participated in the 1997 International Anglican Youth Network Gathering, and the 2012 Anglican Consultative Council. ✦

Ms. Mary-Virginia Shaw

Ginger's love of music led her to being music director at St. Agnes and St. Laurence. She became a member of Christ Church Cathedral in 2004, when she was guest organist, and where she is a member of the Dean's Council for Liturgy and Music and the Maundy Project. Since her retirement from VST, she has worked on Synod Planning Committees, is secretary to the Cathedral Chapter, serves on the Bishop's Advisory Committee on the ODNW and volunteers with the Cathedral's hospitality team for diocesan receptions. ✦

Mr. Alexander Starr

At St. Mary, Kerrisdale Alex served on Synod and Parish Council and as Youth Leader. At the diocesan level, he was on Diocesan Council (2006–2008) and a founding member and a chair of the Diocesan Youth Movement (2007–2008 and 2010–2014), helping secure funding for the Diocesan Youth Coordinator. Involved with the Diocesan Arts Ministry, Alex appeared in *Godspell*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Oliver*. Alex was on the Provincial Anglican Youth Movement Executive Council, chaired BCYAYM Council, and served on the Council of General Synod. ✦

*Congratulations
to All the
Recipients
of the
Order of the Diocese
of New Westminster!*



Following the Covenant in Ministry, Bishop Skelton leads the welcoming applause for the new vicar, the Rev. Grant Rodgers. PHOTO Randy Murray

Celebration of a New Ministry in Cloverdale

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On Tuesday, November 8, 2016, Bishop Melissa Skelton installed the Rev. Grant Rodgers as vicar (½ time) of Christ the Redeemer, Surrey. The Rev. Grant Rodgers maintains his position at Vancouver School of Theology (VST) as Director of Anglican Formation.

The church building of Christ the Redeemer is similar in design and construction to a number of churches in our diocese built in the second half of the 20th century. It is circular with a large and welcoming narthex leading into the nave seating which forms a semi-circle around the chancel area. This particular church is very well designed for worship, for although it is spacious and bright there is a sense of closeness, friendliness and connection between the congregation and the sanctuary party. It shares property with the original Anglican Church located just to the north across the road and up on a rise, Christ Church. Christ Church was built in 1884, and like its modern offspring Christ the Redeemer, it is also an excellent example of a worship space of its era, widely regarded as being one of the best local examples of an Arts and Crafts variation on the Gothic Revival style. Christ Church was the first church of

any denomination to be built in Surrey. The importance of this place in the history of Surrey is considerable.

There was a very good turnout for the liturgy, particularly among the clergy cohort. Being in a pleasant worshipping situation conducive to prayer was on the minds of many that evening as the results of the US presidential election were coming in. There was also a good turnout from Rev. Rodgers’s former parish, St. John the Apostle, Port Moody. He was the incumbent of that parish for eight years, a period that saw both the strengthening of the community and improvements to the building.

The preacher for the Eucharist was the Archdeacon of Fraser, the Ven. Stephen Rowe.

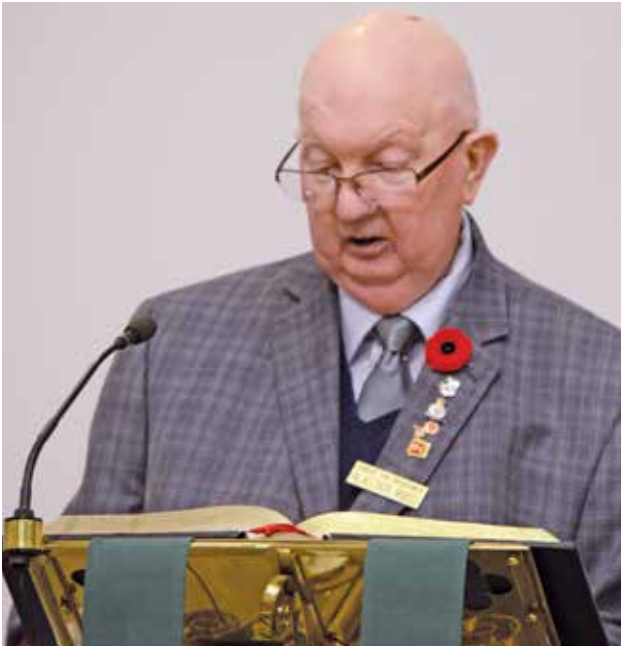
Archdeacon Stephen made some timely references to the presidential election and developed a bit of a hockey theme as Rev. Grant Rodgers has played some hockey in his time, earning the sobriquet, “The Fighting Father.” In response to that nickname, Archdeacon Stephen said:

“This tells us something important about Grant: he is passionate in

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Bishop Skelton confers with Bishop's Chaplain, Martha Glassford before the Eucharist. On the left is deacon of the word and table, the Rev. Christine Magrega of Holy Trinity, New Westminster. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Alastair Ross read both the Old Testament, *Jeremiah 1: 4 – 9* and the Epistle, *2 Corinthians 4: 1 – 6*. RIGHT The procession has just completed and the community sings the final verse of *O Christ, the Great Foundation*. PHOTOS Randy Murray



The Executive Archdeacon, the Ven. Douglas Fenton describing the process by which Rev. Grant Rodgers was chosen to be vicar. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Ven. Stephen Rowe preaching. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Rev. Grant Rodgers reads the Oath. PHOTO Randy Murray

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what he does, he isn't afraid to stare down difficult situations, and doesn't give up easily.

I am not suggesting it needs to be made clear, that he has come to fight with the people of Christ the Redeemer, but that he will fight to work with you to ensure that mission and ministry grows, develops and thrives in this place.

As our gospel reading tells us (*Luke 10: 1–2*): the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; so part of prayer tonight is that people of this parish will use their gifts and encourage others from the local community, but not yet part of this church congregation, to come and use theirs too. So we are bidden to pray that God will send labourers into God's harvest. As it is also a reminder that all mission and ministry is done in God's strength and by the grace that God give us, not according to our determination. We need to remember that nothing will come of our work unless we pray and ask God to guide and direct our gifts and offerings.

This parish has great potential, set as it is amidst a thriving and growing community. The church is situated at the heart of where people live and work. It has the opportunity to be a beacon of light and welcome, as people make sense of their complex and complicated lives"

As Archdeacon Rowe moved toward the summation of his homily he made reference to the words of the prophet Jeremiah heard during the first reading (*Jeremiah 1: 4–9*) when Jeremiah "reminds us that being born a human being isn't some random act, rather that God has intentions and purpose for us throughout our lives. The exciting part is that our purpose is only slowly revealed to us as we move



Receiving the oil of baptism from Pamela Moore during the Covenant in Ministry, Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry of the Whole People of God. PHOTO Randy Murray

through our lives." He then made reference to the words of the prophet Isaiah who revealed this message from God, "Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name. You are mine." (*Isaiah 43: 1*) He then quipped, "Of course Grant with his name, has a head start when it comes to calling by God and especially when it comes to prayers. Have you ever noticed how often *Grant* gets a mention in the prayers of the church? Some sets of prayers in fact all start with reference to his name."

The Parish of Christ the Redeemer has undergone a number of changes and challenges in recent years including the departure of their last rector, the Rev. Craig Vance in 2014. However, the parish was fortunate to have the Rev. Paul Borthistle as the interim ordained leader of their shared ministry, a ministry role he continued until his retirement at the end of the summer of 2016. The Rev. Randolph Bruce who was the crucifer for this liturgy provided ordained leadership for the parish until Rev. Rodgers officially began his ministry.

And now with the arrival of an experienced and respected priest, the parish has an opportunity to embrace this new beginning. To go with energy and renewed confidence out into their neighbourhood, the Holy Spirit filling the community, leadership and the Rev. Rodgers with purpose and commitment.

With these words, Archdeacon Stephen Rowe concluded his sermon, "May God bless and guide you in all you do together for the common good, for one another to further and enhance the community here that bears and proclaims the name of Christ."✠



Sue Spivey presents the new vicar with prayer books during Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry of the Whole People of God. Sue was the intercessor for the Eucharist. PHOTO Randy Murray



Receiving the Eucharistic elements from Janet Mackie during Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry of the Whole People of God. PHOTO Randy Murray



A warm welcome to the Peace Arch deanery from regional dean, the Rev. Craig Tanksley, rector of St. Mark, Ocean Park. PHOTO Randy Murray



Bishop and vicar during the Benedictus/Eucharist Prayer. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Eucharist. PHOTO Randy Murray



The bell spire facing north at 3:30 pm on November 17, 2016. PHOTO Randy Murray



Dean Peter Elliott offers some introductory words. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Christopher Gaze, OBC. RIGHT Bell Spire artist, Sarah Hall. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Members of The Vancouver Men's Chorus. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT A capacity congregation listening to Audrey Siegl's welcome to Musqueam.

Ring Out!

Liturgy in Celebration of the Completion of the Cathedral

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

In the late afternoon of November 17, 2016, blessings, acknowledgements, applause, singing, ringing bells, smart phones held high to record the moment, champagne, Christ Church Cathedral (CCC), the Anglican Cathedral of the Diocese of New Westminster celebrated the completion of 20 years of renovation, restoration, innovation and renewal of the 130+ year old Vancouver landmark.

Within the 20 years (and \$20 million raised for the work) there have been five projects:

- **The Exterior:** plaza, kiosks, exterior lighting, stained glass window fortification and repair of the stone cladding that covers the building's wooden frame.
- **Restoration and Renewal:** a dramatic rejuvenation of the entire interior, including a good portion of the seismic upgrading, the building of an organ gallery, the installation of a new tracker action organ, the west chancel prayer alcove now home to the Prayers of the Church liturgical textile display, and a place of honour in the east chancel alcove to preserve the battle flags of Vancouver's regiments.
- **Accessibility for All People:** an adjunct of phase two, Restoration and Renewal saw the construction of an elevator, wheelchair ramps to the chancel entrance and an upper level washroom.
- **The Tree of Life:** stained glass window created by Susan Point, thanks to a generous gift from the late Jean Macdonald Southam installed in the south facing narthex wall.
- **Raise the Roof, Ring the Bells, Feed the Hungry:** the most recent project which saw the Cathedral building hidden under scaffolding for 18 months while the shingle roof was replaced by a zinc covering, completion of the seismic upgrade begun in 2003, the tiny kitchen in the lower level enlarged and updated in order to facilitate the cathedral's growing food ministry and the new construction of a stained glass clad bell spire containing four bells custom forged in Annecy, France.

The second phase in 2003–2004, required that the congregation gather in another location (a meeting room at the Vancouver Public Library) for over a year and the third phase just completed saw the congregation again worshipping in another location (a conference room in a downtown hotel) for much of the spring, all of the summer and the fall of 2015.

The November 17 celebration entitled *RING OUT!* was in response to the completion of the most recent project but it is safe to say that many of the people in the assembly gathered in the Cathedral at 4:30 pm had been around since the arrival of the dean and rector, the Rev. Dr. Peter Elliott, who within a year of beginning his new ministry in 1994 had a vision for the church located at Burrard and West Georgia and after 22 years maintaining that vision, a vision shared by many has now been realized.

It was appropriate that the heart of the *Ring Out!* celebration was worship. By 4 pm the nave of the cathedral which comfortably holds 500–550 was almost full and at the time the procession began a half an hour later, signifying the start of the liturgy every seat was occupied and



team territory. Dean Peter Elliott and Cathedral Verger, Richard MacAlpine. MIDDLE Standing Room Only congregation. RIGHT Audrey Siegl shares a song that Chief Dan George gave to the Coast Salish Peoples. PHOTOS Randy Murray

Completion of *Raise the Roof, Ring the Bells, Feed the Hungry* at Christ Church Cathedral

with the spaces behind the two wheelchair accessible ramps to the chancel.

The service began with a formal welcome to the territory of the Musqueam First Nation by Audrey Siegl. In her welcome she spoke of light and the shared appreciation of those “who work in the light” by both First Nations and Settler cultures. She spoke of the importance of “welcoming light” (the official name of the new bell spire) and added that she knows “this is an inclusive place” that “honours diversity.” She then shared a song that Chief Dan George gave to the Coast Salish Peoples.

This formal welcome was followed by a brief address from dean and rector, the Very Rev. Dr. Peter Elliott who said that he had altered the first few lines of his opening remarks due to the outcome of the US presidential election the week before but proceeded saying, “to paraphrase the words of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton it takes a village to raise a child... it takes a city to raise a cathedral.” And this theme of the City of Vancouver’s contribution and involvement in the completion of the work on the building was present throughout the 50-minute service.

Next was a congregational hymn, a new hymn written

by the Cathedral’s vicar, the Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark-King to the tune *Diademata*:

Ring Out Vancouver Bells

Ring out Vancouver bells!
Let all the city hear
God’s love song, filled with peace and hope
in music deep and clear.
Ring out, ring out, bright bells!
Calling our minds to rise
Away from thoughts of selfish gain,
To hear our neighbours’ cries.

Ring out, ring out sweet bells!
To tell our holy tale
Of God’s close presence with us now,
And love that does not fail.
Ring out Cathedral bells!
In joy and faith and love;
Remind us that our home is God,
Both here and then above.

The service continued with: a reading from *Isaiah* by Bard on the Beach founder, Christopher Gaze, OBC; a reflec-

tion from the Rev. Canon Dr. Herbert O’Driscoll, the tenth rector and fifth dean of CCC (1968–1982), who in the brief span of three and half minutes told a story from the era of the Roman Empire which bore a remarkable resemblance to the current state of our world (*the text of Canon O’Driscoll’s reflection is available on page 14 of this issue of Topic*); the 2013 original choral work, *Ring Out Wild Bells*, text by Alfred, Lord Tennyson, music, Dr. Stephen Smith performed by The Vancouver Men’s Chorus with Dr. Smith’s piano accompaniment; acknowledgment of all those involved in the project presented by Rick Cluff of CBC Radio’s *Early Edition* which saw Darlene Poole (representing the Jack Poole Foundation whose \$2.5 million gift launched the most recent campaign) and the majority of the principals involved in all facets of project invited up to the chancel entrance platform to receive the appreciative applause of those gathered in the church; a section titled *The Cathedral and the City* which consisted of an address from Honorary Colonel Michael Shields, CD who explained the importance of Christ Church to Vancouver’s military regiments with a request that those who had not had the experience spend some time in the

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The bell spire is lit and the bells are pealing. PHOTO Randy Murray

Ring Out!

Liturgy in Celebration of the Completion of *Raise the Roof, Ring the Bells, Feed the Hungry* at Christ Church Cathedral



LEFT Rick Cluff who presided over the "acknowledgments" section joined on the chancel platform by Cathedral leaders, Graeme Rawlings and John Ross. LEFT MIDDLE Honorary Colonel Michael Shields, CD. RIGHT MIDDLE Carol Taylor, OC. RIGHT Bishop Skelton, the Prayer of Blessing. PHOTOS Randy Murray

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Regimental Colours alcove viewing the battle flags preserved there, and an address from Carol Taylor, OC (former SFU Chancellor, Vancouver city councillor and BC MLA) who said that CCC was almost demolished and a worship space and office tower built in its place in the mid-1970s, reminding people that it was due to the perseverance of many Vancouverites outside of the membership of Christ Church Cathedral who helped ensure that "Christ Church Cathedral is here for the community." She finished her brief remarks by acknowledging the person who'd arrived after that era and who's energy, vision and commitment has made this possible, Dean Peter Elliott.

Prior to the blessing and dedication, Cathedral Choir under the leadership of organist and director of music, Rupert Lang offered the anthem, *Lux Aurumque* by Eric Whitacre and then Bishop Melissa Skelton said these words:

God of Strength and beauty
we ask your blessing on the work of our hands.
May light, music and solace flow freely
from this cathedral church
into our beloved city.
May your mercy ring out and your truth shine forth
that all who see this place and hear its bells
may know that your heart cradles all creation
and that you are present in our midst.
In the name of the one who showed us
that love and presence most clearly,
Jesus Christ our Friend and Brother.
Amen

The worship part of the celebration concluded with the well-known hymn, *Now Thank We All Our God*, some instructions from Dean Peter Elliott on what would happen next and then 800+ people emptied out onto Burrard Street and located themselves in two prime viewing spaces, one in the garden area of the neighbouring building to the north, Park Place and the other in the alley adjacent to West Georgia Street near the west entrance to the Cathedral's neighbour to the east, Cathedral Place. Within minutes the spire lit up producing a happy gasp from the onlookers followed by the Westminster Chime, the individual ring of each bell in sequence. The chime was followed by a period of silence which prompted folks to yell out "More! More!" and then the bells rang for approximately three minutes delighting the crowd. When the bells stopped swaying and the joyful ringing was replaced by the sounds of rush hour in the city it was time to go back into the building where both levels were the venues for a champagne reception.

When asked at the event by a CBC reporter about the intended use of the bells, Dean Peter Elliott responded, "The bells are set to ring each day at 8 am and 6 pm and before church services... We're also talking to our inter-faith neighbours, for example they could ring out at the beginning of Ramadan, Diwali, Rosh Hashanah or other religious celebrations to show we're a peaceful city and we respect each other." He was then asked about the impact of the bells on the downtown Vancouver neighbourhood to which he said, "It's going to be interesting, there hasn't been a bell spire at the corner of Burrard and Georgia in downtown Vancouver until just Thursday night (November 17, 2016), so we'll see how people respond."

Congratulations to Dean Peter Elliott and the Cathedral community for this remarkable witness to faith in Vancouver. May the bells ring out "in joy and faith and love" for many years to come. ✚

(A video of the entire service is available online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=aaWWnKOsidg. The liturgy begins at the 37:40 mark and the reflection begins at 55:10.)



Singing the last hymn, *Now Thank We All Our God*. PHOTO Randy Murray

Ring Out Reflection

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

Presented November 17, 2016

I want to tell you a story that I think expresses why it is worth while to offer the gift of this tower, its light and its bells to our city at this point in its history.

On the 9th of November of an eventful and even terrifying year a tall blond gothic figure stood on the floor of the senate of a great empire. Facing him were the powerful politicians who could still not believe that this man had penetrated into the heart of the imperial system. They waited fearfully to learn what he intended now that he had obtained power.

The empire was that of Rome, the year was 409 of the Common Era, the name of the tall figure on whom all eyes rested, was Alaric the Goth. His subsequent attack and siege would damage and cripple the city. In the following weeks thousands of refugees would stream

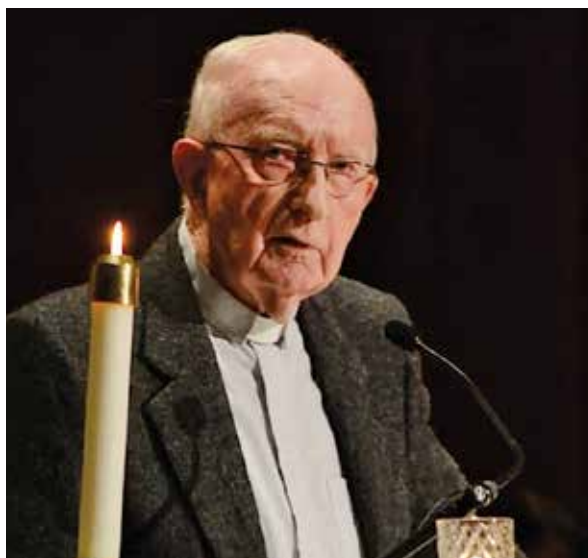
down the Amalfi coast fleeing south. Some would take passage to Sicily. Those who had money would take passage to the glittering cities of the North African Mediterranean coast.

On the quayside in one of these cities there was the new young governor of the province. His name was Volusianus. He was shaken and appalled at what had happened to his country. In his desperation he wrote a letter to an older friend living along the coast, basically asking for meaning and reassurance. The older friend replied and later elaborated his reply into one of the great books of the Christian tradition.

The older friend said something like this: "Volusianus, there is a way to remain sane and grounded if you are living in a turbulent moment of history. You must remember that there are always two cities, the city of Humanity and the city of God. The city of humanity, being a construct of time, is always both being built and being dismantled. The city of God is eternal. And so Volusianus, if you wish to find meaning and assurance at such a time as this, then, as you walk in the changing streets of the city of humanity you must believe that at the same time you are participating in building the city of God."

The older friend who wrote that letter was Augustine of Hippo. The book he later wrote is *The City of God*.

This evening, by building this tower, by its rainbow of colour and by the harmony of its bells, this Cathedral is addressing a modern glittering city by another ocean. And once again, as in the twilight of an ancient empire a voice spoke of there being always two cities, this tower speaks the same unchanging truth. And when we know this truth we are able to live in the city of humanity, even in a turbulent time of history, with meaning and hope, and joy and celebration. ✚



The Rev. Canon Dr. Herbert O'Driscoll, November 17, 2016. PHOTO Randy Murray

Diocesan Council in the Fall of 2016 • Highlights

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Diocesan Council is often referred to as “Synod between Synods,” the governing body of the diocese of New Westminster. It is chaired by the bishop and consists of 14 elected and eight appointed members, as well as the three diocesan senior staff who are ex-officio members without voting privileges. Although four meetings and an all-day working retreat were scheduled in 2016, Council ended up meeting a total of six times. Due to the amount of items requiring decisions a meeting was added on October 19, 2016.

At that October 19 meeting there were a number of important business decisions on the agenda, however, Council was two short of a *quorum* (the minimum number of Council members present in order that the decisions voted on become laws of the diocese). The meeting proceeded as usual and the motions and resolutions were voted on and recorded in the Minutes. At the next meeting, November 9 there *was* a quorum present and when the October 19 Minutes were put forward for approval, Council voted to approve them, therefore the decisions made at the October 19 meeting were ratified. Approval to allow the Anglican Parish of the Church of the Epiphany (Epiphany) to sell a portion of its land and to grant that parish a forgivable loan was one of the items approved October 19. The story of the Epiphany development project and Council’s involvement can be found on page 9 of the December 2016 issue of *Topic*.

Approved that evening was a motion that will see the diocese (directed by Diocesan Council), fund the Anglican Chaplaincy at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) for the first six months of 2017, up to a maximum of \$13,500. In order to secure funding for the remainder of 2017, the churches in the Vancouver Archdeaconry that had provided six months of funding in 2016 would be asked to reprise their contributions. Representatives of two of the three contributing parishes, St. John’s, Shaughnessy and St. Faith’s, Vancouver are members of Council and said that their communities would continue their support of the Anglican VGH chaplaincy ensuring that this ministry will continue in 2017. There is however, an ongoing discussion about hospital chaplaincy in the diocese of New Westminster. In late 2015, a Hospital Chaplaincy Task Force was struck and months later submitted a full report that was circulated at the May 11, 2016 meeting of Diocesan Council. The report contains a great deal of information and a number of recommendations. At the October meeting, Mission and Ministry Development (MMD) Chair, Kim Hodge said that there would need to be some planning undertaken to organize the work of hospital chaplaincy in



Diocesan Council meeting in the Conference Room, November 9, 2016. PHOTOS Randy Murray

the 11 deaneries and also to supply training in the various regions. “Where will that funding come from?” And as in the case of the Anglican Chaplain at VGH “would they be paid staff positions?”

The agenda accepted for the November 9 meeting of Diocesan Council had a number of items on the “No Debate” list. Only one of the items was removed from the list allowing Council to approve the others with one vote, which they did.

One of the items approved by this vote was the application for a grant from the Anglican Foundation (AF) by the diocesan supported ministry, Salal + Cedar Watershed Discipleship. Salal + Cedar have applied for multi-year funding (\$10,000 per year for three years) for Sacred Earth Camp, an annual environmental leadership program for youth and young adults ages 13–25 that had its first run in August 2016. Salal + Cedar had brought their financial reports, program reports and the AF grant application to MMD and that body subsequently recommended that Council pass the following motion,

THAT Diocesan Council approves the submission of the Salal + Cedar Watershed Discipleship Ministry application to the Anglican Foundation as one of the Diocese’s three applications in 2017.

One of the most significant and certainly most culturally significant of the motions passed was the consolidation of funds to support Indigenous ministry. Here is the text from the précis:

Two funds currently exist that, when consolidated, would be used to provide a budgetary source for Indigenous ministry in the diocese. Funds from the winding up of the Columbia Coast Mission were split between the diocese of BC and the diocese of New

Westminster sometime after 1970. Over the course of its history this “Fund” has been used primarily to support Indigenous ministry including staffing and program.

The Columbia Coast Mission fund has a balance of \$387,349.84 as of September 30, 2016.

In the early part of 2016 monies were returned by the General Synod to all dioceses, which had exceeded the amount requested to address the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA). The current balance of this Fund as of September 30, 2016 is \$187,197.86. The aggregated amount of these two funds total \$574,547.70.

An agenda item not on the “No Debate” list was a motion recommended by both standing committees; MMD and Management, Finance and Property (MFP) for grants to the parishes of St. Matthew, Abbotsford and St. Matthias–St. Luke in Vancouver’s Oakridge neighbourhood.

The précis distributed to Council for the November 9 meeting read:

The Parishes of St. Matthew, Abbotsford and St. Matthias–St. Luke appeared at a joint meeting of MFP and MMD on October 25, 2016. These parishes were requesting diocesan grant support for their ministries for the coming year 2017. The diocese has been granting financial support to these two parishes since their inception as mission parishes in 2011. 2016 marked the fifth year of support to these parishes as originally set out by the diocese. The growth of these parishes has been the goal of the diocese over the past five years.

These two parishes along with St. John’s, Shaughnessy contained three of the church properties that were returned to the diocese after the June 16, 2011 Supreme Court of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



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The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada joins the Synod staff in the Trendell Lounge for prayers before lunch. PHOTO Randy Murray



The lunch line. PHOTO Randy Murray



Archbishop Hiltz answers Michele's question, Tasha Carrothers is on the left. PHOTO Randy Murray



Bishop Melissa Skelton and Archbishop Fred Hiltz meet with some clergy of the diocese of New Westminster. PHOTO Randy Murray



Beth Fortin in front of the many assembled bundles waiting to go up north. PHOTO Randy Murray

Primate's Visit & the ACW Presidents Meeting

With files from:
GAIL REVITT
Vice-President, diocese of New Westminster ACW; Social Action Co-chair, ACW

SHEILA PULS
ODNW, Past-President, diocese of New Westminster ACW

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Wednesday, October 26, 2016, the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz made his first visit to the current location of the Synod Offices at 1410 Nanton Avenue.

Archbishop Hiltz had just completed a visit to the diocese of BC so Bishop Skelton collected him at the ferry terminal at 10 am. The principal purpose for his visit to the diocese of New Westminster was to attend the Anglican Church Women's (ACW) National President's Conference the evening of October 26 and then to install the Executive Officers of the ACW during a Eucharist at St. George, Fort Langley on October 27. He did however, make time in his schedule to tour the offices, have lunch with the staff and spend some time in informal Q&A with clergy of the diocese.

The Synod Staff were delighted to welcome the Primate. As the staff, bishop and archbishop stood in a circle in the Trendell Lounge, the facility that is shared with the parish of St. John, Shaughnessy, the Archbishop led the group in prayer, offering grace.

About 15 minutes into the meal, Bishop Skelton asked the Primate what really "energizes" and "challenges" him in his ministry. Following that question, Archbishop Hiltz informally addressed the staff for more than half an hour, sharing that what really energizes him is visiting different places around the Anglican Church of Canada. He said that he had only been in the national church offices for two days in October 2016. The Primate spoke about visiting very small parishes and very large parishes and how he is sensitive to the feel of the liturgy and of all that goes with the liturgy, the announcements, the bulletin text, how long people linger after worship. What is reinforced for the Primate as he visits the faith communities of the Church is that this is so much about being in relationship, with each other, with other dioceses, with other provinces of the Anglican Communion. He spoke about the worldwide Anglican Communion and the Anglican Church of Canada's place in that Communion. As the time approached for him to begin his conversation with the clergy of the diocese he concluded by thanking the Synod staff for their ministry. He said that bishops need to be surrounded by competent people and that Bishop Skelton is "blessed" in this regard. It was a blessing for all who were present to have this opportunity to hear these words from the Primate delivered in an informal atmosphere.

Following lunch, Archbishop Hiltz and Bishop Skelton adjourned to the main conference room where they participated in a two-hour conversation with approximately

a dozen clergy of the diocese. Then it was off to Langley to join the ACW presidents.

The National meeting of the Anglican Church Women (ACW) Diocesan Presidents and Co-coordinators is held annually in a different diocese across the country. This year it was hosted by the diocese of New Westminster ACW, with the theme, *I am the vine, you are the branches*. Welcomed by New Westminster ACW President Margaret Warwick (who is also National Vice-President), the National Executive gathered on Tuesday, October 25 at Springbrooke Retreat Centre, a rural retreat centre in Langley, BC. The first order of business was planning for the proposed National Gathering of all Anglican women, to be held June 15–18, 2017, in Ancaster, Ontario.

The rest of the delegates arrived on Wednesday, October 26, and were joined for dinner and a social evening by the Primate, Bishop Skelton, and representing the Council of the North, the Rt. Rev. Barbara Andrews. Bishop Andrews spoke after breakfast on Thursday, giving an interesting perspective on the challenges faced by the church in the sparsely populated areas of the country (not necessarily north as the "Council of the North" reaches as far south as the US border).

As ACW's in many dioceses are partners in support of some of the northern dioceses, the vice-president and treasurer of the diocese of New Westminster ACW, Gail Revitt and Vera Morgan arranged a field trip on October 27. They took the Primate and Bishop Andrews to ACW Place to see how this diocese reaches out to the diocese of Yukon and the Territory of the People (formerly Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior).

Arriving at ACW Place at 11:15 am, Beth Fortin, parishioner at St. Cuthbert, Delta and ACW Social Action Co-chair greeted the group and showed the out of town guests around the warehouse. She explained that the bales are sent 3 times a year to the diocese of the Yukon for distribution to 9 parishes in that diocese. Archbishop Hiltz and Bishop Andrews helped prepare a bale by choosing items from the shelves to put in the bale. Each parish has its own preferred list of items: men's, women's, youth, children's, baby's and household (towels, quilts and sheets). The Cathedral in Whitehorse receives all the bales and the parishes come in to pick them up there. The ACW try to get the bales for Christmas assembled early before the roads become impassable. The shipment that is sent in May is sent before Synod so that the parishes can pick up their shipment when they come into the city for that annual meeting.

There was not enough time to have the guests prepare a layette (a collection of clothing for a newborn child), however they were shown what items would make up a layette given to expectant mothers in the parishes of the Yukon.

Explanations were also given about smaller collections of materials that are assembled to help various local and international groups:

- Used postage stamps — sale of proceeds go to the Arthur Turner Training School in Inuvik to train Inuit leaders
- Used eye glasses to Third World Eye Care
- Soda can tabs go to the Seeing Eye Dogs
- The proceeds from the recycling of aluminum pie plates go to the Kidney Foundation

The National ACW Presidents spent their morning in business meetings. Following lunch, Tasha Carrothers, a congregational development leader and Synod staff member led a workshop based on a series of focus groups she had conducted on behalf of the New Westminster ACW. These were undertaken to help plan for the future—and the results were shared with the National ACW as all experience the same challenges. Ideas were shared and some good discussions took place—sending everyone back to their own diocese with fresh ideas.

During the time that the presidents were meeting in Langley, the guests were transported by their ACW hosts to the Mission to Seafarers (MtS) Flying Angel Club. Senior Port Chaplain, the Rev. Peter Smyth and the staff of MtS had gathered in the main space of the Edwardian structure



Gale Revitt and Beth Fortin begin putting a bundle together. PHOTO Randy Murray



Bishop Andrews, Archbishop Hiltz and Gail check out the list. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Primate selects a men's sweater. PHOTO Randy Murray

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

to greet the guests. Not only was this a chance to share the pleasant surroundings and some information about the Mission, this was also an opportunity to celebrate the 160th Anniversary of the Mission to Seafarers that originated with Fr. John Ashely and his ministry on the banks of the Bristol Channel in 1835. This compassionate service to seafarers was repeated in a number of forms and locations in England during the next two decades culminating in a gathering of these groups in 1856, formally organized under the title The Mission to Seamen Afloat, at Home and Abroad. In 1858, the name of the organization was shortened to The Mission to Seamen and the organization adopted the now familiar Flying Angel logo. Diocesan Primates World Relief Development Fund (PWRDF) Unit chair and St. James' parishioner Peter Goodwin who is a volunteer and ongoing supporter of MtS was present for the primate's visit as were the Roman Catholic clergy who staff the MtS, Fr. John Eason and Deacon Dileep Athaide, MtS administrator Kathryn Murray and a volunteer visitor described as the "Olympic athlete" of the MtS, Douglas McDonald.

After the guests had been greeted, Rev. Smyth described the current ministry, operations and ecumenical/multifaith nature of the Mission. Many of the seafarers who visit are Filipino Roman Catholics, and in increasing numbers Muslims from Indonesia so there are often "rich conversations about faith." The shop located in the main area does a brisk trade in chocolate, toiletries and Subscriber Identity Modules (SIM cards) for mobile communication devices. During the tour of the facility Rev. Smyth pointed out the TV room, computer room, clothing room and pool table. He told the guests that due to the use of mobile devices, the TV and computer rooms no longer experience much use. Rev. Smyth also shared that much of the worship now takes place shipboard (usually at the request of the captain) and very rarely in the chapel. However, on occasion the

MtS team does worship together in the chapel.

Archbishop Hiltz, Bishop Andrews and the ACW hosts were very interested in the information provided by Kathryn Murray about the Mariner's Memorial Book which for over 100 years has been used to record the name of any British Columbian seaman or any overseas seaman who dies in the waters of British Columbia. The full name is recorded along with the date of death and the name of the last ship. The pages of the book are turned each morning during morning prayers.

In a frame on the wall above the book is the story of *The Mariner's Rest*, formerly *Steamboat Rock*, a familiar seamark visible to the port side when leaving the Langdale BC Ferries terminal outside of Gibsons. Since 1979 *The Mariner's Rest* is the official marker for the burial of ashes at sea.

The visit concluded with guests, volunteers and MtS staff posing for a photograph to memorialize the visit and honour the 160th anniversary. The photo op was followed by a prayer led by Archbishop Fred, and the enjoyment of a strawberries and cream cake.

The next and final official stop before heading back was Christ Church, Vancouver, the Cathedral Church of the diocese located in the heart of downtown. The Cathedral building was coming to the end of its current phase of renovation, which involved the replacement of the roof, the building of a new bell spire and the expansion and total refit of the kitchen. The dean of the diocese and rector of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott was joined by his spouse, textile artist, Thomas Roach; Cathedral Vicar, the Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark-King; Associate Warden, Ian Birtwell; and two guests, former Executive Director of the PWRDF Adele Finney (now retired and living in British Columbia) and her spouse, the Ven. Gordon Finney.

The group exited out from the lower level of the church

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Gail Revitt and Bishop Andrews go through a socks box. PHOTO Randy Murray



Beth with the Primate and Bishop with a stack of clothes ready to go. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT The Rev. Peter Smyth, Senior Port Chaplain and Doug McDonald one of the MtS volunteers. RIGHT Deacon Dileep Athaide explains the map that illustrates the various routes that ships arriving in the Port of Vancouver have taken. PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT The Archbishop is greeted by Peter Goodwin. MIDDLE Describing the function and features of the Flying Angel Club store. RIGHT The Rev. Peter Smyth with the literature that he takes on board ships to welcome the mariners. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Primate's Visit & the ACW Presidents Meeting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

building and walked out to Burrard Street. Dean Peter pointed out the various pieces of art and philosophy displayed on the hoarding boards that encircled the building before bringing the group to a stop at the entrance of the neighbouring Cathedral Place building where the Cathedral cohort offered explanations about the work that had been done, and in some cases was still underway. The group then went up to the Hornby Street level and standing beside the common grass area shared by the Bill Reid Gallery and Cathedral Place were treated to a view of the new bell spire and some information provided by Thomas, Ian and Dean Peter about the bells and the spire. The design and construction of the bell spire involved dozens of artists and tradespeople. Hugh Cochlin and Ben Nielsen of Prose-

nium Architecture + Interiors designed the tower, and the cross was designed by Ben Nielsen. The four bronze bells were designed and cast by Paccard Foundry of Annecy, France. Sarah Hall designed the stained glass titled, *Welcoming Light*. The stained glass was fabricated in Germany and shipped to Kitsilano Glass in Richmond where the glass was cut and placed in each of the 204 panels.

The roof, bell spire and kitchen were blessed and dedicated by Bishop Skelton on November 17, 2016. More information about the blessing and dedication can be found on pages 12–14 of this issue of *Topic*.

After a stop in the Cathedral's newly appointed kitchen, which is now able to serve upwards of 100 hungry people

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160th anniversary cake. PHOTO Randy Murray



Explaining the Mariner's Memorial Book. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT The primate leads prayers. RIGHT Posing for the 160th anniversary group photo: Vera Morgan, Doug McDonald, Gail Revitt, Rev. Peter Smyth, Bishop Barbara Andrews, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Deacon Dileep Athaide, and Fr. John Eason. PHOTOS Randy Murray



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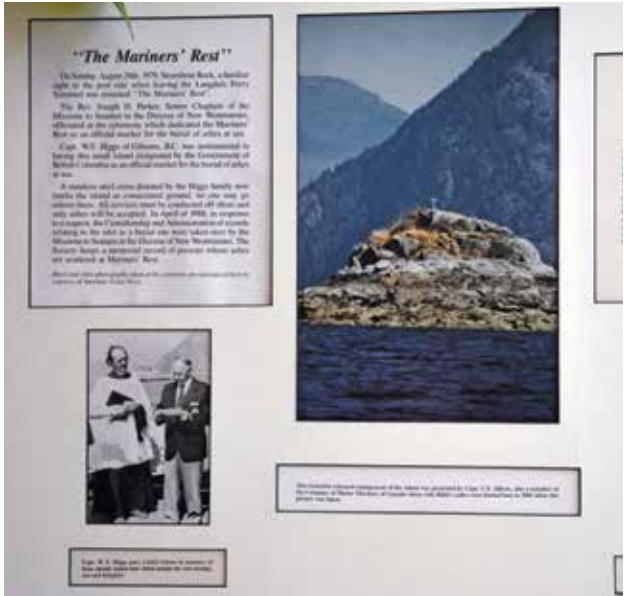
June 11- 17, 2017
Deadline for this session is May 15, 2017.

Weekends: Jan 27-28, May 12-13, September 8-9, November 17-18 (this is a non-residential program that is run out of the Synod Office 1410 Nanton Ave, Vancouver B.C. V6H 2E2)
Deadline for the four weekend sessions is December 1, 2016.

Registration information is found on the website at: <http://vancouver.anglican.ca/parish-development/school-for-parish-development> or by scanning this QR code.

Diocese of New Westminster
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

For more information
mpeterson@vancouver.anglican.ca
604.684.6306 ext.221



The framed photos and information about *The Mariner's Rest*. PHOTO Randy Murray

Diocesan Council in the Fall of 2016 • Highlights

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Canada decision determined that these properties were to remain in the possession of the Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster in order to offer public worship in the Anglican Church of Canada. The motion that follows was carried.

THAT the Standing Committees of Mission and Ministry Development (MMD) & Management, Finance and Property (MFP) recommend to Diocesan Council that the diocese:

- Support the Parish of St. Matthias – St. Luke, Vancouver in 2017 with a grant of up to a maximum for \$48,000 specifically for the Mandarin Ministry. This funding would be coupled with a consultation process in the parish on financial resources facilitated by members of MFP and MMD.
- Support the Parish of St. Mathew, Abbotsford in 2017 with a grant of up to a maximum of \$53,000 for parish operations. This funding would be coupled with a review and consultation process including the Bishop, Regional Archdeacon and members of MMD and MFP

The first meeting in 2017 for Diocesan Council will be held Wednesday, January 11, 2017.

Elections for the 2017–2019 Diocesan Council will take place at Diocesan Synod 2017 to be held May 26 and 27 at the Italian Cultural Centre. ✦



LEFT The scaffolding that had enclosed Christ Church Cathedral for many months was being dismantled during the Primate's visit. MIDDLE Looking at the art on the hoarding boards. RIGHT Dean Peter Elliott gives some background and context to the materials displayed on the hoarding boards. PHOTOS Randy Murray

Primate's Visit & the ACW Presidents Meeting

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per day, the group made their way upstairs. Although the Cathedral's sanctuary was closed due to preparations for an elaborate musical production taking place in the evening, the group made their way to the northeast prayer alcove where Thomas Roach explained the *Prayers of the Church* project, which he and other textile artists in the community had undertaken.

That evening, the Retreat Eucharist was held at St. George's in Fort Langley, the "Birthplace of British Columbia." This small, historic church welcomed the delegates, the Primate, Bishop Skelton, Bishop Andrews, and guests Bishop Michael Ingham and his wife Nancy, Archbishop Douglas Hambidge and his wife Denise, as well as Bishop Ken Genge, retired from the diocese of Edmonton and his wife Ruth who are now parishioners at St. George's. The service began with St. George's Children's Choir singing their signature song *Kanisa Litajengua* (*O who will build the church now?*).

In his homily, the Primate saluted the ACW for the devotion and work they give to the Church. He humorously recounted his efforts that morning to help pack bales, and expressed his admiration and thanksgiving for this continuing loving service. He reminded those present that the work of ACW summed up in the words of the ACW hymn #434 in our hymnbook, "...the Love of Jesus calls us." Then he challenged the ACW leaders with the United Nations Status of Women goal of 50/50 gender-equality by 2030. Whilst admitting that this is political, he affirmed that this is exactly what we are called to do under the Anglican Marks of Mission.

Following the service, the ACW at St. George's hosted a wine and cheese party, where the Primate, Bishop Skelton and Bishop Andrews were presented with gifts to thank them for participating in the conference.

Friday was a day of relaxation as the women from across the country were taken on a morning bus tour of Vancouver, escorted by well-known artist, historian and author Michael Kluckner.

After a week of steady rain it was a dry day, the skies had cleared and the mountains were visible. A visit along Commercial Drive's bustling neighbourhood, through the Downtown Eastside, through Chinatown and Gastown, around Stanley Park and the University of British Columbia gave an interesting overview of the variety of this city. The bus then travelled through Shaughnessy and into Burnaby to visit ACW Place. The 34 Diocesan ACW Presidents from across Canada had lunch, helped make



A view of the new bell spire from the entrance to Cathedral Place located next door to the east of the Cathedral property. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT In front of the bell spire: Adele Finney, Ven. Gordon Finney, Vera Morgan, Bishop Barbara Andrews, Rev. Ellen Clark-King, Dean Peter Elliott, Thomas Roach, ODNW, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, and Gail Revitt. RIGHT In the new CCC kitchen. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Thomas Roach, ODNW gives some background on the creation of the bells and the construction of the bell spire. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Thomas Roach, ODNW describes the *Prayers of the Church* textiles project. RIGHT The removable textile prayer squares in the north chancel alcove at Christ Church Cathedral. PHOTOS Randy Murray



layettes (with the participation of Bishop Andrews) and finish the bale that the archbishop and bishop began. The bales were picked up on the afternoon of Friday, October 28 by Canadian Freightways and were in Whitehorse by the following Wednesday.

Then it was back on the bus, and a drive to Fort Langley for some free time either to visit the Fort itself, or to do a little souvenir shopping, before going back to Springbrooke for dinner and a wrap-up of Tasha Carrother's workshop.

Saturday was the day of goodbyes, promises to meet again in June 2017 at the national gathering, shuttle drivers to take the women to the airport, and time to think about

next steps in our planning for the future. The workshops had given the attendees much food for thought, and hearing from other dioceses about challenges and ideas is always very rewarding.

It was wonderful that Archbishop Hiltz could take some time in the diocese of New Westminster, not only in his official role at the ACW President's meeting but also to meet some of those who are active every day in ministry in our diocese, hear their stories and be a pastoral presence. The Primate is scheduled to be here again in May 2017 for the Anglican Foundation 60th Anniversary Celebration and for Diocesan Synod on May 26 and 27. ✠



The ACW presidents at Prospect Point. PHOTO Terri Parrill

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Requiescat in Pace • Keith Stevens, ODNW •
SUBMISSION Clarence Li

Keith Stevens, ODNW, beloved parishioner of St. Hilda-by-the-Sea died peacefully at home surrounded by his family early morning on the Feast of All Saints (November 1). Keith was the soul of the Building and Maintenance Committee at St. Hilda's for many years and his beautiful touches can be seen in many places around the parish. A few years ago the rector, the Rev. Clarence Li caught him single-handedly replacing one of the massive pillars of the church's entranceway and the image of him being "a pillar of St. Hilda's" was forever imprinted in his memory. In 2015, Keith was inducted into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW) for his witness of humble service for the parish. He will be dearly missed. A Memorial Service for Keith was held November 12 at St. Hilda's. ✠



Keith Stevens, ODNW with Bishop Skelton, November 2015. PHOTO Wayne Chose

• Metro Vancouver Alliance Leadership Institute •
SUBMISSION Margaret Marquardt

November 7 and 8, 2016, people gathered from organizations around the Lower Mainland for the 2-day Leadership Institute of Metro Vancouver Alliance (MVA). The diocese of New Westminster is a Sponsoring Organization of MVA. Parishioners and clergy from parishes that

are member organizations attended: St. Clement's; St. James'; St. Laurence; and St. Thomas, Vancouver, as well as clergy (including Bishop Skelton) and parishioners from other churches in the diocese. Those attending also included people from the diocese of British Columbia. ✠



Bishop Skelton participating in a negotiation exercise at the MVA Leadership Institute with participants from other community and union organizations. PHOTO Margaret Marquardt



LEFT Jason from the Surrey Teacher's Association with Peggy Trendell-Jensen of St. Clement's. RIGHT Paul Clark of St. John's, Shaughnessy is chair of the MVA "Inclusion Team." PHOTOS Margaret Marquardt



LEFT The Rev. Expedito Farinas, rector of St. Mary the Virgin, South Hill. RIGHT Patrick from MVA speaking with the Rev. Eric Mason, rector of St. Laurence, Coquitlam PHOTOS Margaret Marquardt

• Clergy Day on Physician Assisted Death (PAD) & Related Pastoral Issues •

On Wednesday, November 15, approximately 60 clergy of the diocese and nine visiting experts gathered in the main conference room and other locations around the Synod Offices to discuss Physician Assisted Death (Bill C-14), power of attorney, representation agreements, end of life planning and other pastoral issues. The nine advisors who represented various areas of knowledge—law, medicine and psychology—included Dr. David Kuhl, author of *What Dying People Want: Wisdom at the End of Life* and Dr. Marv Westwood a UBC psychologist who is an expert in Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and later life studies. The clergy and guests met in plenary and also in nine small groups, morning and afternoon sessions. Due to the inti-

mate nature of the discussions, clergy of the diocese were instructed to reserve their space at the Clergy Day event in advance in order that it not be oversubscribed. Taking a leadership role in facilitating the event was the dean of the diocese and rector of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott who has worked with both Dr. Kuhl and Dr. Westwood on organizing and presenting discussions about PAD and the accompanying challenges of end of life planning for individuals and families. There are two upcoming Clergy Days scheduled: January 19 the Bishop's Guidelines for Clergy, *Great Expectations? Exploring Our Live Together*; and March 30 Money, Memorial Gardens & Sacraments, *One of the Toughest Topics: Clergy and Talking about Money*. ✠



View of the Conference Room for the opening plenary session. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Dean Peter Elliott leads the morning plenary. RIGHT Dr. David Kuhl. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Clergy participate in opening plenary Q&A. PHOTO Randy Murray



Facilitated small group discussions led by one of the nine experts was a principal component of the day. PHOTO Randy Murray

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Café Church at St. John's, North Vancouver •

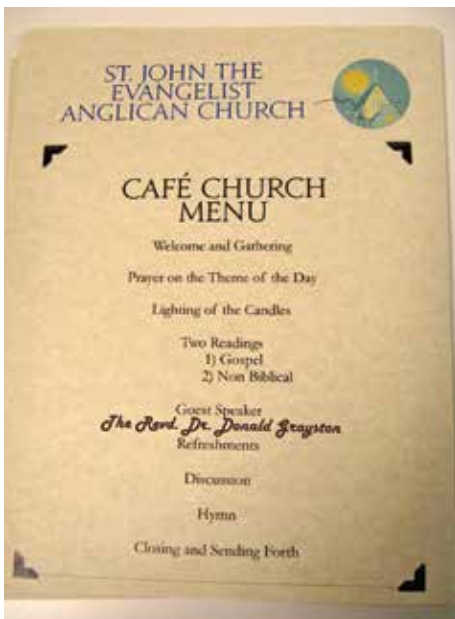
SUBMISSION Patrick Blaney

If you visit St. John's, North Vancouver's website under their "Worship Services" you will see a brand new offering. St. John's is trying out an innovative and alternative kind of service on the first Saturday of every month at 4 pm.

The description on the website states:

"You are invited to Café Church on the first Saturday of the month at 4 pm in the St. John's lounge. We'll have tea, coffee and goodies, and a special Guest Speaker who will introduce us to their unique, engaging topic. There will be interactive conversation, music, and a time for prayer and reflection. All are welcome. Please drop in.

Café Church is for people who live, work, and play in the central Lonsdale area. We want to explore the spirituality of the Christian faith in a relaxed, safe and informal discussion based atmosphere.



The Café Church Menu. PHOTO Courtesy of the Parish of St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver

Café Church is Tea and Coffee with a conscience. It is also a place for community. We are excited about our faith. We are excited about community. We are excited about free and open discussion. We are passionate about tea and coffee."

The idea is to turn the Church lounge into a local café with quality coffee, tea and goodies to eat. The outline of the liturgy is the "menu" and the core of the service is an invited speaker who will share their ideas about a broad philosophical concept. (*See Speakers and Topics below*). It is a church service in that there is prayer, scripture is read, a hymn is sung and they are all related to the topic of the day. St. John's hopes that this may prove to be a creative and accessible way for those who are seeking a Christian spiritual connection, but are not willing or able to commit to a full Sunday service. The first two events were very well attended. St. John's is excited about how this new service might grow.

St. John's is located at 220 West 8th Street in North Vancouver.

- February 4
Alison & Juanita
Meditation in A Busy World
- March 4
The Rev. Elizabeth Mathers
Creators In God's Image
- April 1
Dean Peter Elliott
Is There Humour In The Bible?
- May 6
Dr. Jack Blaney
Everyday Generosity
- June 3
Dr. Marilyn Chotem
Many Religions, One God ✠



Singing a Hymn at Café Church. PHOTO Courtesy of the Parish of St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver



The first speaker, the Rev. Dr. Donald Grayston (third from left) shared "The Meaning of Life" with the first Café Church Congregation. PHOTO Courtesy of the Parish of St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver

• St. John's, Shaughnessy Member Elected to PWRDF Youth Council •

Congratulations to Sarah Stephens of St. John's, Shaughnessy who was elected to the Primate's World Relief Development Fund's (PWRDF) Youth Council early in the fall of 2016. She attended her first meetings November 3–6 in Toronto.

The Youth Council meets several times a year to discuss PWRDF directions, aims, initiatives and vision from a youth perspective.

Please keep the PWRDF Board, Diocesan Representatives and Youth Council in your prayers. ✠

Sarah Stephens, April 25, 2016. PHOTO Randy Murray



• Refugee Ministry •

Dr. Satori Soden has begun her work as Diocesan Refugee Coordinator. Satori brings a strong passion for refugees and a strong skill-set in the area of immigration. Satori's immediate focus will be on files that are in progress. (Synod staffer Phil Colvin will be grateful—he's been one of the key supports since the Rev. Michael McGee stepped down.)

Shannon Muir has accepted the Bishop's appointment as the Chair of the reconstituted Diocesan Refugee Unit (DRU). Shannon has brought considerable skills to the diocese's response to ministry with refugees. ✠

Shannon Muir. PHOTO Stephen Muir



• Clergy News •

Bishop Skelton has appointed the Rev. Stephanie Shepard interim priest-in-charge of St. John the Apostle, Port Moody, effective, January 1, 2017. Rev. Shepard is the former rector of St. Timothy and ongoing Regional Dean of Tri-Cities/North Burnaby.

The Rev. Sharon Salomons has been appointed Director for Diaconal Formation effective as of November 20, 2016. Sharon succeeds the Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark King who resigned as Director in addition to her resignation as Cathedral Vicar. Ellen began her new ministry as Executive Pastor and Canon for Social Justice at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco on December 11.

The Rev. Melanie Calabrigo currently priest-in-charge of St. Hildegard's Sanctuary, a ministry of St. Faith's will began as part time Chaplain to St. Jude's Anglican Home December 1, 2016. Melanie succeeded the Rev. Trudi Shaw.

The Rev. Alan Carson of St. John's, Sardis has been appointed priest-in-charge of Christ Church, Hope following in the good work of the Rev. David Price, vicar of All Saints', Agassiz. Christ Church, Hope's posting for a new rector closed November 24, 2016. ✠



The Rev. Stephanie Shepard.
PHOTO Courtesy of Melanie Calabrigo



LEFT The Rev. Stephanie Shepard. PHOTO Wayne Chose RIGHT The Rev. Sharon Salomons. PHOTO Courtesy of Sharon Salomons



Pastoral Letter Regarding the Marriage Canon

Greetings to you all

At General Synod 2016 a 2/3 majority of delegates in each house (laity, clergy and bishops) voted to amend the marriage canon to make marriage available to “all persons who are duly qualified by civil law to enter into marriage.” The resolution that passed also specified that the potential change “shall come into effect on the first day of January after being passed by General Synod at *Second Reading*.”

Different dioceses have chosen different approaches as to what to do during this three-year period before a second reading of and vote on the change at General Synod 2019. I am writing to you to clarify our approach, an approach that comes after my own soul-searching and prayer and after a broad consultation with many both within and outside our diocese. I ask that you listen carefully to this approach in that it is not simple but instead reflects the diversity of people and perspectives in our diocese and in the Anglican Church of Canada.

First, during this three-year period we will strengthen what we offer all couples that seek marriage or the blessing of their marriage in the church. I will convene a group to create standards and develop or refine materials to assist all couples in preparing for their making monogamous, lifelong commitments of fidelity to each other.

Second, we will abide by what General Synod decided, that is, during this three-year period we will hold off on our clergy officiating at the marriage of same sex couples, preserving this period as a time to study, reflect, discern and pray for General Synod 2019 and its decisions. I, myself, did vote for the change in the Marriage Canon and do believe that offering marriage to same sex couples within the Church is an expression of the Gospel. At the same time, as your bishop I feel I should respect and abide by the full resolution as passed at General Synod 2016.

Third, building on the work already done in this diocese, I will authorize new liturgies for the blessing of marriages that enhance and maximize what we as church do and keep to a minimum what marriage commissioners do. These liturgies will be available for the use of clergy and parishes who would find them helpful and for all couples who are duly qualified to enter into civil marriage.

Fourth, I will continue to emphasize that in our diocese we have a wide range of perspectives on the issue of marriage both in our parishes and among our clergy. Thus, while many clergy and parishes in our diocese will desire to move forward in offering new blessing liturgies in this three-year period and later in officiating at marriage liturgies of same sex couples (should the change in the Marriage Canon pass in 2019), other clergy and parishes will choose not to do this. As bishop of all our parishes, I want to assure you that our diocese will stand by both of these choices. I also want to assure you that where a parish or its clergy is on this question will not serve as a kind of “litmus test” of inclusion in the life of our diocese.

And, finally, I will continue to emphasize that all denigration of LGBTQ2 people, no matter where it occurs, is contrary to who we are as Christian people. This denigration includes prejudice against, violence directed towards, and any criminal sanctions related to LGBTQ2 people.

These are the main elements of our approach as a diocese to the next three years. I will be sending out a more detailed communique to the clergy of the diocese that I hope will address the many questions they raised during my conversations with them earlier this fall.

In closing, I want to thank all who offered their perspective and experiences to me on the question of what we would be doing over the next three years. Please continue to pray for all the people of our diocese, all the people of the Anglican Church of Canada and all the people of the broader Anglican Communion as we all discern our way forward. ✠



The Star

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

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

The compound where I worked before retirement is situated on a high mountain ridge in the western edge of the kingdom. In the distance on a clear day one can see the great gulf that is fed from the north by the Tigris and the Euphrates. Beyond the gulf to the west is the vast desert that stretches to the edge of Egypt, our ancestral enemy.

The view most significant for our work was that of the night skies. As scientists we studied the constellations and assigned meaning to their movements, reporting to the King.

The memory that stays forever in my mind began with a report that two of the greatest planets, Saturn and Jupiter, seemed to be converging in the constellation we call Pisces or The Fish. Their light began to grow brighter until they came to dominate the heavens, so much so that a report was made.

It had an immediate response. We were to select a small group of our staff to travel toward the west to continue to study the phenomenon. We would be given an escort as far as Dura Europos on the Euphrates where we would cross the river to join the Roman highway system. From there we would have to make our own decisions.

Our orders were to look for any signs of political or military disturbance on the eastern edge of the Roman Empire or in the vicinity of Egypt, both of which could be a threat to our Persian interests. In case we would find ourselves in any diplomatic encounters we were directed to take with us some symbolic gifts that would suitably impress our hosts.

The memory I have treasured all my life is not the journey but its destination.

All went well until we arrived in southern Palestine. It's puppet king kept power only with the support of the Roman occupiers. By the time we paid our respects to him we knew that the regime was utterly corrupt and cordially hated by the local people.

Night had fallen as we left Herod. A young man approached us saying that



someone wished to meet with us. It was a difficult decision to make because we knew that it could well be a trap. We questioned the youth carefully before deciding to accept the invitation.

I remember that we approached the village under a starlit sky. The house we were welcomed into was that of the village rabbi. As we watched in astonishment he removed a section of the earthen floor and beckoned us down a simple ladder. A whole living area had been hollowed out and furnished. A young woman sat holding a child, I would estimate about two years old. Her husband stood behind them, he somewhat

older than she.

I don't know why or how but I suddenly knew with absolute certainty that we had found what we had been sent to discover. I have been at the shrines of countless gods but nothing has ever addressed me with the power of that moment. No language was exchanged because we had no language in common, nor was language necessary. All I can say is that in the presence of an ineffable Majesty we found ourselves on our knees.

It was Melchior who remembered the gifts. We had encountered no powerful rulers worthy of them. Here in this lamp lit room with its earthen walls we could only

hope that they would be found worthy of this Child. The rabbi beckoned us to leave.

It was he who told us everything. We found that he shared with us the common language of the east, Aramaic. Quietly he told us of the boy's birth, how the skies had sung. We told him of our sightings among the planets. He was not surprised. He told us too of their great fear of Herod's death squads. For two years he and many others had protected the child, moving the family from house to house, sometimes hiding them in the vast cave system in the walls of the escarpment near the village.

But it seemed that time was running out. Herod's fear and paranoia made him persistent. The family needed to be taken away. At this point the rabbi asked for our protection for them. He felt our coming had been providential. Would we at least escort them to the border with Egypt?

There was never a moment's doubt. Preparations had already been made for such an opportunity as this. Long before dawn we had moved away from the vast bulk of Herod's fortress and were heading west for the coastal road—the *Way of the Sea*. From the Egyptian border we would eventually turn east toward the Dead Sea, then north on the other great road—the *Way of the Kings*—thus pursuing our long journey home.

At some time on that journey we agreed on our report. We had found no kings plotting against Persia, no armies marching from Egypt. Only we three colleagues would ever know that a King greater than all Kings was now growing to manhood on the earth. ✠

Herbert O'Driscoll is a regular columnist with the Anglican diocese of British Columbia's publication *Diocesan Post* where *The Star* will also be printed in the January 2017 issue.

OPINION

Growing Together, United by God

ART TURNBULL
Retired priest of the diocese of Ontario; retired Priest with Permission to Officiate, diocese of New Westminster

It was just 57 years ago that Gordi and I tied the knot. Some folks way back then thought that the odds of our staying together for six months were not very good. Being naive, Gordi and I did not know that there was an option called divorce. We just carried on.

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP), the Canadian version 1959, had just been published. Padre Rand of Camp Borden was delighted to use this newer version of the *Form of the Solemnization of Matrimony*. That rite included advice like, “not to be taken in hand, unadvisedly, lightly, or wantonly; but reverently, discreetly, advisedly, soberly, and in the fear of God, duly considering the causes for which Matrimony was ordained.” (BCP, page 564)

That wording was enough to make me aware of what I was getting into. Who needed prep classes! I noted other bits of the service, including the omission for Gordi to obey.

It was not until 1967, that there were changes being made to Canon XXI concerning marriage in the Church. New at that time was the provision to permit the marriage of persons who had been previously married whose former spouse was still alive. Before this change, anyone who was divorced under civil law and wanted to have a wedding in the church, well they were discreetly referred down the street to the United Church. That was a double standard, the couple being expected back

in the Anglican pew on Sunday.

In 1967, as in 1959, marriage was to take place between two persons, one of whom must be baptized. The addition in 1967, added that preparation for couples was to be provided or sought out. 30 days notice was the expected norm. The clergy were not given much direction on what to teach couples. For couples where a divorce was involved, permission of the bishop was to be obtained. All in 30 days? No way! Perhaps this was also a double standard.

The Book of Alternative Services (BAS) arrived in 1985. This book tidied up some of the language, calling the liturgy for a wedding, *The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage*. Less weighty than the BCP, it



stated that the marriage was a gift of God. There is an expectation that couples will grow together, be united in love. The BAS speaks of mutuality. Partners are to help one another. They are to live within the context of family and community.

The promises became more appealing. The message is that partners are to give themselves to each other. Contrast that to the BCP direction which says, “Wilt thou have this man/woman? The answer could be, “Perhaps!”

Now in 2016, and moving into 2017, and beyond, we have a new and wonderful opportunity to really look at what marriage is within the Church. General Synod’s decision demands a studied response. We need to be clear and ready for whatever decision is made in 2019.

It is my opinion, as we now engage in this significant time of deeper education, that the Church need take seriously the high standard of the sacrament of marriage. Care should be taken that all marriages, all couples, need to have a deep commitment to one another. There is no room for double standards. Heterosexual couples as well as same gender couples will need to be treated in the same manner. Same sex couples seeking the blessing of God need to be active and known in the parish, and should be committed to their faith. This is a high standard. Should not heterosexual couples have the same expectation placed upon them when they seek marriage in the Church?

Perhaps I am still naïve, yet does not Canon XXI, the BCP, and the BAS all require a life-long relationship? We vow to one another, “to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, for the rest of our lives, according to God’s holy law.” (BAS, page 544)

People who really desire such a commitment should have our blessing, as well as God’s. Those who are not ready or serious of this standard, maybe they should go and do something else. ✠

a collection plate where anyone can serve themselves, even an unbaptized visitor who has never been in church before.

Considering the veneration some churches accord the Eucharistic elements—as witness the protections surrounding them—Christians of all denominations should show great respect for the sacrament and due consideration for the consciences of their hosts when at a Communion service in a church other than their own. ✠

David Brattston can be reached by email at dwtbrattston@hotmail.com.

The Medicine of Immortality

DAVID W. T. BRATTSTON
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Unlike denominations with unstructured and informal forms of worship, the liturgical churches (Eastern Orthodox, Armenians, Ethiopians, Anglicans, Lutherans, and Roman Catholics) hold the Eucharist in great reverence and maintain firm regulations as to how Communion elements are to be treated and to whom they may be distributed. These regulations are not modern inventions, nor did they originate with superstitious monks in the Dark Ages. The present article looks at Christian regard for the Eucharist before 250 CE to show how the earliest believers shared the same practices as liturgical denominations today. The ancient writings are the common heritage of all Christians because they date from before the division into present day denominations, and could have originated only in apostolic times.

In the earliest Christian centuries, extremely respectful treatment was shown toward the bread and wine (or body and blood of Christ). The reason appears in Justin, a Christian writer in the mid-second century who was later martyred for the Faith: “not as common bread and common drink do we receive these... we have been taught that the food which is blessed by the prayer of His word, and from which our blood and flesh by transmutation are nourished, is the flesh and blood of that Jesus who was made flesh.”

Half a century earlier another martyr, Bishop Ignatius of Antioch, described the Eucharist as “the medicine of immortality, and the antidote to prevent us from dying but which causes that we should live forever in Jesus Christ.” This was not the better-known Ignatius Loyola but his namesake 15 centuries earlier.

In 217 CE, Bishop Hippolytus in central Italy set out existing church practice as to how clergy were to continue to conduct worship services. He also intended it as a guide for detecting and taking action when clergy departed from the worship heritage passed down from the time of the apostles. He wrote that the consecrated elements are not to be allowed to fall to the floor or be lost or treated carelessly; this is corroborated in the same era in Tunisia by the church father Tertullian. Nor were church mice and other animals to be permitted to consume them. The bread and wine were to be consecrated only according to a prescribed ceremony, which must be in an orderly manner, without talking or arguing taking place, and such that Christians preserve their good reputation, and their worship practices not be ridiculed by non-Christians. Shortly afterwards, the church father Ori-



gen wrote that people are not to receive them “in haphazard fashion.” These, of course, are echoes of Saint Paul that church services must be conducted “decently and in order.” (1 Corinthians 14: 40)

This same Origen illustrated better than anyone else the great reverence Christians in the 240 CE held the sacramental elements. Unlike Ignatius or Hippolytus, he was not urging his hearers to show respect but was using one existing church practice as the grounds or analogy for other spiritual exercises. Origen was taking the example of the treatment of the Eucharist as a standard practice on which to build his argument to encourage them to adopt an additional soul-building activity. Both he and his congregations took high respect for the sacramental elements for granted and as well established:

“You who are accustomed to take part in divine mysteries know, when you receive the body of the Lord, how you protect it with all caution and veneration lest any small part fall from it, lest anything of the consecrated gift be lost. For you believe, and correctly, that you are answerable if anything falls from there by neglect.”

Because he travelled much throughout the eastern Mediterranean at the request of local bishops, and once to Rome, his statements probably describe universal practice.

Partly because outsiders might not know how to demonstrate proper respect, it was forbidden to give Holy Communion to them. From the earliest times, it was considered sinful to consume the sacrament in any unworthy manner. According to the Apostle Paul, “whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord” and “he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.” (1 Corinthians 11: 27, 29) This was repeated almost two centuries later by Origen when he warned that Christians who partake unworthily will receive the Lord’s judgment,

again as a proposition accepted as a given by all his hearers.

The *Didache* was a church manual and guide to the Christian life written in the late first century, when some apostles were still living. It limited participation in the Eucharist to people who had been baptized, citing Jesus’ command that we must not give what is holy to dogs. Half a century or more later, Justin similarly confined Communion to people who believe Christian doctrine, had been baptized, and live as Christ had taught. Another 60 years later, Hippolytus’ church manual would also admit to Holy Communion only people that had received Christian baptism. One of his charges against the leadership of a rival party within Christianity was that they accepted into membership people rejected by other sects and indiscriminately gave Communion to everybody.

To further safeguard against disrespect of the sacrament and prevent people from eating and drinking unworthily, there were restrictions even on the baptized. In the first century Saint Paul required examination of conscience prior to receiving (1 Corinthians 11: 28) while the *Didache* not long afterwards mandated confession of sins. It also required resolution of disputes with other people before participating.

Liturgical denominations have always provided further protection by requiring communicants to come to the front of the church and to receive the sacrament only from the hand of a duly authorized minister commissioned for this purpose. In 212 CE, Tertullian referred to this procedure as already ancient and universally accepted. The sacrament is not put into trays as among Calvinists and passed along the pews like

Further reading: Gospel of John 6: 48–58 and 1 Corinthians 11: 20–36.

The quotation of Origen is from pages 380 and 381 of Origen: Homilies on Genesis and Exodus translated by Ronald E. Heine (Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 1982) Copyright © Catholic University of America Press, Inc.



Diocesan Youth Movement

YOUTH CONNECTIONS

News & Events for Youth in the Diocese of New Westminster

youth groups •

For Parish Youth Groups go to <http://bit.ly/1T5cWk0>

contact • Caitlin Reilley Beck

Diocesan Coordinator for Children & Youth Ministry

cbeck@vancouver.anglican.ca

604.684.6306 ext. 225



TOP Moms and babies meeting in the Fireside Room at St. George's, Maple Ridge. PHOTO Bridget Edgerton BELOW Babies playing. PHOTOS Getty Images

Baby Café at St. George Maple Ridge

DAVID EDGERTON

Rector, St. George's, Maple Ridge

Baby Café started at St. George Maple Ridge in May 2016, with an aim to create a welcoming space for new parents and parents-to-be to gather with their babies. Every Wednesday morning a feast of cakes and squares and several litres of Columbian Fair Trade coffee are prepared by church members and offered as a gift to those who attend. In common with churches across the diocese St. George's is blessed with some amazing bakers and a rota ensures there is a sufficient supply of cakes.

There are regularly around 12 moms and one or two grandmas attending, with the same number of babies and

a few toddlers as well. Volunteers spend time talking with moms and helping to make sure the space is safe and hazard free for the babies. It's not just parents and grandparents with babies who are welcome, but also those who are expecting a baby and have started their maternity leave.

Baby Café has grown and word is spreading through social media, word of mouth and through local health professionals' recommendations. On the eastern side of Maple Ridge, where St. George's is located, there are less community spaces and facilities than in the rest of the city. This means that the church is well placed for opening its doors to the community.



Having a newborn baby is a great joy but can also lead to parents feeling stuck at home with no adult conversation. Moms on leave from full time employment can find their social networks changing quite quickly and life with a baby can be lonely. Bridget Edgerton, who leads the group, was inspired by a similar baby group at her last parish in

England. "I feel that there is a need, when you have children, to be supported by people who are going through the same things. A lot of people don't have family around and having a baby is challenging and its important to be surrounded by people who support, care and encourage you. I wanted Baby Café to be a place where people could feel relaxed, meet others and build friendships. God calls us to love our neighbour and this is a way that we can do that practically. I have worked as a midwife and have three children myself so I have seen the need for this sort of group on many levels."



Victoria started coming to Baby Café after her son was baptized at St. George's. She comments, "I really enjoy Baby Café. It's a casual get together with moms and babies of various ages and experiences that help me decompress from the pressures of motherhood. I can bounce thoughts and ideas off with others in a non-judgmental environment with no ulterior motives to make anyone feel uncomfortable."

Catherine has just returned to work, and she said "I loved coming to Baby Café with my son when I was on maternity leave. I enjoyed meeting other moms, exchanging stories and encouraging one another. All the volunteers are amazing as are the homemade treats. As a first time mom the 'job' can be overwhelming and isolating and getting out and meeting others was important for my mental health. I tell any mom that I meet about Baby Café. I can't say enough great things!"

The Rector of St. George, David Edgerton, comments, "It's been great to see people coming to our Spring and Fall Fairs and other events having first come into the church building because of Baby Café. St. George's vision is to live and share the good news of Jesus Christ, and as part of that



we are aiming to provide a church environment that is family friendly. Baby Café helps to make people feel at home at church, and to know that St. George's is genuinely a place where children are welcome." ♦

A Wizard's Retreat

A retreat for youth and young adults exploring Harry Potter and God



February 10-13, 2017

\$150 for accommodation, meals and program

Register online at www.dymwinterretreat.wordpress.com

A DYM event, hosted by Sorrento Centre in partnership with BCYAYM