



IN THIS ISSUE

**Invisible Disabilities Workshop**

PAGE 15

Anglican Church
Women Bursary

PAGE 4

How Many in the Crew?

Delivering presents to the seafarers in Vancouver's harbour

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On the left members of the Mission to Seafarers team with CBC intern, Jennifer Wilson and on the right the *Tymac Agent* crew. PHOTO Randy Murray

Rev. Peter Smyth is interviewed by Jennifer before departure. PHOTO Randy Murray

Miranda Peters poses with a crewmember on the *Renaissance*. PHOTO Eric Stroo

LEFT Crewmembers saying "Merry Christmas" and "Thank-You!" RIGHT Eric, Miranda and Peter repackage the presents for the last few deliveries. PHOTOS Randy Murray



On Friday, December 22, 2017, Senior Port Chaplain of the Mission to Seafarers (MtS), the Rev. Peter Smyth; intern, Miranda Peters (who for a year has served as the Seafarer's Welfare Worker); Roman Catholic Chaplain to the MtS, Deacon Dileep Athaide; Christian Reformed Chaplain to the MtS, Pastor Gary Roosma; Deacon at St. Michael's Multicultural Anglican Church, the Rev. Eric Stroo; and CBC intern doing coverage for the afternoon drive radio program, *On the Coast*, Jennifer Wilson headed off on the proverbial "three hour tour." The ship they boarded wasn't the SS Minnow but the Tymac water taxi *Tymac Agent*, with the goal of delivering close to 400 wrapped gift packages to the 18 ships at anchor in Vancouver's harbour.

The preparation and distribution of 1,000 gift packages (600 other gift boxes are distributed in addition to the approximately 400 delivered to the ships at anchor in the harbour) has been a priority seasonal ministry of the MtS Port of Vancouver and Roberts Bank for a number of years. Participating churches and organizations encourage their members to donate: toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, other toiletries, candy, chocolates, socks, hand knit toques (a real favourite), scarves, gloves and other sundries to be packed in brightly coloured gift boxes and distributed to seafarers who find themselves far from home during the Christmas season. In preparation for the delivering of gifts, members of St. Michael's Multicultural Church gathered at the MtS Flying Angel Club at the foot of Main Street on December 17 and assembled 300 gift packages.

On the morning of December 22, the aforementioned group met in the Flying Angel Club and spent some time moving the gifts now situated in groups of ten inside clear plastic bags to the MtS minivan and then about 750 metres to the dock where the Tymac Launch Services dispatch and dock is located. When the gifts had been moved to the dock entrance, the MtS team with the assistance of Tymac staff, including GM, Doug Towill and Steve Hnatko, Director of Marketing and Communications for both Tymac Launch Services and their parent company, Tidal Transport loaded the 38 bags onto the water taxi, posed for a few photos and then head off into the harbour to visit the 18 ships (mostly all bulk cargo tankers) anchored in the harbour, in English Bay and farther to the west adjacent to Point Grey.

Before the voyage began, Steve made sure that everyone had a Tymac toque, some water bottles, tote bags, coffee thermoses—and Steve decided to join the group for the first deliveries. Tymac donated the 3–5 hour use of the water taxi and the services of the pilot and the dock crew.

The presence of a CBC radio reporter certainly added to the excitement of the event. CBC intern, Jennifer Wilson who is studying journalism at Langara College interviewed the MtS staff "in the field" in order to put together content for a segment that aired that afternoon on the *On the Coast* Radio 1 program. Jennifer is from Ireland and coincidentally from the same town as Senior Port Chaplain, the Rev. Peter Smyth.

December 22 was also a bittersweet day of celebration as it would be the last day on staff for MtS's *Seafarer's Welfare Worker*, Miranda Peters. Miranda had occupied this internship position for a year and her presence has been a huge asset to the ministry of MtS. Following the day of delivering presents Miranda was scheduled to travel to YVR and fly home to Hamilton, Ontario for the holidays and then off

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



LEFT The Retired Clergy and Spouses lunch is a great opportunity to re-connect. MIDDLE By 12:15 pm there is a large crowd gathered in the reception area of the Synod Offices. RIGHT The notes to be sent to those who could not attend were laid out on the registration table awaiting signatures. PHOTOS Randy Murray

Advent Luncheon for Retired Clergy & Spouses of the Diocese

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On Thursday, December 7, 2017, John and Dorothy Mash, the Chaplains to the Retired Clergy of the diocese of New Westminster again led their small but effective team in the presentation of a first rate seasonal luncheon for the retired clergy and spouses of the diocese.

The luncheon followed a similar format to the two

prior Advent season versions held at the Synod Office and Trendell Lounge, the space shared by the diocese and St. John's, Shaughnessy. A wine and juice bar commenced serving guests in the reception area at about 12 noon. For 2017, the retired Executive Archdeacon of the diocese, the Ven. Ronald Harrison took on the bartending duties. At the

registration table, John and Dorothy had laid out almost a dozen pieces of festive stationery containing messages to clergy and spouses who had sent their regrets and were unable to attend the festivities. Attendees were encouraged to sign their names on the notes, letting those that were absent know that they were being remembered and missed.

As in recent years, the caterers were *The Banqueting Table*, a North Vancouver organization that not only provides excellent food and first class service but functions as a social enterprise, providing employment opportunities to single mothers and women who wish to re-enter the workforce. Women learn job skills and regain self-confidence while preparing food and catering to a variety of events. Much to the delight of many and especially Bishop Skelton, the main course was baked ham.

During Dorothy Mash's greeting to the guests, the members of Synod Staff who were present were asked to stand and be acknowledged, with special attention given to Phil Colvin who worked with Dorothy and John on the event, and to Glen Mitchell who would be retiring from his position as Director of Planned Giving and Stewardship on December 31.

The principal function of the lunch is to facilitate an opportunity for colleagues and friends to re-connect and spend some time together and also for that group to connect with the current ministerial priorities of the diocese and to hear from Bishop Skelton.

As in previous years, Bishop Skelton sincerely thanked the retired clergy and spouses for their ministry. She said that this time spent with the group gives her an "injection of hope," and she remarked that "it grounds me to be around you." Bishop Skelton mentioned the addition of attractive table and room decorations for 2017. As a template for her address she referred to the Diocesan Priorities document that she developed with input from Diocesan Council earlier in the fall. It is as follows:

Our Diocesan Mission

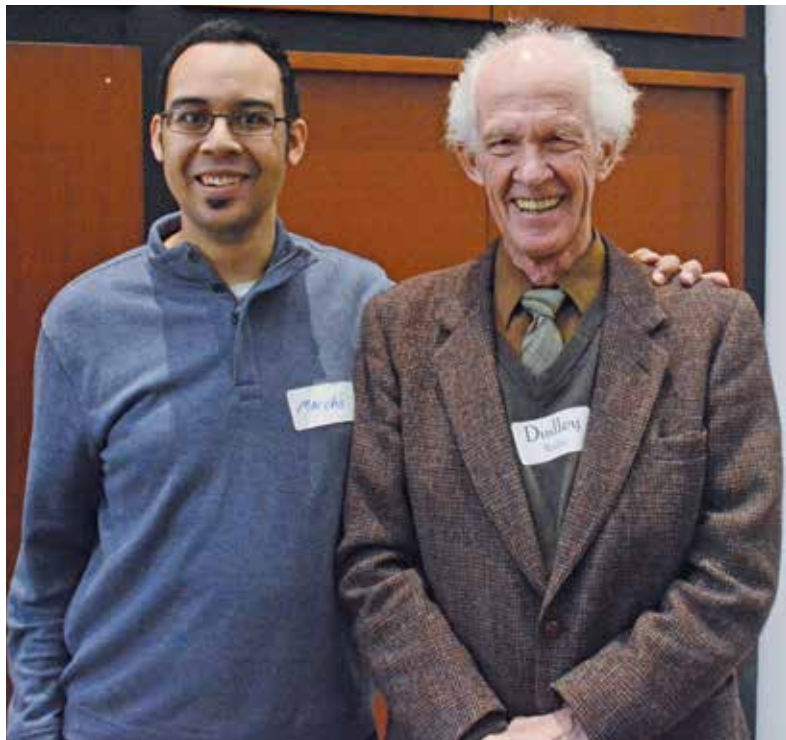
"Growing communities of faith in Jesus Christ to serve God's mission in the world."

Our Priorities

Our God is a relational God. We seek to foster, build and strengthen our relationships with one another in all we do in diocesan, parish and community circles.

Through the action of the Holy Spirit, our God creates the Church as Christ's continuing presence in and for the world. We seek to focus diocesan energy and resources on parish development:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



LEFT Anglican Archivist Marché Riley attending his first ever Retired Clergy and Spouses lunch was delighted to meet up with the Rev. Dudley Ritchie who officiated at his baptism at St. Stephen the Martyr, Burquitlam in 1989. RIGHT The Ven. Ronald Harrison staffing the bar takes a photograph of the busy reception area. PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT At 12:30 pm the guests moved into the Trendell Lounge. On the left Dorothy Mash connects with the Ven. Douglas Fenton. The camera captures a vibrant smile from Brother John Blyth. RIGHT The Rev. John Mash and Bishop Skelton chat with Joy and the Rev. Gary Hamblin. PHOTOS Randy Murray



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



Published ten months a year as a section of the *Anglican Journal* by the Bishop and Synod of the diocese of New Westminster.

Editor Randy Murray
rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca

Designer Jennifer Ewing, BDes

Issue This is the 2nd issue in the 49th year of publication.

Deadline For Submissions February 23 for the April issue; March 16 for the May issue

Subscriptions

The *Anglican Journal* and *Topic* are sent to members of a parish who pay for it through their contributions to the national Church. Others, \$10.

Address changes, please notify your parish administrator or write:

Topic c/o Anglican Journal,
80 Hayden Street, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 3G2
or visit www.anglicanjournal.com/subscribe.

Printed & Mailed By Webnews Printing Inc., North York, Ontario

Circulation 5,460

The Anglican Church & The Anglican Communion

A global community of 80 million Anglicans in 64,000 congregations in 165 countries.

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

The Anglican Church of Canada

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

The diocese of New Westminster

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



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

Contributors & Helpers for this issue

Bargoti Photography, Cliff Caprani,
Emily Cheung, Wayne Chose,
Hilary Clark, Melanie Delva,
Helen Dunn, Louie Engnan,
Douglas Fenton, Cheryl Green,
Elma Harder, iStock/Getty Images,
P. J. Janson, Martin Knowles (mkphotomedia),
Clarence Li, Herbert O'Driscoll,
Gail Revitt, Eric Stroo,
Dana Taylor, Shirin Theophilus,
and Dave Walker.

Thank you!



Everyone present, now seated, listens to Dorothy's address. PHOTO Randy Murray

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

assisting parishes in focusing on and building their excellence around their core purpose of gathering, transforming and sending; encouraging parishes to express the best of their Anglican identity; and assisting parishes in creatively engaging the real challenges and opportunities before them.

Our God seeks justice for the oppressed. We seek to assist diocesan leaders and parishes in learning about the culture and history of Canada's Indigenous peoples, in engaging with Indigenous peoples in their neighbourhood and regions, and in advancing the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Our God delights in the diversity of humanity and yearns for all humanity to be one. We seek to increase the diversity of the leadership in our diocese and to strengthen the ability of our parishes to engage the diversity of the people in our parishes, in our neighbourhoods and in our region. We seek the transformation of our minds, our hearts and our practice as we increase our diversity and seek the oneness that God invites us to embrace.

Our God entrusts us with the stewardship of our lives and our communities. We seek to work on the overall sustainability of our diocese and of our parishes by attending to the fit between all the elements of diocesan or parish life (finances, property, priorities, processes, organizational structures, organizational culture, external relationships, etc.) We seek to nurture a diocesan culture that is more transparent, collaborative, consultative, courageous and in which people have greater choice.

Bishop Skelton confirmed what many had already heard and that is that a number of parishes are growing. In her view this current growth is related to leadership and the leadership's ability to communicate "that the Anglican form of Christianity has something to offer the world today." Bishop Skelton informed the audience that the diocese of Ottawa is launching the Diocesan School for Parish Development, the training program established by Bishop Skelton and a team of instructors both in the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia and here in the diocese of New Westminster. Bishop Skelton updated the group on staffing changes and the ongoing priority of "actively seeking to increase the diversity in our leadership." She discussed her plans to use Bishop's Friends funding to finance training for folks working on anti-racism training and to increase cultural sensitivity and understanding in general. Bishop Skelton also spoke about the direction the diocese is moving toward regarding development of underutilized parish property in order to create more revenue for mission and ministry.

Many thanks to Dorothy and the Rev. John Mash for their ministry and for presenting this and other special days for the retired clergy and spouses of the diocese of New Westminster. ✠



Dorothy Mash's greeting is always a highlight of the event. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT The buffet table is ready. RIGHT The table decorations in 2017 were particularly attractive. PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT The Executive Archdeacon of the diocese of New Westminster, the Ven. Douglas Fenton was not available for the 2016 version of the Lunch and he remarked how happy he was to be back and in the company of retired clergy and spouses. RIGHT Bishop Skelton sharing her annual address. PHOTOS Randy Murray



During Dorothy Mash's address the Synod Staff members present were asked to stand. Here we see outgoing Director of Planned Giving and Stewardship cheerfully acknowledging some gentle teasing about his then-imminent retirement December 31. PHOTO Randy Murray

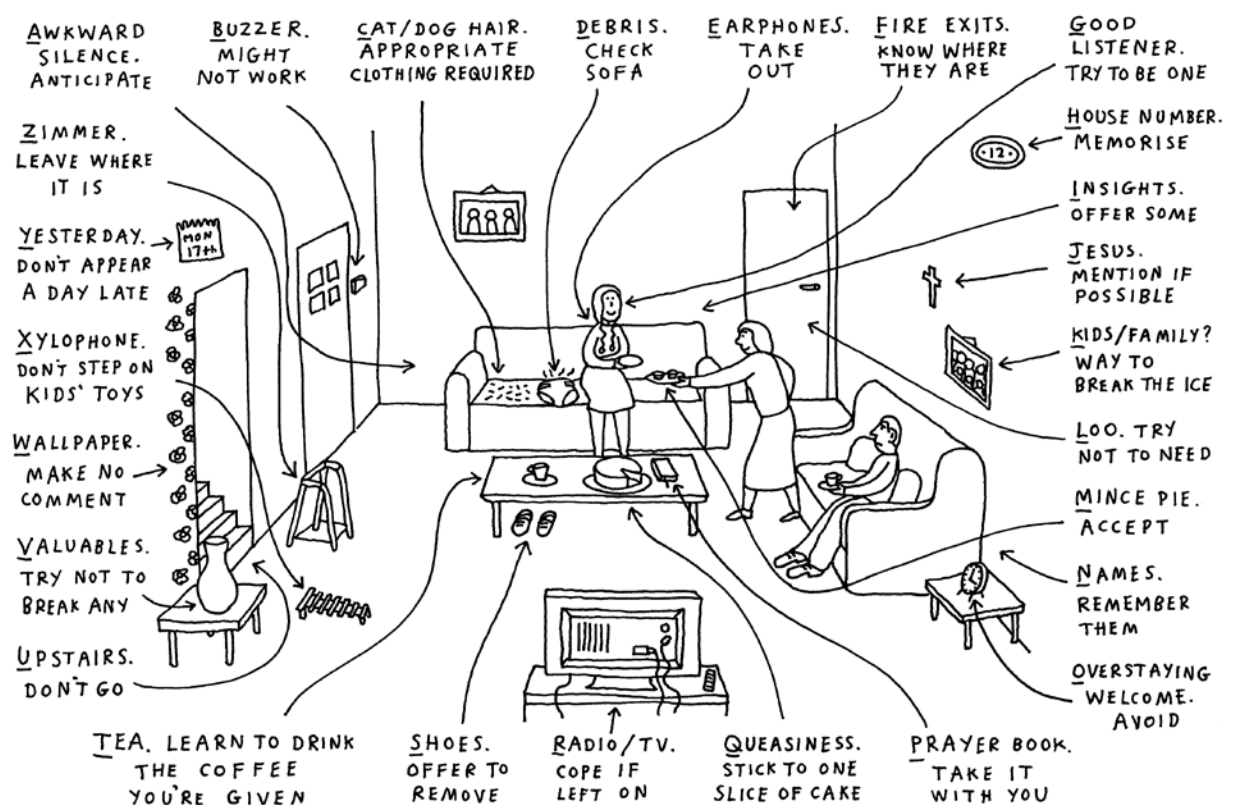
THIS MONTH IN TOPIC HISTORY

From the Diocesan Archives

- 20 years • 1987** Anglicans in Mission funding of diocesan-wide programs comes to an end.
- 20 years • 1982** May Gutteridge, director of St. James' Social Services Society is invested as an officer in the Order of Canada.
- 30 years • 1972** Archbishop Gower is elected as the Vancouver School of Theology's first Chancellor.
- 50 years • 1967** The Executive Committee of the Diocese reports with the recommendation that rectories "be done away with" and that clergy should buy homes.

PASTORAL VISITING

AN A TO Z



St. James' Music Series 2018

P. J. JANSON
Assistant Organist, St. James', Vancouver

Vancouver Viols

Sunday, February 18, 2018 • 2 pm
The viol (rhymes with “mile”) is a gentle-sounding instrument that was popular from the 15th to the 18th century. During this period music for viol consorts was generally written for groups of two to six players, and Vancouver Viols brings this music to life, complete with period clothing.

While the viol originated hundreds of years ago, it remains part of a vibrant living tradition of professional and amateur players, composers, and enthusiasts. In this distinctive programme at St. James', five local musicians gather to explore the full potential of the instrument—from the rich relentlessness of J. S. Bach's *Pas-sacaglia in C minor*, and the playfulness of Christopher Tye's *In Nomine: Crye*, in which the instruments imitate the shouts of a street vendor, to the sheer joy of Marc-Antoine Charpentier's *Agnus Dei*, in a new arrangement by local organist David Poon. You will experience early music on period instruments accompanied by lots of interesting stories about composers, styles, and the instruments themselves.

A concert not to be missed!
To purchase tickets please go online to stjames.bc.ca.

The Choir of Royal Holloway, University of London

Wednesday, April 11, 2018 • 7:30 pm
In a rare Vancouver appearance, respected Director of Music, Rupert Gough, will lead the Choir of Royal Holloway in a mixed programme of repertoire from across the centuries.
The Choir of Royal Holloway is one of

the finest mixed-voice collegiate choirs in Britain, and their recordings have attracted top reviews from all major music publications. Their most recent album, *Winter Songs*, released in November 2017, was named the Album of the Week by UK's radio station ClassicFM, commenting: “Ethereal yet tangible, this is music with wide appeal; music of purity and beauty; music at once restful and uplifting.”

The Choir of Royal Holloway has toured most European countries, appeared in Beijing, and has broadcast on radio and television all over the world. During 2016, the choir toured the US and Canada, including performances in the cathedrals of Toronto and Chicago, Cornell University and Grace Church, New York City.

For their performance at St. James' Anglican Church, the choir will perform works by European composers spanning four centuries, including William Byrd, Orlando Gibbons, as well as René Clausen, Stephen Paulus, and Ola Gjeilo.

Please be sure to purchase your ticket early to avoid disappointment as these concerts tend to sell out. Tickets can be purchased online at ukchoir.stjames.bc.ca.

*“Choral singing at its most elegantly fashioned...
stunningly delivered in terms of tonal quality and technical
brilliance under Rupert Gough's unobtrusive direction.”*

The Birmingham Post



The Choir of Royal Holloway. PHOTO Submitted

Anglican Church Women Establish Bursary

GAIL REVITT
President, Anglican Church Women of the diocese of New Westminster; St. Cuthbert's, Delta

On October 31, 2017, Anglican Church Women of the diocese of New Westminster signed an agreement with the Anglican Foundation to establish a perpetual bursary.

“The Award(s) will be paid to Qualifying Students who, at the time of the decision to pay the Award, are enrolled in full-time or part-time studies in the Anglican stream of theological studies or in disciplines that are in full communion with the Anglican Church at a recognized, accredited theological school or college in preparation for ordination or a form of lay ministry. Preference will be given to female students and/or to students from the dioceses of New Westminster or Yukon. But if in a given year no applicant meets those criteria the Scholarship Committee may at its discretion direct the funds towards other worthy recipients.”

This Bursary has been made possible thanks to the foresight of the Anglican Church Women (ACW) who in the 1950s purchased a home in Vancouver on West 14th Avenue. The initial intent of WA Memorial House, as it was known, was to house visiting missionaries—both those leaving

to the Far East and those returning home on leave. Times changed and the house was used for board meetings and the outreach of preparing the *Bales for the North* one of the ACW's priority ministry supporting Indigenous peoples of the north. Over the years many repairs were undertaken but it became evident that the house was going to require much more expensive repairs and that would have affected the viability of our outreach. The 2011 sale of the house—a decision of the Board, made with advice from now retired diocesan bishop, the Rt Rev. Michael Ingham—was a difficult decision but has turned out to be a blessing. The diocesan ACW are currently located in a warehouse on Merritt Street in Burnaby and have expanded outreach to more than the *Bales for the North* initiative by funding a school lunch program in the university district of Whitehorse, Yukon Territory and by giving grants to a youth shelter, a drug and alcohol recovery residential facility and to some of those training for leadership roles.

With some of the monies realized from the sale of WA Memorial House, the ACW

have been able to give to the Anglican Foundation an amount of money that will be a perpetual bursary with the initial capital not being touched. The bursary will be awarded in the amount of interest that is earned each year. The current principal will generate interest of approximately \$4,000 per annum. Additional donations to this ACW bursary are encouraged and will be most welcome, as that will increase the interest available. Donations to the bursary should

be sent to the Anglican Foundation to be added to the “Anglican Church Women diocese of New Westminster Trust Fund.”

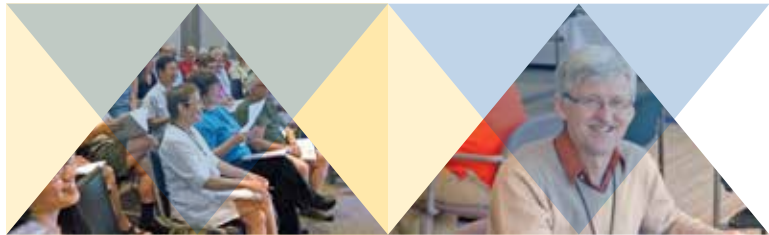
Application dates are April 1 and September 1 and all information can be found on the Anglican Foundation Bursary pages of the Anglican Foundation website at www.anglicanfoundation.org/bursaries.

We look forward to hearing from the Anglican Foundation about the first recipient.



Gail Revitt (President), Vera Morgan (Treasurer) and Sheila Puls (Past President) sign the agreement. PHOTO Submitted

DIOCESAN SCHOOL FOR PARISH DEVELOPMENT



Registration is now open for the Week-long Program

The Week-long Program will return to the Vancouver School of Theology with accommodation in Walter Gage Tower at the University of BC. The 2018 dates for this program are June 10–16.

Tuition is \$800 for participants from our diocese.
Lay participants can apply for bursaries of up to half of the tuition costs.

The 2019 Weekend Program dates will be circulated as they become available.

Visit the school's pages on the diocesan website at www.vancouver.anglican.ca/parish-development/school-for-parish-development for current program, registration and contact information.



Diocese of New Westminster
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

A Tale of Two Bazaars

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

There are a number of things that Anglican Church communities do really well and one of those is organizing and presenting fall bazaars.

The day before the first Sunday of Advent 2017, which was Saturday, December 2, there were approximately a dozen church bazaars/fall fairs/craft sales/teas, taking place around the diocese of New Westminster. Two of those were St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby and St. Thomas, Collingwood. Both of these parishes have well-deserved reputations for staging high quality fundraising sales.

St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby

St. Stephen's, located directly north of the Cameron Street entrance to the Lougheed Mall have been without a rector for a number of years. That does not mean that they have been without ordained leadership. Far from it, the parish has been served by committed and engaged interim priests. The parish is solid and the lay leadership is dedicated and competent. They have recently posted (for "the first time of asking") a call for a new rector and hope to be into the interview phase early in 2018. St. Stephen's is blessed with a spacious, bright and welcoming parish hall with a good-sized kitchen on the west side and plenty of parking to the south. All of these features are components compatible with producing a successful bazaar.

Janet Pavlakovic, ODNW has been the principal organizer of the Fall Fair at St. Stephen's since 2004, and under her direction the event has thrived. Janet and a group of approximately 20 volunteers stage a bazaar that is participated in not only by the parish but also by the surrounding neighbourhood. The Fall Fair consists only of in-house sales tables and all the proceeds are directed to the mission and ministry of the parish. Everything that



LEFT Colleen Butterley, ODNW poses with her packages of soups and spices at St. Stephen's Fall Fair. MIDDLE The knitting table at St. Stephen's. RIGHT The Silent Auction table at St. Stephen's. PHOTOS Randy Murray



is sold at the fair is donated and the volunteer team does all of the packaging. Warden, Colleen Butterley, ODNW spends hours assembling gift packages of soup ingredients and spice blends. There were also: themed gift baskets priced reasonably at \$20, silent auction items, hand knit goods, a quilt raffle and a number of tables offering gently pre-owned items. The kitchen does a brisk trade offering a limited but quality menu of potato cheddar soup paired with hot dogs or "tuna-on-a-bun."

Janet later reported that the Fall Fair likely netted about \$4,000, which was what they had expected. The bake table was certainly one of the most popular destinations with more than ¼ of the revenue coming in from the sale of goodies. As Janet said, "We have a lot of great bakers at the church and the baked goods go fast." When asked about what other items seemed popular in 2017, she replied, "Our jewelry and gift table has a line up right from the beginning. They have great bargains on the jewelry they sell and everybody likes a bargain... all the other tables did well also. I like the fact we offer a good lunch to our guests at an affordable price, as well as being healthy and tasty." ♦



Colleen Butterley, ODNW and Inge Kassteen offer for sale (at a bargain price) a first class piece of costume jewelry to the Editor of *Topic*. PHOTO Randy Murray

St. Thomas, East Vancouver

St. Thomas', located in East Vancouver's Collingwood region is a true neighbourhood church and has served that community since the early part of the 20th century. The parish's annual Christmas Bazaar and Craft Fair is a much-anticipated event.

Parishioner, John Green who was undertaking the parking and accessibility duties reported that by 9:30 am there was a growing line-up of folks waiting to access the building for the 10 am opening. Once the doors opened the hall filled up quickly with shoppers checking out the

more than a dozen tables selling high quality, home-crafted items and commercially manufactured new and used merchandise. The parish hall stage was the area where the "new to you" tables were set-up and a separate room to the east of the stage was set up to sell books, custom Christmas cards and some original art. To the west of the stage was a set of stairs that led down to the lower level and that was where the concession was located.

Like the St. Stephen's fair the vendors were all in-house and all the merchandise donated. Goods included: knit-

ting, jewelry, crafts, and in the centre a large table with themed baskets offered as prizes for those who tried their luck purchasing raffle tickets. What set this fair apart was the large homemade jams and jellies section that occupied most of the west side of the building. St. Thomas' parish leaders, Susan Chortyk, ODNW and Cheryl Tobias prepare approximately 2,000 jars of jam for sale at the fair. Susan's sister, Lorie Chortyk who is a former communications officer and *Topic* editor for the diocese of New Westminster, and shares a home with Susan contributes to the jam sales by agreeing to the storage of the jams and jellies in their shared garage.

The following week, Susan reported that the fair raised just over \$11,000, which was about \$1,000 more than budgeted. All the tables and sales areas did very well but Susan reported that in 2017 the *Tea Time Café* downstairs did really well: "People stayed for much longer to enjoy the tea, sweets and savories prepared by the conveners and their helpers. Sylvia Simmons and Meredith Young work very hard at creating a festive and relaxing atmosphere and the baking is incredible! This year, it was impossible to get a table at times because people lingered, chatting with old friends and making new ones. It really symbolizes what we are trying to accomplish at the bazaar by making it feel like a real community event, with people mixing and chatting and enjoying one another's company."

When asked if there were any surprises in the guests buying trends Susan replied, "I don't think there were any real surprises in the buying trends. We have noticed over the years that people tend to be looking for items that are usable (consumables, such as the jams and baking), environmentally friendly (such as the hand-felted dryer balls and vegan lip balms) and there is a growing appreciation for the hand-crafted items such as knitting and sewing, which seem to be becoming lost arts in many ways. And of course, when the doors open there is a stampede to the 'new to you' area by antique dealers looking for a treasure!"

Similar to most of the fall fairs in the diocese, the proceeds netted from the St. Thomas' fair will be directed toward the mission and ministry of the parish. There was however, an information table and an opportunity to give a gift to the St. Thomas' accessibility project. The parish is working toward a major renovation of the hall, which will include alterations to the building and some additions, including an elevator and commercial grade kitchen. The goal is to make the facility more accessible and of more benefit to user groups and to people in the neighbourhood. This parish of approximately 60 regular congregants conducted a capital campaign in the past year, which produced \$458,000 pledged toward the project. ♦



Full capacity at 10 am after the doors opened at St. Thomas. PHOTO John Green



Susan Chortyk, ODNW conducts a jam and jelly sale at the St. Thomas' Bazaar. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT A few laughs at St. Thomas' knitting table. RIGHT Gift baskets that were awarded to lucky raffle ticket buyers at St. Thomas. PHOTO Randy Murray

The Reverend Canon Douglas Williams

October 9, 1938 – December 19, 2017

The Rev. Canon Douglas Elliott Williams died peacefully, in his 80th year, on December 19, 2017 in Vancouver, BC. The only son of Keith S. and Elizabeth D. Williams of Oxnard, California, he was born October 9, 1938 in San Bernardino, California. Predeceased by his eldest son, Zephyr Starwater (Gregory Donald) Williams (Surajit Bose) of Palo Alto, California, and his brother-in-law, the Rev. Dr. Donald E. Grayston; survived by his wife of 54 years, Helen M. (Grayston) Williams; daughters Catherine A. Hall (Anthony) of Greenwich, Connecticut and Melody V. Williams of Stockton, California; son Ian C. Williams and fiancée, Kristen L. Elliott of Kirkland, Washing-

ton; granddaughters Elana A. Voigt (John Ryan) of Bremerton, Washington, Brittany E. Ridgeway (Horatio) of Sacramento, California; Haley V. Fowler of Stockton, California, and great-grandchildren, Tristan and Milani Ridgeway.

Douglas was educated at the University of California, Los Angeles in Philosophy; Cuddesdon Theological College, Oxfordshire, UK; General Theological Seminary, New York City; and most recently with a degree in Classics (Latin) and Medieval Studies from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC in November of 2017. As an Anglican/Episcopal priest, Douglas served in the diocese of Los Ange-

les, diocese of California, and diocese of El Camino Real, retiring as Canon Precentor of Trinity Cathedral, San José, California, before retiring to Vancouver in 2000. In the diocese of New Westminster he served as honorary assistant in the parishes of Christ Church Cathedral, St. James', and St. Anselm's.

Requiem mass was offered at Christ Church Cathedral (Burrard and Georgia, Vancouver) on Saturday, January 13, 2018. Donations in memory of Douglas may be made to the Vestment Fund of Christ Church Cathedral (690 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC V6C 2L1). ✠



Canon Williams, Palm Sunday procession at St. James' in 2012. PHOTO Randy Murray

The Reverend Victor Sidney Edward Morse

May 5, 1926 – December 13, 2017

Vic died on December 13 in Port Moody. He was canonically resident in the diocese of Toronto and had permission to officiate in the diocese of New Westminster since the late 1990s.

Vic was born in Norfolk, UK in 1926. In his early career he worked in construction and engineering. After arriving in Canada, he studied for the priesthood in Toronto and was ordained at St. James'

Cathedral in 1967. He served as a parish priest and regional dean before giving up his licence and moving to the Lower Mainland. He was manager of Forest Lawn Funeral Home for a number of years. In 1996, he married Lenora Large at St. John, Central Park in Burnaby, where they were members. Around the time of his marriage to Lenora Vic was reinstated to the priesthood and became Honorary Assistant at

St. John, Central Park, serving there until 2006. When St. John's moved into the old St. Andrew's building, Vic was the liaison with the contractors doing the renovations and proved most valuable to the parish.

Vic moved to a care centre in October 2017.

The funeral was held at St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby on January 11, 2018. ✠

Consolidated Trust Fund 2017

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Phillips, Hager and North (PH&N), an investment company founded in Vancouver in 1964, which is currently the Canadian institutional asset management division of RBC, have been managing investments for the diocese of New Westminster in the Consolidated Trust Fund (CTF) since 1991.

Every year, two Institutional Portfolio Managers (in 2017, it was Graeme Baker and Paul Martin) present a report to the diocese. Diocesan Treasurer (Bob Hardy, ODNW) and the Director for Finance and Property (Rob Dickson) organize the event on behalf of the diocese, and treasurers and wardens of the parishes of the diocese are invited to attend. However, the presentation is open to all members of the diocese.

For the past several years the venue for the meeting has been in one of the larger meeting rooms at St. Stephen's, West Vancouver on the first Saturday of December, which seems to always be the morning following the PH&N Christmas party. This again was the case in 2017, however Graeme and Paul were bright, early and in possession of all the information needed to give those in attendance a good sense of how diocesan investments fared in 2017.

More than a dozen parish leaders (mostly parish treasurers) gathered at 9:30 am. The presentation given by the two investment professionals and the accompanying questions and comments took approximately 90 minutes.

It is important to keep in mind that this presentation is not an official report—it is for information only. The bulk of the report was a guided *look-through* of a 36-page PowerPoint presentation in calendar sized booklet format. A PDF of this document is available on the diocesan website at www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-resources/parish-resources/pages/ctf-report-december-2-2017.

Graeme Baker was the first of the two PH&N professionals to present and he began with some biographical history of the company and its involvement in the greater community, including the recent sponsorship of a table at the Bishop's Friends dinner event held at Christ Church Cathedral on November 2, 2017. He thanked the diocese for the opportunity to manage the fund, which as of September 30, 2017, was valued at \$47.7 million, approximately \$1.5 million more than the 2016 report total. Low interest rates, a relatively low Canadian dollar and next to nil inflation continue to contribute to a robust climate for investment, however, 2017 did see a bit of an increase in those markers, which has led to some weakness in the Bond



LEFT Rob Dickson introduces Paul Martin and Graeme Baker. MIDDLE Graeme Baker, Institutional Portfolio Manager at Phillips, Hager & North Investment Management. RIGHT Paul Martin, Institutional Portfolio Manager at Phillips, Hager & North Investment Management. PHOTOS Randy Murray

Markets. The December 1 US job growth numbers were very positive and when that is added to the enthusiasm the US business community has for the Republican tax cuts and the increase in and the overall expansion of global manufacturing the general environment is one of optimism.

One of the strengths of the diocesan portfolio is its diversity, with investments in Canadian Equities and Global Equities as well as the aforementioned bonds.

Socially responsible investing has always been a priority of the diocese and of PH&N. Since last year's report there has been a change in the fund name. Prior to July 2017, ESG investments (Environment, Social, Government) were called PH&N Community Values Funds. These funds were merged with RBC Jantzi Funds to create the RBC Vision Funds. There were no changes to the teams managing the funds in the diocesan portfolio, no change to the screening criteria used in the selection of investments for the diocesan portfolio and the upside is a saving in administrative expenses due to the merger that are being passed on to investors.

After 40 minutes or so of the presentation, discussion and questions, Paul Martin took over as the principal presenter and guided the group through the equities analysis—a more specific look at the diocesan portfolio. He explained why tech stocks continue to be hugely successful in the current climate, because unlike the 1990's tech bubble, their performance and share price is supported by ongoing earnings as opposed to speculation. Paul identified some companies to watch including the Kerrisdale-



founded retailer *Aritzia* and its plans to expand outside of Canada. He did point out that not everything that works in Canada works in the US and vice versa. *Freshii* the salad fast food franchise is doing very well. As a franchise it has a lot of flexibility because it can be opened in a variety of locations primarily because the restaurant's infrastructure needs are much less than other fast food franchises; no deep fryers, grease traps or high efficiency ventilation. Paul also spoke about the various potential investment benefits of video games, databases as they relate to healthcare and pharmaceuticals.

One of the conversations that takes place every year at this event is about fossil fuels. Paul believes that withdrawing from investment in Canadian Oil is "throwing the baby out with the bathwater," and that the oil sands will produce low cost oil for at least 40 years.

The presentation ended with a look at the bonds held in the diocesan portfolio with Paul explaining that PH&N have "de-risked" the diocesan portfolio through actions like reducing corporate bond exposure.

The assets of parishes and the diocese continue to grow under the mindful stewardship of PH&N at approximately 5% per year which by current metrics is a very successful outcome.

If you would like more information about the CTF or other information about diocesan finances please contact the Director of Finance and Property, Mr. Rob Dickson at rdickson@vancouver.anglican.ca or phone 604.684.6306, ext. 215. ✠



LEFT Emily in choir robes poses with her creation in the choir room of Christ Church Cathedral. The bell tower is not yet in place. PHOTO Courtesy of Emily Cheung MIDDLE TOP & BOTTOM Christ Church Cathedral in Gingerbread profiles. RIGHT Detail of bell tower. PHOTOS Martin Knowles (mkphotomedia)

Christ Church Cathedral • Advent in Gingerbread

An interview with Emily Cheung, Soprano Section Leader, Christ Church Cathedral

RANDY MURRAY (WITH FILES FROM EMILY CHEUNG)
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Soprano, Emily Cheung is one of the section leaders/soloists in the Christ Church Cathedral (CCC) Choir, and like the current section leaders and the ones who have come before she has embraced and been embraced by the Cathedral community. The current manifestation of Emily's conversion into her life as a member of the Cathedral community is her recent creation of a likeness of the venerable downtown Vancouver landmark in gingerbread, icing, sugar, candy and more.

Emily joined Cathedral Choir in October 2016, after returning from living abroad in Europe the previous six years.

Emily grew up in North Vancouver and her first introduction to—in her words—“the beauty and community that is choral singing” was with Celesta Girls' Choir of West Vancouver. That early experience led her toward her career choice to

become a professional choral singer. Since then she has sung in 23 countries, under the direction of 55 choral directors and in many beautiful locations and “stunning sacred spaces.”

During the final year of her Bachelor of Music degree from the University of BC (UBC), Emily joined the Vancouver Chamber Choir and was the soprano section lead at Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Cathedral. In 2010, she decided to take the leap and moved to Amsterdam, where she sang with Cappella Amsterdam, amongst other ensembles. 2013, saw a further relocation to Vienna, Austria, with her new fiancé, and St. Stephen's the Cathedral Church of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vienna was the venue for her Sunday church choir activities. Her fiancé was eager to move to Vancouver and Emily was happy to return to her hometown. Since moving

to Vancouver she again sings with the Vancouver Chamber Choir and Vancouver Cantata Singers, and was part of Early Music Vancouver's Festive Cantatas taking place in various venues the week of December 11.

When asked to reflect on how she feels about her new church gig, Emily replied, “I have been incredibly moved by my reception at Christ Church Cathedral. Rupert Lang is lovely, the music is always interesting and challenging, the services are inclusive and relevant, and my church choir family is not only talented, but extremely loving. I honestly couldn't be any happier.”

With the preceding information now communicated it is time to move on to the focus of the article and that is an interview with Emily Cheung about Gingerbread Constructions. A truly seasonal (and seasoning) topic.

Q. What inspired you to take on this project? Are you a confectioner and/or a baker?

A. Before I left for Europe I began a tradition of creating annual Gingerbread Houses. I do enjoy baking, but for me, this is more of a crafting project, which I love. Every year, I make sure to learn a new skill, and so far my favourites include: a chinked log cabin, Dutch row houses with a canal, Neuschwanstein Castle, a tree house, and a *Frozen*-style dollhouse for my fiancé's 13 year old sister.

This year is the first time I have decided to enter a competition, and I thought CCC would be the perfect choice, primarily to honour my church choir family, but also because it is not an easy building to replicate! It has so many windows and walls,

Q. Do you use a specific recipe for the gingerbread? Are some recipes better than others?

A. I discovered a wonderful website called *Gingerbread House Heaven*, during my first research ten years ago, and my favourite recipe is their *Another Gingerbread House Recipe* (using lemons). I find that, as well as tasting delicious, it is the perfect combination of being soft enough to cut out windows and alter pieces without it snapping, but strong enough to make for stable walls. You just need to make sure to at least double the recipe, as it doesn't make for much dough. For this massive project I *octupled* it!

Q. Did you make the icing from scratch or use premixed icing?

A. The texture of the icing is crucial to creating a strong Gingerbread House, especially if it's not your standard four walls. Therefore, I like to make my own icing from egg whites and powdered sugar for the construction, as you can make it almost putty-like and it sets rock hard, and then just icing sugar and water for the decorations. Sometimes I like to add flavouring or colour to the icing for different effects.

Q. What kind of candy did you use for accents?

A. I believe that Gingerbread Houses are made to be devoured, which is why I prefer the icing/candy style of Gingerbread House to the marzipan/gum paste/fondant style. Thus, for my previous creations, I would always

cover them with the tastiest candies and make the gingerbread extra flavourful. My friends and I would then hold a Gingerbread House Destroying party and attempt to eat the entire thing.

This time, however, I chose to go with a more “classy” palette of red, green and white, and so the candies were more limited to m & m's®, jelly beans and the like. I really enjoy finding interesting ways to use candies, so I sliced the jelly beans very thinly to use as the two-toned stone detailing on some of the walls, used wafer cookies for the decorative columns and benches, and gold sugar balls for the Celtic Cross in the Memorial Garden.

Q. How did you construct the bell tower and colour the “stained glass?”

A. In previous years I had utilized the crushed hard candy method for creating windows, but this year my new skill was learning to pour sugar. I did some research and found that *isomalt* (a sugar derivative from beets) is often preferred to sugar for sugar sculpting since it doesn't caramelize as quickly, and so I purchased that from one of the specialty shops.

For the windows I baked the wall pieces, let them cool, cut out the windows, melted the *isomalt* to hard crack stage and then poured it into the window holes. Once they were cooled, I painted the inside with food colouring to the primary colours of the actual stained glass windows.

The bell tower was the tricky part. I wanted to create a mould for each of the three sides to pour the *isomalt* into, instead of making one sheet of candy and then hopefully breaking it into rectangles. I couldn't find silicon tubing to make borders, so I decided to fashion my own cookie cutters.

Home Depot provided me with an aluminum duct that I cut into strips and folded to the right size. Then I placed the cookie cutters on a silicon mat, used tacky wall putty to hold them in place and seal any leaks in from the slightly wonky cutting job, and poured in my candy. To my delight, it worked like a charm!

Once the pieces were completely cooled, I used food colouring and edible gold dust to paint on the design like the bell tower and used some chocolate bells I found to

finish it off. Then I strung the crafting lights that I put inside the building through the bell tower as well to make it light up like the real thing. I'm really pleased with how it turned out!

Q. How long did it take you to build this confectionary masterpiece?

A. Because the roof was so large and heavy I knew I needed the walls to completely solidify before attempting to put it on. Normally, my Gingerbread Houses are a two-day affair. One day to make the dough, cut out the pieces (I don't make a cardboard replica first, or use a measuring tape, it's all by eye), bake them, add windows if necessary, and assemble, and the following day to decorate, after it has set overnight.

This year's project started on the Monday, and ended very early on the Sunday morning. Not straight through, obviously, as I did have to work, but bits here and there. So, roughly a week.

Q. Where was the “Cathedral” displayed?

A. *Christ Church Cathedral—Advent in Gingerbread* was displayed at the *Gingerbread Lane* at the Hyatt Regency downtown until December 29, 2017.

The event was free to visit at any time of day and it was great to see all the entries from secondary schools, amateurs, professionals and corporate contributors. All who attended were invited to make a donation to the *Make a Wish Foundation* and vote for their favourite creation for the People's Choice Award. Keep an eye open for the return of *Gingerbread Lane* in December 2018.

Q. What became of the Gingerbread Cathedral?

A. Well, sadly, since it was on display for a month, it wasn't particularly good to eat.

Thank you Emily! When Emily was asked if there was anything that she'd like to share she replied, “Go forth, enjoy life and create!” ♦

As of this writing in late December, Emily was hoping that the *Gingerbread Cathedral* might be on display at CCC for a week or two after the Hyatt display closed down for the season.



Members of St. Michael's Multicultural Church assemble the gift bags at The Flying Angel Club December 17. Miranda Peters is visible centre left. PHOTO Eric Stroo



LEFT Miranda takes a bag of gifts from the van "Santa Claus Style." RIGHT The *Tymac Agent* is all loaded up and ready for her voyage. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Deacon Dileep begins the job of transferring the gift bags from the parking lot to the dock. PHOTO Randy Murray



MtS and Tymac folks all gather on the deck for the first delivery. PHOTO Randy Murray



The first gifts are delivered. PHOTO Randy Murray



Opening gifts on the *Renaissance*. PHOTO Eric Stroo



A *Renaissance* crewperson is about to open his gift package. PHOTO Eric Stroo

How Many in the Crew?

Delivering presents to the seafarers in Vancouver's harbour

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

to new adventures in London, England. The current MtS staff have been in touch with the folks in the head offices of North American Maritime Ministry Association specifically Executive Director Jason Zuidema to arrange for another internship opportunity at Port of Vancouver MtS.

The weather was beautiful on that December late morning and afternoon, sunny and cold (for Vancouver) with a cloudless sky. For the first few visits, Steve or the pilot would contact the ship to be visited and if a connection was made via the radio a crewperson would soon be seen on the deck moving toward the place where the controls for the gangways were located and the gangway was lowered as the Tymac pilot skillfully maneuvered the launch into position. The first ship was the *DL IVY* a Panamanian (many of these types of vessels anchored in the harbour are Panamanian) bulk cargo tanker with a Filipino crew. One crewmember in hardhat and coveralls appeared at the top of the gangway and Rev. Smyth yelled out what became the standard first question, "How many in the crew?" The seafarer held up his ten fingers twice and then added two more fingers signally "22." That meant that two gifts would need to be extracted and added to one of the two bags of ten. He came down the gangway, was enthusiastically greeted by the MtS team and then tried to move the two large and heavy bags up the gangway on his own. This proved difficult so Steve Hnatko quickly jumped up on the gangway and grabbed a bag Santa Claus style and followed the crewperson up onto the deck.

The next few stops were much the same, but the MtS team and Jennifer wanted to spend some time with the crews in their quarters so they all went aboard usually for a brief visit of ten minutes.

The *Tymac Agent* water taxi launch left port at about 11:30 am, however, Jennifer needed to get back to her office to prepare the story, so at approximately 1:15 pm the *Tymac Storm* came up alongside the *Agent* and Jennifer, Steve and Dileep left the group to return to the port and their Friday afternoon activities.

One of the more interesting stops was the tanker *Renaissance*, a bulk cargo ship registered in and flying the Hong Kong flag. The *Renaissance* had a Chinese crew and the Tymac pilot was quite concerned that they weren't answering the radio. That didn't dim the enthusiasm of the MtS team who began hollering at the huge ship, "Presents!" "Merry Christmas!" and the more appropriate "AHOY!" Eventually a crewmember appeared in a plaid shirt and jeans and he began to lower the gangway. Soon joined by others, the next order of business was to determine how many presents were required. This took a little longer than the other stops but eventually it was determined that 24 would work. Upon arrival in the crew's quarters it became apparent that many of the crew had still been in bed when the MtS group arrived but they were delighted to have had their sleep disturbed and really enjoyed the visit and the gifts. Most crews numbered about 20 with one ship having only 15.

Most of the crews are Filipino but there were also two



Senior Port Chaplain, the Rev. Peter Smyth. PHOTO Randy Murray



Peter, Gary and Miranda pose with a crew. PHOTO Eric Stroo



More gifts distributed. PHOTO Randy Murray



Another crew says "Thank-you"



The Rev. Peter Smyth leads the group down the gangway after an on board visit. PHOTO Randy Murray



Meeting a Captain. PHOTO Eric Stroo



Seafarers waving good-bye after a visit from the MtS team. PHOTO Randy Murray



Pastor Gary Roosma descends down the gangway and the photographer receives a friendly wave. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Taking gifts up the gangway. Check out the flip-flops visible in the top left. RIGHT A seafarer responds with a smile to Gary's "Merry Christmas!" PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT A member of one of the two Ukrainian crews that were in the harbour December 22. RIGHT Bringing some cheer to another 20 seafarers. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Greeted by two crewmembers, the last stop of the day. PHOTO Randy Murray



and "Merry Christmas" as the gangway is raised. PHOTO Randy Murray

crews from the Ukraine, a crew from Myanmar with a Korean Captain and the Chinese crew aboard the *Renaissance*. The MtS team had already been in contact with some of the seafarers and Miranda had met a few of the visitors at the Flying Angel Club. During her time at MtS Miranda learned some words and phrases in the languages of the seafarers who visit Vancouver and it was a truly wonderful experience to see the faces of the seafarers light up when she called out "Maligayang Pasko!" (Merry Christmas in *Tagalog*) and would then follow that up with "Maligayang bagong Taon!" (Happy New Year in *Tagalog*).

Many thanks to Peter, Miranda, Dileep, Gary and Eric for allowing diocesan communications to cover this annual event and for being so warm and welcoming.

MtS is an extremely important ministry and it isn't just there for seafarers at Christmas. Seafarers are one of the most marginalized groups of workers in the world and are often the victims of outrageous breaches of standard employment practices.

The Mission to Seafarers is always looking for volunteers and donations are gratefully received, please find out more about MtS by visiting their website at www.flyingangel.ca.

The nine minute segment from the December 22, 2017 broadcast of On the Coast with Jennifer Wilson on CBC Radio 1 is available online at www.cbc.ca/listen/shows/on-the-coast/segment/15294037. Check out this short film of the delivery day on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=CHRoMv4JtZc.

PWRDF Sunday at St. Anselm's

SHIRIN THEOPHILUS, ODNW
St. Anselm's, University of BC

For the past seven years The Reign of Christ Sunday in November has been set aside to learn about the work of Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) and to remind ourselves how we may reach out and help others, thus living into our Baptismal Commitment.

November 26, 2017, was PWRDF day at St. Anselm's. We had a beautiful worship service with uplifting hymns, prayers of the people written and given to individuals to translate into Cantonese, Russian, Vietnamese and Igabo

that were offered as part of the intercessory prayer time during the Eucharist.

The sermon time was set aside for a presentation and a skit that was written and performed by parishioners. The skit brought to life the Rohingya Muslim's plight in Myanmar and depicted a family that included grandparents running from their burned down village. The actors in the skit described their experiences and after their description another actor playing the role of "the reporter" speaks to an

actor representing PWRDF Director, Zaida Bastos asking how PWRDF is involved in the work of helping thousands of refugees coming into Bangladesh.

An Indian lunch of lemon fried rice, vegetable curry, cabbage stir-fry and salad followed the Eucharist. A special cake made for the PWRDF celebration was cut by Peter Goodwin, diocesan PWRDF Unit Chair; Rev. Margaret Marquardt, a member of the diocesan PWRDF Unit and Chair of the diocesan Eco-Justice Unit; and Lynne Taylor, St. Anselm's member and Chair of the Finance and Strategic Plan Working Group, PWRDF.

One of the parishioners wrote, "Thank you very, very much for a wonderful, delicious, super-fantastic lunch today. It was such a nice gathering for everyone and I know it was really appreciated. I think some of the new members were glad to have the chance to get to know a few more people."

Peter Goodwin wrote, "How prolific, creative and sensitive it was when it comes to planning the Reign of Christ service. Wow it was amazing! There was also such a lovely sense of fellowship."

A freewill offering was taken for the Myanmar Crisis Relief Fund, which the Canadian Government shall be matching 1:1. It was a time to give thanks for the work of all involved in PWRDF and for those of us who are far removed from the horrible realities of the tragedies around the world to be partners in bringing hope to all God's people. ✠



LEFT A great addition to the archives of *Topic* cake photographs. RIGHT The Rev. Alex Wilson, the Rev. Margaret Marquardt, Peter Goodwin, Lynne Taylor, and the author prepare for the cake cutting. PHOTOS Dana Taylor



The Skit cast describes their experiences to "the reporter." PHOTO Dana Taylor



Serving the lunch. PHOTO Dana Taylor



The author, Shirin Theophilus, ODNW. PHOTO Dana Taylor

St Hilda's Remediation Follow-Up

Within a week of the January issue of *Topic* going to print in early November (see the article on pages 10 and 11) the ordained and lay leadership of St. Hilda's, Sechelt became aware of information regarding the remediation of the church building that changes the scope of the work needed and greatly increases the costs involved.

As of this writing at the end of December 2017, rector of St. Hilda's, the Rev. Clarence Li informed diocesan communications that the situation is rapidly changing and the plan was to hold a special vestry meeting this past January 14 to look at borrowing up to \$500,000 toward the predicted \$900,000 renovation cost and also to look at the possible development of St. Hilda's property.

More details will be communicated as they become available through diocesan electronic communications and in future issues of *Topic*.

Please keep the St. Hilda's-by-the-Sea community in your prayers as they discern what God is calling them to do during this challenging time.

To learn more about St. Hilda's please visit their website at www.sthilda.ca. ✠



Archdeacon Morris speaks to the group about what needs to be corrected in order for the structure to be safe and sound. PHOTO Clarence Li



Missioner for Congregational Development from the diocese of New Westminster, Tasha Carrothers facilitates a meeting with St. Hilda's members. PHOTO Clarence Li



Led by the Ven. Bruce Morris, deacon of St. Hilda's and Project Manager for the remediation, members of St. Hilda's inspect the exterior west-facing wall. PHOTO Clarence Li



The scaffolding in the sanctuary on December 13, 2017. PHOTO Clarence Li



As part of the mission and ministry of the Diocese of New Westminster our shared diocesan outreach program *care + share* was established following a resolution at Synod 2011. The ministries included in *care + share* have submitted proposals to the Mission and Ministry Development Committee (MMD), and once their proposals have been approved by that body a resolution is presented to Synod and Synod votes on whether or not to accept the recommended ministries as *care + share* recipients for a two year period.

Ministries included in *care + share* do not receive “funding,” instead they receive voluntary contributions made by parishes and individual Anglicans, sent to the Synod Office which forwards funds several times a year to the *care + share* ministry groups.

Donations given by individuals and parishes to *care + share* go 100% to the groups we support. The overhead for fundraising and administration for *care + share* is included in the regular Diocesan Budget, and not taken from donations.

Donations may be directed to both ministries or to individual societies in any combination or amount. You may give to *care + share* via your parish stewardship program or as an individual. Together we as a diocese decide which ministries to support with voluntary dollars. New recipients of *care + share* contributions as of January 1, 2018 and continuing through until December 31, 2019 are:

The Westside Anglicans Neighbourhood Ministry – Mobile Care Unit
Salal + Cedar Watershed Discipleship

Please prayerfully consider your support of *care + share* and give generously.

**To make a gift, please email rtaylor@vancouver.anglican.ca or
 telephone 604.684.6306, ext. 220.**

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• All Saints', Ladner • Blessing of Renovations •

SUBMISSION Cliff Caprani

Over the weekend of the Reign of Christ, November 25 and 26, 2017, the new kitchen and accessible washroom at All Saints', Ladner were thrice blessed: at Messy Church on the Saturday and at both the 8:30 am and 10 am liturgies on the Sunday.

Following the 10 am Eucharist there was a celebration in the parish hall with cake and opportunities to meet the con-

tractor Doug Haller, as well as architect Scott Kemp.

The Ven. Elizabeth Northcott, rector of All Saints' and Archdeacon of Westminster reports that a full feature article about the All Saints' renovation project will be submitted in the near future for inclusion in a 2018 issue of *Topic*. ✦



LEFT Project manager, Don Phelps and architect Scott Kemp in the new kitchen. RIGHT The 10 am congregation gathers in the new kitchen in preparation for the blessing.



• Jingle Bell Café & Bake Sale •

The common areas and halls of St. Jude's Anglican Home located in Vancouver's Little Mountain neighbourhood were decked out for the season on the afternoon of Monday, November 27, 2017.

The Jingle Bell Café and Bake Sale has taken place for the past five years but this year—number six—a call went out for donations to include homemade items such as knitting, jams/jellies, quilting, needlework and of course—cakes and cookies.

The central focus in the corner of the room behind the sales tables was a Christmas tree, seven feet high and covered in decorations, each decoration made by a resident of the St. Jude's home.

Staff and volunteers including St. Jude's Board Chair and long-time Christ Church Cathedral parishioner, Jim Longman were present, greeting guests and spending time with residents. Sandey Berry representing the Board of Director's Fundraising Committee said, "It's an opportunity for residents, families, staff, volunteers and friends of St. Jude's to enjoy an afternoon of comradery while shopping our array of baked goods, crafts and other gently used items. The monies raised this year are dedicated to the update of one of our bathing rooms."

St. Jude's Anglican Home is a 55 bed complex care home where care and services are provided in a warm, cheery, homey environment. In addition to the care of residents, adult day care is also offered on a private pay basis.

When asked for a reaction to this year's event Sandey replied, "Each year we are impressed with the outcome of this popular event, and with the generosity of all those

who donate their time and talent, and those who support us."

Michele Cook, St. Jude's Administrator contacted diocesan communications later in the week to share the news that the funds had been raised to purchase a new towel warmer for the 1st floor west bathing room. Congratulations. ✦



The tree with decorations made by the residents. PHOTO Randy Murray



A view of the Bazaar sales area. PHOTO Randy Murray

• Jazz Vespers for Advent II •

SUBMISSION Hilary Clark



Vocalists, Katherine Grefner and John Cronin and *Mighty Fraser Big Band* Director, Christian Morrison out in front of the 19 piece band. PHOTO Wayne Chose

On December 10, St. Stephen's, West Vancouver had the honour of the presence of Bishop Melissa Skelton at the monthly 4 pm service of Jazz Vespers. The 19 piece *Mighty Fraser Big Band* rose beautifully to the occasion and dazzled the congregation with a varied and satisfying menu of jazz standards. The welcoming music, appropriate to the season, was *The Little Drummer Boy* featuring Dan Morrison on drums. Bishop Skelton opened the service with a greeting outlining the meaning and the importance of Advent. A scripture reading by St. Stephen's rector, Canon Jonathan LLOYD followed, leading into *You Make Me Feel So Young*, the 1946 Myrow and Young standard made famous by Frank Sinatra and Nelson Riddle.

Bishop Melissa continued the quiet Advent theme sharing stories from her past that supported the recognition of the season. A performance of *What Child is This*, punctuated the homily perfectly.

Pianist and music educator Peter Vanderhorst is the St. Stephen's parishioner responsible for coordinating the Jazz Vespers services. He took a few minutes to describe the history of the Jazz Vespers movement in Christian churches, which led very aptly into the prayer "In darkness and in Light, in trouble and in Joy help us heavenly Father..."

Many of the numbers were enhanced by vocals from John Cronin and Katherine Grefner, all under the leadership of Music Director, Christian Morrison.



Pianist and coordinator Peter Vanderhorst shares some information about the history of Jazz Vespers. PHOTO Wayne Chose



A homily from the Bishop. PHOTO Wayne Chose

A rousing ending of the worship service involved Peter Vanderhorst leading the entire congregation in the singing of *This Little Light of Mine*.

Program Note: In previous issues of *Topic*, vocalist Don Stewart was promoted as the Jazz Vespers artist for February 25, however, Mr. Stewart will not perform on that Sunday. Making a long-awaited return will

be Roma Swing Trio featuring the electrifying Romanian Gypsy Jazz violinist, Lache Cercel. Hopefully Don Stewart's 2018 Jazz Vespers appearance can be rescheduled for the spring. ✦



The congregation gets into *This Little Light of Mine*. PHOTO Wayne Chose

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• St. Helen's Family Carol Sing & Concert •

On the evening of Sunday, December 17, 2017, the parish of St. Helen's, West Point Grey presented their annual *Family Carol Sing and Concert*.

The Rev. Scott Gould, rector of the parish reported that many in attendance said that this was the best one in years.

Three choirs performed: *The Choir of St. Helen's*, *The Hycroft Singers*, and *Eurydice Women's Choir* all under the direction of Dr. Kevin Zakresky. *The Story Men*, an original contemporary folk group comprised of singer/songwriter/guitarist Michael Murrie and the aforementioned Rev. Gould also performed. Their rousing version of *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* was a big hit. Dinah Ayre performed a beautiful rendition of Pietro Yon's *Gesu Bambino*, accompanied by Dr. Zakresky.

There was a "Children's Quiz" and a pop-up Christmas Pageant featuring a rendition of *Little Drummer Boy*.

A feature of the evening was the premiere performance of Rev. Gould's newly composed *Magnificat* for choir, piano, guitar, djembe, and soprano solo with St. Helen's

Choir, soprano soloist Alison Powell, and the composer, Rev. Gould on guitar; all under the direction of Dr. Kevin Zakresky.

As the concert drew to a conclusion the combined

choirs surrounded the audience for the sing-a-long finale.

More than 150 attended the event and the proceeds will be directed to the mission and ministry of St. Helen's, West Point Grey. ✚



A Sudden Christmas Pageant broke out — *Little Drummer Boy*. PHOTO Wayne Chose



The Hycroft Singers led by Dr. Kevin Zakresky were a hit. PHOTO Wayne Chose



LEFT While Rev. Gould tunes up, soprano soloist Alison Powell cracks up the crowd with a well-timed joke! MIDDLE *The Story Men*. RIGHT Phineas knows the answer to the Children's Quiz question. PHOTOS Wayne Chose

• Annual Breakfast at Christ Church Cathedral for the Thursday Morning Congregation •

A Christ Church Cathedral (CCC) tradition again took place on Thursday, December 21, 2017. The Thursday before Christmas is traditionally the day when the clergy of the parish serve breakfast to the members of the 7:30 am Thursday morning

Eucharist congregation.

For the 2017 version, deacon, the Rev. Jeffrey Preiss and his partner Richard turned the Cathedral's kitchen into an *Omelette Bar*.

In concert with the made to order

omelettes filled with mushrooms, cheese, ham, tomatoes and more, there were copious amounts of fresh fruit and juice, a large assortment of toast, and Bishop Skelton brought gooey cinnamon buns bedecked

with berries.

Assisting Richard and Jeffrey were: Rev. Ross Bliss, Rev. Helen Dunn, Rev. Stuart Mennigke, Dean Peter Elliott and Bishop Melissa Skelton. ✚



The Rev. Stuart Mennigke, (Cathedral parishioner who often presides at the Thursday morning Eucharist) looks on as the Rev. Jeffrey Preiss and Richard prepare omelettes. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Rev. Ross Bliss, assistant curate at Christ Church Cathedral serves Dr. Bill Orr a fresh off the pan omelette. PHOTOS Randy Murray

• Ash Wednesday •



PHOTO iStock/Getty Images

Writing promo material for the February issue of *Topic* is always a bit strange because the issue needs to go into layout as close to New Year's Eve as possible. Looking forward to the celebration of the arrival of a New Year with all its promise doesn't quite jibe with Ash Wednesday, the day when Christians confront their own mortality.

That being said, in 2018, Ash Wednesday is on St. Valentine's Day, February 14. Many parishes in the diocese of New Westminster will celebrate Ash Wednesday

Eucharists; some will have more than one. In recent years the North Vancouver Region has opted for a combined Ash Wednesday liturgy in different locations at different times of the day around the region.

To find out where Ash Wednesday worship is taking place please ask at your parish or visit the *Find-A-Church* pages (www.vancouver.anglican.ca/find-a-church) and the *Event* listings on the diocesan website (www.vancouver.anglican.ca/events). ✚

Deadline for *Topic* Submissions

February 23 for the April issue

& March 16 for the May issue.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• ODNW Information & Nomination Forms for 2018 Now Available •

In May 2016, Diocesan Council passed a motion amending Canon 22, the Canon relating to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW). Beginning in 2016, new members to the ODNW will be nominated and invested every two years. The next Investiture of New Members to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster will take place Saturday, November 3, 2018, at 10:30 am at the Massey Theatre in New Westminster.

The Parish Nomination Information for 2018 document and the ODNW Parish Nomination Form for 2018 are now available on the diocesan website at www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/the-odnw.

Details regarding eligibility criteria are available in the documents and nominations may be made by any member in good standing of a parish to the rector or priest-in-charge. All nominations are reviewed and approved by the rector or priest-in-charge who, in consultation with the wardens, will choose *not more than one nominee*, and forward that name to the Bishop. The nomination form must be completed in full, and must be accompanied by the \$35 processing fee and a photograph of the nominee. The completed form, fee and photo must be received in the Bishop's Office not later than

April 30, 2018. Nominees will be notified by the Bishop's Office after the completion of the nomination process in June or July. Rectors, priests-in-charge and wardens will also be notified.

Each parish may nominate one person in 2018.

Please contact Bill Siksay, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop's Office at bsiksay@vancouver.anglican.ca or call 604.684.6306, ext. 228 with questions or for more information. ✝



• Music that Makes Community •

On February 23 and 24, 2018, *Music that Makes Community* is coming to our diocese courtesy of Vancouver School of Theology (VST) and Bishop Skelton.

The evening of Friday, February 23, will feature a community sing at St. John's, Shaughnessy (SJS) and on Saturday, February 24, 2018, you are invited to a day-long workshop to equip clergy, musicians and others involved in the planning and leading of music in the use of paperless music (music for the human voice that is not

dependent on books, inserts, etc.). This is an important opportunity for anyone wanting to develop the musical life of their parish.

The Friday Night Sing at SJS is free admission.

Admission is also free for the Saturday workshop but registration is required. To register please go online to www.musicthat-makescommunity.org/mmc_in_vancouver.

There is a lot more information about the events on the registration site. ✝



All are encouraged to submit letters, articles, reports on parish activities, opinion pieces, photos, and more for consideration as content for Topic.

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

All contributions are appreciated • Editor

Deadline for Topic Submissions

February 23 for the April issue

& March 16 for the May issue.

spirit(us)

Exploring pathways to art, earth, and us

An evening with
Kiya Tabassian
from Ensemble Constantinople

Saturday, Feb. 24
8pm

An intimate hour of conversation and music, followed by a reception and chance to meet the artist. This evening is made possible by the generosity of Dr. Stephen Drance & family.

• Kiya Tabassian/Ensemble Constantinople Concert •

SUBMISSION Alex Wilson

The Parish of St. Anselm's are proud and pleased to announce a new concert series in partnership with Early Music Vancouver called *Spirit(us): Exploring the pathways to art, earth, and us*.

Founded in the vision and generosity of Dr. Stephen Drance and his family, the program seeks to engage in the creative development, or "spirit" that drives the craft associated with world-renowned artists, and our own role in that work in our lives. Our evenings include conversation and performance in our intimate setting at St. Anselm's (5210 University Boulevard, across

from the University of BC Golf Course), which is followed by a reception and chance to meet the artists directly.

The second concert in the series features Kiya Tabassian — composer and performer of Persian music, *Ensemble Constantinople* — on Saturday, February 24 at 8 pm (doors open at 7 pm).

Concert admission is by donation with tax receipts available for donations of \$20 and more.

Reservations are necessary so please email office@stanselms.ca to confirm attendance. ✝

• Mission Conference • Keynote Speaker •

The diocese of New Westminster has contracted with Lillian Daniel (*photo right*) to be keynote speaker for the second bi-annual diocesan-wide mission conference scheduled for May 26, 2018, at the Musqueam Cultural Centre in southwest Vancouver.

More information will be posted as it becomes available on the Mission Conference 2018 pages of the diocesan website at www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/mission-conference-2018-may-26.

Lillian Daniel is a preacher, teacher, writer, and speaker whose honesty and wit have taken her from the National Cathedral in Washington, DC to the Festival of Homiletics in Denmark. Wherever she goes, Lillian brings a deep understanding of scripture and how it can be practically applied to everyday life.

Featured in the *New York Times* and on PBS, her words have been described as biting, hilarious, pitch perfect, tender, and often stunningly beautiful.

Her most recent book, *When Spiritual But Religious Is Not Enough: Seeing God in Surprising Places, Even the Church* (Jericho, 2014), makes a provocative case for why religious community matters. Earlier books further explore Lillian's commitment to making religious life real. *This Odd and Wondrous Calling: The Public and Private Lives of two Ministers* shares stories about ministry from the inside. And *Tell it Like it is: Reclaiming the Practice of Testimony* tells the story of one church's attempt to get people to talk to each other about, of all things, God.

As an editor at large for *The Christian Century Magazine*, and a contributing edi-



tor at *Leadership Journal*, Lillian's words and work can be found in *The Huffington Post*, *Christianity Today*, *Relevant Magazine*, *Books and Culture*, *The Journal for Preachers*, as well as in the United Church of Christ's daily email devotionals that boast over 20,000 subscribers.

She has taught preaching the University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago Theological Seminary, and Yale Divinity School, where she received the 2010 distinguished alumni award for "Distinction in Congregational Ministry." Equally comfortable in convention centers, classrooms, lecture halls and church pulpits, Lillian has spoken at: Duke Chapel, Princeton; Seminary King's College, London; and Queen's University, Ontario.

After leading three churches, most recently as Senior Minister of a 1,400 member church outside Chicago, Illinois, Lillian is currently devoting herself full time to writing, speaking and procrastination. ✝

OPINION

The Garbage Dump

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL
Retired Priest of the diocese of Calgary; former Dean of the diocese of New Westminster & Rector of Christ Church Cathedral

Once upon a time... is as good a way as any to begin this story. After all, especially if you are young, it happened a long time ago. It is late October 1969. A long sunny afternoon getting on for the hour when it is time to get back to the hostel for supper, also the hour when the lowering sun shows the golden shadings in some of the stone buildings and walls of the old quarter of Jerusalem.

I have just turned away from the south end of the temple area, the great ruined steps that once carried crowds of pilgrims from all over the known world of the time, all of them making what was for some of them their once in a lifetime pilgrimage to the temple in Jerusalem, the very heart of their Jewish faith.

Reluctantly turning away to begin the journey to my hostel, I walk towards the nearest city gate, the ancient Dung Gate, under the shadow of the city walls. Then out along the then unpaved road sloping down towards the Kidron Valley. To my left further up the slope from me the great walls continue north. I can see where the next city gate—the Eastern Gate has been blocked up centuries ago to prevent pilgrims trespassing into the Temple area itself. If I look to the right I can see the slope of the Mount of Olives. Somewhere on the lower part of that slope is my hostel. But first I have to follow the narrow road as it turns east and slopes down towards a small bridge.

As I approach it the terrain begins to become clearer. By the time I am in the middle of the bridge I can see up and down what is obviously a dried up river bed.

It is at this moment I see something that



City Walls of Jerusalem above the Kidron Valley. PHOTO Bargoti Photography

will remain in my memory all my life. I realize two things very quickly. First I am made aware that this is the Kidron Valley. Since I was a small boy in my parish church choir I have associated the Kidron Brook with the terrible night that Jesus spent before he was taken, tried and crucified. All these years I have thought of this place in terms of solemn hymns and psalms, glorious but sad music, passages of scripture that tell the story of our Lord's Passion.

But then I become aware of something utterly different. There in the dry bed of the river, stretching up and down from both sides of the bridge is a huge city garbage dump! Strewn everywhere are old worn automobile tires, bits of broken furniture, battered stoves and refrigerators, old tattered clothes, everything you can think of in such a place.

It is as if two orchestras have begun

to play two utterly different thunderous chords in my ears. I am much more than surprised. I realize now I am utterly shocked. I am also aware of a deep sadness. What suddenly seems a naïve illusion has been shattered by a brutal reality. I have a feeling of somehow being mocked for my naiveté. My memory of the gospel accounts of such things as the Last Supper, the trial, the condemnation, the execution of Jesus, are being brutally challenged. I can feel something encouraging me to dismiss them as fables for children, simplicities that have no place in a so-called real world.

Just then, at the lowest point of that feeling of hurt and despair, something wonderful happens. It is as if a voice speaks deep inside me and utters a single unforgettable sentence. The voice says quietly, "But I came to you into a world of garbage."

In that moment all sorts of things fade

away: hurt, disappointment, disillusion, even despair. It is as if a great shadow withdraws.

Years later I would read a French scholar, Paul Riceour. He would speak of the necessity in our faith journey to pass from what he called first or early naiveté to second mature adult naiveté. I would know exactly what he meant. Years after I would realize how symbolic it was that I was standing on a small dusty bridge when I had the experience. I would realize that for me this was a crossing over from that early naiveté to a mature naiveté that has held me firm in faith to this day.

Years later I would come across a poem of R. S. Thomas, a Welsh poet and Anglican Priest.

And God held in his hand a small globe.
Look, he said. The Son looked.
Far off, as through water, he saw
A scorched land of fierce colour.
The light burned there.
Crusted buildings cast shadows.
A bright serpent, a river, uncoiled itself
Radiant with slime.

On a bare hill a bare tree saddened the sky.
Many people held out their thin arms to it
As though waiting for a vanished April
To return to its crossed boughs.
The Son watched them.

"Let me go there," He said.

When I discovered that poem years after my Kidron experience, I remembered the inner voice that spoke to me all those years before. ✠



Who Am I To Stop It

Dear Reader,

Do you have a coworker who is sometimes a little moody but adds colour to your otherwise boring workweek? Are you someone who loves hanging out with people, but you often cancel plans last minute? Do you wish your partner would stop buying clothes for you, because the shirts they purchase always feel so scratchy?

Welcome to the world of invisible disabilities. Brain injury, fibromyalgia, anxiety disorders, and autism — just a few of the disabilities that sometimes go with the traits described above. What is an invisible disability? It is something you might not notice until you get to know someone, or something you didn't think was all that different about your personality until someone pointed it out. People tend to have love/hate relationships with invisible disabilities: many people wish they could be healed of chronic pain and impairment, while others might delight in what makes them or their family member unique.

Invisible disabilities are simply one aspect of who someone is. They are also a social construct used to limit or encourage the participation of certain kinds of people in society. Churches are one place where invisible disabilities show up in spades. Maybe you have an anxiety disorder and you enjoy the solitude of Compline over Sunday morning worship, but this isn't something people would necessarily know just by looking at you. Or perhaps you are a Parish Council member who has

lots of great ideas, but your fellow Council members have a hard time understanding the sudden bouts of pain that prevent you from completing projects. Whatever the case, churches have historically supported or failed to welcome people with invisible disabilities. Uncovering that history is long overdue in the Anglican Church of Canada.

So what can you do?

On February 10, join filmmaker Cheryl Green for a daylong (10 am – 4 pm) workshop on invisible disabilities.

Hosted by Christ Church Cathedral, the workshop will cover issues related to invisible disability and the Christian faith and how these issues intersect with race, gender, and sexuality. Cheryl Green will also show her film, *Who Am I To Stop It*, an award-winning documentary on isolation, art, and transformation after brain injury.

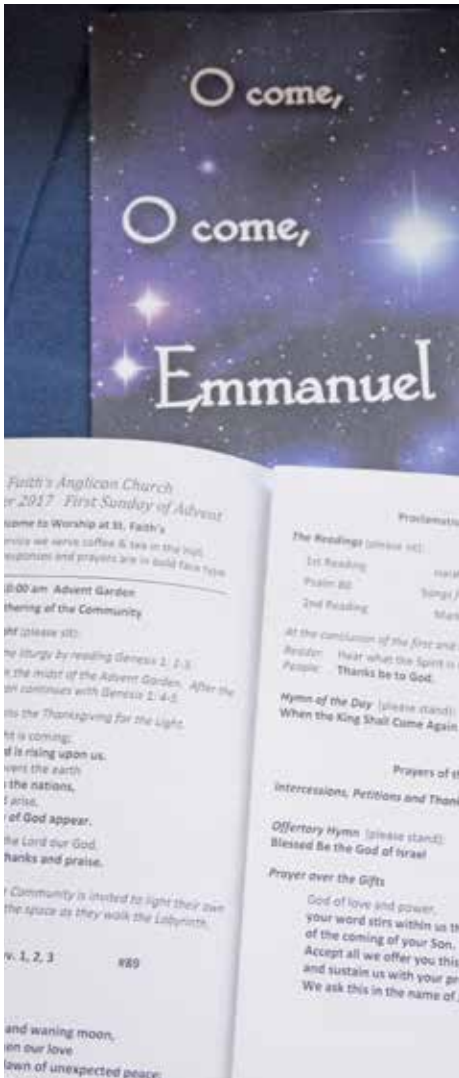
Registration for the workshop is through the Rev. Helen Dunn. Sign up by phoning 604.682.3848, ext. 25 or by emailing helen@thecathedral.ca. The deadline for registrations is February 1 (or February 8 for *Topic* readers). There is a \$10 charge to cover the cost of lunch. An ASL interpreter is available upon request. The film has closed captions and described video. Any other requests for accommodations are encouraged and financial assistance is available for anyone who cannot pay the \$10 fee.



Who Am I To Stop It is a fiscally-sponsored project of *The Hollywood Theatre* and distributed by *New Day Films*.



Submitted by:
the Rev. Helen Dunn & Elma Harder



LEFT The chairs are filling up and the lights are on prior to the beginning of worship. RIGHT The administrators of the lights and labyrinth. PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT The Order of Service for *The Advent Garden*. MIDDLE The Rev. Christine Wilson welcomes the congregation. RIGHT Singing, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*. PHOTOS Randy Murray

The Advent Garden at St. Faith's

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Over the past eight years diocesan communications has made an effort to visit parishes around the diocese in order to share with the diocese the experience of how different Anglican faith communities celebrate festivals and feast days. For Advent I, December 3, 2017, the Parish of St. Faith's located in Vancouver's southwest Kerrisdale/Shahnessy neighbourhood agreed to a visit and shared with enthusiasm their 10 am Advent liturgy entitled *The Advent Garden*.

The rector of St. Faith's, the Rev. Dr. Richard Leggett is a skilled liturgist and St. Faith's has a well-deserved reputation for offering engaging, prayerful and inclusive worship. Since 2016, St. Faith's has also been home to the newest church plant in the diocese of New Westminster, St. Hildegard's Sanctuary and priest-in-charge, the Rev. Melanie Calabrigo. St. Hildegard's Sanctuary offers a worship atmosphere for the trauma-sensitive with a strong focus on art, creativity and beauty. In fact, the Anglican Foundation had sent Dr. Leggett and Rev. Calabrigo a letter just two days before Advent I, congratulating them on the approval of a grant request to proceed with a project titled, *All are Welcome: Liturgical resources for trauma sensitive congregations*. The Anglican Foundation sent a cheque for \$15,000 to be directed toward the project.

On the morning of Advent I, Dr. Leggett was out of town directing his attention to family matters in Colorado. Deacon, the Rev. Christine Wilson and in her *Assistant to the Rector* role, the Rev. Melanie Calabrigo provided the ordained leadership for the service. *The Advent Garden* is not a Eucharistic liturgy. The first Eucharist of Advent was celebrated at St. Faith's during the 8 am worship. In fact, *The Advent Garden* was developed by lay members of the parish, Katherine Cotton, ODNW and Heather Hamilton who had been inspired by a version of the liturgy that they had experienced at a workshop for those who work in children's ministry and Christian formation for young people.

The central worship component of *The Advent Garden* takes place at the beginning of the service. Because the liturgy requires a large open space and the ability to eliminate light from the room, *The Advent Garden* was celebrated in the parish hall. Two dozen+ chairs had been placed in a circle around a labyrinth made of cedar boughs. In the centre of the labyrinth was a large candle, the first candle of Advent. A table located in the circle of chairs was covered with tea lights in small candleholders. At just after 10 am with all of the seats occupied (some with more than one as a number of parents held small children on their laps) the artificial light sources were extinguished and Rev. Wilson welcomed the congregation and then read *Genesis 1: 1-3*. The large candle located in the middle of the labyrinth was

lit and Rev. Wilson continued, reading *Genesis 1: 4-5*. Then Rev. Calabrigo began the service with a responsive prayer of Thanksgiving for the Light:

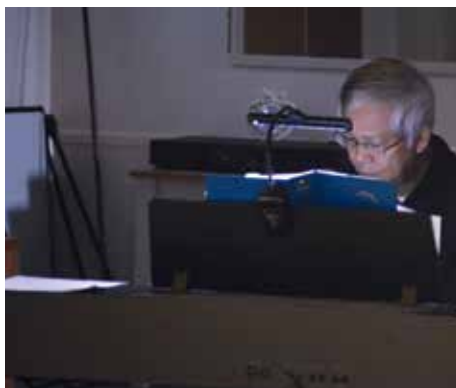
Arise, shine, our light is coming;
the glory of the Lord is rising upon us.
Thou the night still covers the earth
and darkness covers the nations,
over us with the Lord arise,
over us will the glory of God appear.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Following the prayer, recorded music was played and Katherine Cotton with assistance from others invited all those present to light their own candles and bring light into the space as they walked the labyrinth. It was wonderful to see the younger members of the community participating with quiet enthusiasm under the watchful eyes of their guard-

ians. The walking and placing of lit candles took about 30 minutes and after everyone who wanted to participate had done so the centre of the room glowed in the collected light of the freshly lit candles.

The service continued with the more traditional Advent practice of singing the first 3 verses of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, followed by a reading from the Old Testament, *Isaiah 64: 1-9*, the Gospel for the day, *Mark 13: 24-37*, Intercessions, the Offertory, Prayer over the Gifts, the Lord's Prayer, an Exchange of the Peace of Christ, the Closing Hymn—*How Long*—and Dismissal. With the liturgy concluded and the parish hall lights turned back on the young members of the parish had a great time blowing out the candles.

Many thanks to the lay leaders, ordained leaders and members of the St. Faith's community for their warm welcome and for sharing their Advent I liturgy with the diocese. ✚



LEFT Keyboard accompaniment in a darkened space. RIGHT All the candles are lit and placed. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Walking the labyrinth to the centre to light the candle. PHOTO Randy Murray



Blowing out the candles is lots of fun. PHOTO Randy Murray