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The Labyrinth Mural Team September 25, 2016: Jane Males, Sandy McIntosh, Maureen Edgar, John Firmston, David Kimpton, Christine Corris-Wingfield, Joey Mallett, Larry Scherben, and Anne Denis. PHOTO Sandy Scherben

Go in Peace to Offer Loving Kindness to All Those We Encounter

The Dedication of the Mural at St. Alban, Richmond

RANDY MURRAY WITH FILES FROM JOHN FIRMSTON (PRIEST-IN-CHARGE, ST. ALBAN, RICHMOND)

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The City of Richmond is the latest locale in the Metro Vancouver Area to receive a mural created by well-known Vancouver artist, Joey Mallett. And, the mural is on the grounds of a parish of the diocese of New Westminster—St. Alban's.

The mural, located on the exterior north wall of the St. Alban's parish hall overlooking the church's outdoor labyrinth compound features three panels. The image on the left is a replica of the *Seraph* panel on a clerestory window at Chartres Cathedral in France. The *Seraph* is mentioned in the 6th chapter of the prophet Isaiah, in his vision of the temple and was the first to proclaim the words of the Sanctus—*Holy Holy Holy, Lord God of Hosts*.

The image on the right was inspired by the stained glass of Chartres but is Joey Mallett's own creation, a female figure, with seraph wings also sporting eyeballs in the style of the Chartres replica and playing a violin.

The centre panel bears the words, "You are Here," which bring to mind the themes of *mindfulness* and *presence* which are so much a part of the labyrinth experience.

This project was developed and pursued by the St. Alban's Labyrinth Committee and was funded by a grant from the City of Richmond. The mural contract was signed by: Larry Scherben, ODNW representing the Parish of St. Alban; the artist Joey Mallett; and a representative of the Office of Public Art for the City of Richmond on July 18, 2016. The grant was \$10,000.

Work by the artist and her team began on August 8 and was completed August 30.

Mural artist Joey Mallett began painting murals in 1997. One of her better known works is in collaboration with artist Rita Buckwitz, the *St. James* mural at Gore and Powell in Vancouver's downtown eastside, created in honour of the City of Vancouver's 125th Anniversary in 2011.

On Sunday, September 25, the 19th Sunday after Pentecost, the St. Alban's community gathered for the second worship of the morning, the 10 am Celebration of the Eucharist. St. Alban's priest-in-charge, the Rev. John Firmston welcomed the congregation and also welcomed the guest preacher for the liturgy, Richmond/Delta Deanery regional dean, the Rev. Brian Vickers who is rector of St. Anne's, Steveston. Rev. Vickers had left his flock in the capable hands of newly appointed curate, transitional deacon, the Rev. Mark Munn and Christ Church Cathedral / St. Bridgids priest associate, the Rev. Marnie Peterson. Rev. Firmston also welcomed guest soloist Jerry DesVoignes who with the skilled accompaniment of St. Alban's Director of Music, Chris Morano and the assistance of the Choir of St. Alban led the music in worship that morning.

The liturgy was prayerful, well-constructed and featured

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For more Diocesan news and events visit www.vancouver.anglican.ca

Go in Peace to Offer Loving Kindness to All Those We Encounter

The Dedication of the Mural at St. Alban, Richmond



Prepping the mural pattern in August 2016. PHOTO Larry Scherben



Drawing the outline of the figures in August 2016. PHOTO Larry Scherben



Painting the mural. PHOTO Larry Scherben



Artist Joey Mallett beside her signature on the completed work of art. PHOTO Larry Scherben

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

a number of musical selections from the United Church hymn collection *More Voices United*. Rev. Vickers chose the Gospel, *Luke 16: 19–31* for his text and spoke movingly about wealth, poverty and caring for one another.

Upon completion of the Eucharist, Jerry DesVoignes offered a postlude which was then followed by the crucifer, David Kimp-ton, ODNW leading the sanctuary party, choir and congregation out through the nave, narthex and north to the Labyrinth where a number people including the artist, Joey Mallett and City of Richmond Office of Public Art representative, Christine Corris-Wingfield had gathered in advance of the Service of Dedication of the Labyrinth Mural.

It took about five minutes for the gathering to assemble. Rev. Firmston assisted by server Pat Houston began the Service of Dedication with The Invocation:

"We are gathered here today to dedicated this mural as an offering of this Parish of St. Alban and from the City of Richmond to the benefit of those who come to this labyrinth, for the beautification of this place and to the glory of God. All things come from you, O God."

To which the people answered:
"And from your own gifts do we give to you"

Rev. Firmston then offered a prayer:
God our creator and redeemer,
give us grateful hearts and willing hands,
that we may commit to building
your reign of peace and justice
among all peoples
to the glory of your Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ
Amen

Rev. Firmston provided some background information about the mural and then he began the Blessing with a prayer partici-

pated in by all:

"Almighty God, we thank you that you have put it into the hearts of your people to make offerings for the beautification of this church and of this City of Richmond. Be with us now and bless us as we dedicate this mural to your praise and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Following the Prayers of Blessing, Rev. Firmston said:

"For all those who will come to this labyrinth to reflect and meditate, I quote St. Paul in his bidding to the people of Philippi: 'Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.' Friends, go in peace to offer loving kindness to those we encounter in our community. Amen."

He then asked if anyone involved in the project wanted to speak and artist Joey Mallett came forward and shared some information about her process and her inspiration for this work. She admitted that the concept for the piece had made itself known to her while she was sleeping. She awoke, excited, energized and eager to put her thoughts in order. When she returned to her bed (which is apparently taller than average and requires a footstool to ensure accurate access) she stumbled and broke her foot. But that did not put a damper or a delay on the project.

Christine Corris-Wingfield of the Office of Public Art was beaming and joyfully announced that this mural is the first public art mural administrated by her office and due to the excellence of the piece and the positive process working with the St. Alban committee she looks forward to future similar projects in the City of Richmond.

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



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Thank you!



LEFT The Rev. John Firmston, priest-in-charge, welcomes the congregation to worship and provides some information on the Service of Dedication of the Labyrinth Mural that would take place after the Eucharist. MIDDLE The guest preacher was the Rev. Brian Vickers, regional dean of Richmond/Delta and rector of St. Alban's neighbouring parish, St. Anne's, Steveston. RIGHT Long time St. Alban's parishioner and chorister Pam Hiensch administrates Communion. PHOTOS Randy Murray

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The Labyrinth Mural Team then gathered in the middle of the labyrinth with the mural as a backdrop and it was time for photographs such as this one by Sandy Scherben that graces the front page of this issue of *Topic*. Congratulations to everyone involved in this great example of a parish making a connection in the community and specifically in the neighbourhood where the church is situated. May the people of St. Alban's with the people of Richmond enjoy this mural and the peace and spiritual comfort that the labyrinth brings for many years. ✠

More photos on page 4...



Jerry DesVoignes helps lead the music in worship. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Rev. John Firmston just prior to the Dismissal. PHOTO Randy Murray



David Kimpton, ODNW leads the procession out the doors of the narthex. PHOTO Randy Murray

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

compiled by Anglican Archivist Melanie Delva

10 years • 2006 The idea of the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW) is first proposed by the Cathedral Chapter.

20 years • 1996 Diocesan Council “promotes equality” by approving the Supplemental Unemployment Benefits Plan to supplement maternity benefits for female clergy and Synod Office staff.

40 years • 1976 Women are ordained for the first time in the diocese of New Westminster. Archbishop David Somerville declares, “It’s the right thing to do, we must go ahead and do it.”

GIVING

WHY I DO NOT CONTRIBUTE

THE CHURCH HAS PLENTY OF MONEY

WE CAN'T AFFORD IT

I GIVE MY TIME AND TALENTS INSTEAD

CHURCH ISN'T THE PLACE TO TALK ABOUT MONEY

DOESN'T THE GOVERNMENT PAY FOR IT?

I GIVE TO OTHER CHARITIES

MY GIFT WOULDN'T REALLY COUNT

THE DIOCESE MIGHT GIVE IT TO THAT CHURCH DOWN THE ROAD

OUR VICAR DOESN'T DESERVE TO BE PAID

SOMEBODY UPSET ME ONCE

CartoonChurch.com



The procession continues north toward the Labyrinth. PHOTO Randy Murray



The procession joins the group already gathered on the labyrinth. On the right we see Rev. Firmston greet artist, Joey Mallett. PHOTO Randy Murray



Rev. Firmston and server, Pat Houston are in place for The Invocation. PHOTO Randy Murray

Go in Peace to Offer Loving Kindness to All Those We Encounter

The Dedication of the Mural at St. Alban, Richmond

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Leading the first prayer. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Rev. Firmston asks artist, Joey Mallett, to say a few words. RIGHT The Dedication. PHOTOS Larry Scherben



LEFT Joey speaks about her process and inspiration. PHOTO Randy Murray



MIDDLE Close up during the Blessing. PHOTO Randy Murray



RIGHT Christine Corris-Wingfield. PHOTO Larry Scherben

Consultants Group

Helping Parishes Become Healthy, Faithful & Effective

TASHA CARROTHERS

Ministry Resource Associate, diocese of New Westminster

How do you feel about the thought of your parish working with a consultant?

For some, it means that something must be going seriously wrong in the life of the parish. Others are concerned that it will be an expensive boondoggle—bringing in an outsider to write a report that no one will read. Many think it's simply unnecessary; we don't need anyone from the outside to tell us how to do things. But me, I get excited. Of course I do, because I have the great pleasure of coordinating the diocese's recently established Consultant's Group.

I think that just about any parish can benefit from working with a consultant. Consultants are not just for serious problems, although they can help with those as well. Using a consultant to help maintain a healthy organization is good practice. For example, your parish council (church committee) would likely benefit from a retreat shortly after vestry. A retreat would help new members get oriented and up to speed, and the whole group could work on a plan for the year. While the rector, vicar or priest-in-charge quite likely has the skills to put something together, a consultant brings in new ideas and frees up the ordained leaders to participate along with council members. St. Martin's in North Vancouver has used a consultant to help assess new priorities. As the Rev. Robin Celiz says, "The diocesan consultants have been particularly helpful to me as the vicar to brainstorm and problem solve ideas within the parish. The parish has benefited from their presence and facilitation in that they get to engage in the

process with a different voice and perspective than mine or the wardens."

And it's not expensive. The cost to the parish is \$50 per unit, where a unit is a morning, afternoon or evening. The diocese covers travel expenses and costs for consultant training. For this modest fee, the caliber of the diocesan consultants is impressive: one operates her own consultancy in human resources, another is a former executive director of a non-profit organization, and yet another was a school administrator. About half the consultants are priests in the diocese and all are graduates of the School for Parish Development (with several also being on the training team for the school).

In addition to bringing wide-ranging experience to their work, the consultants participate in on-going training three times a year. Training includes topics such as how to make sure that the consultant and the client parish are on the same page (contracting), how to support interim ministry, and how to facilitate a mutual ministry review. This last exercise is a process in which parish leaders review and assess the work they did together over the previous year, reflect on how they are working together, and identify areas of focus for the coming year.

Over the past year Christ Church Cathedral used a diocesan consultant for a couple of staff days. Dean Peter Elliott reports, "Our consultant brought excellent preparation, great facilitation skills, flexibility with our agenda and good reporting

to help the staff team put into action the decisions made."

Consultants can help out with many different aspects of an organization's life, including goal setting, visioning or discernment, mutual ministry review, and change processes or redevelopment work. They can work with the whole parish or specific sub-groups, such as parish council. They can facilitate meetings, listening sessions and run workshops. They run retreats and training sessions. And they can work in specific content areas such as Anglican identity and marketing, conflict management or gathering values and hopes for a parish profile. They draw primarily from material that is taught at the Diocesan School for Parish Development. With that program being extremely popular (the week-long summer session has sold out every year since the inaugural year of 2012), there are more and more people in our parishes who have a sense of how this kind of work brings about stronger parish ministry.

A couple of the consultants are also certified to administer the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI). This popular instrument helps people gain insight about themselves and how they interact with others, and improves how they communicate, learn, and work. It's used in business and not-for-profit organizations to create stronger teams and better decision-making. St. Michael's Multicultural Anglican Church brought in a consultant to work with members of the whole parish. Priest-in-charge at St. Michael's, the Rev. Wilmer Toyoken explains that doing the Myers-Briggs was part of the strategic plan. "Knowing ourselves better through the MBTI would help us to engage and to share our ability to work together as leaders of St. Mike's. Also, it helps us to take on tasks that are capable for us and not to pressure members of the team to do tasks which are not fitting to them."

Depending on what you're looking for, your work with a consultant can be very short (for example, a 40-minute town hall after the Sunday service) or extended (such as working on membership growth over a 12 month period, a process that might involve repeated meetings with parish council and several whole parish gatherings). Several parishes have worked with the same consultant on subsequent projects. In this category, the consultant comes in for one project such as a town hall meeting, it goes well and parish leaders identify subsequent

opportunities, such as a parish council retreat. How much or little you use the consultant is up to parish leaders.

For more information about the diocesan parish development Consultant's Group visit the website pages at <http://bit.ly/2dkNSIB> and/or contact me at 604.684.6306, ext. 227 or email tcarrothers@vancouver.anglican.ca. ✦



Tasha Carrothers chairs the Consultants Group training. PHOTO Randy Murray



Facilitating discussion and recording responses at a Consultants Group training day. PHOTO Randy Murray



Members of the diocesan Consultants Group at a training day. PHOTO Randy Murray

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LEFT Cynthia Llewellyn ODNW, AAM in front of the portrait of Hilda Gregory in the new Jubilee House library. LEFT MIDDLE 127 Society Board Chair, Joan Seidl. RIGHT MIDDLE Dean Peter Elliott offers the Blessing. RIGHT Deputy Mayor Heather Deal. PHOTOS Randy Murray

On the afternoon of Saturday, September 10 more than 125 people gathered in the common room (with kitchen adjacent) of the 127 Society's new Jubilee House (at 1077 Richards Street) for a dedication, blessing and open house event.

Hilda Gregory, Cynthia Llewellyn, Anne McCullum, Lil Thirkell, and Adrian Ross, all Anglicans from the Vancouver area founded the 127 Society in 1981. What these five accomplished back in the early 1980s with a stake of \$2,000 that they had pooled together was and is remarkable. There were others involved in those early days and amongst that group were people like Ian Birtwell, a public buildings and properties construction and maintenance expert, and engineer, Graham Rawlings. Ian and Graham are long time Christ Church Cathedral parishioners and both were present on September 10 for the event.

The original motivation—in the late 1970s, early 1980s—for the 127 Society for Housing was a desire to create safe and affordable housing, in reaction to the displacement of thousands of low income urban renters due to the “renovictions” that were rampant during the Expo '86 preparations.

And now in 2016, there is a new chapter in the 127 Society for Housing history, *New Jubilee House*. According to the material distributed at the event:

- New Jubilee House is built to be environmentally sustainable to LEED Gold standard, replacing the deteriorating old Jubilee House, allowing tenants to say in their neighbourhood.
- The City of Vancouver owns the new Jubilee House and the land on which it stands. The 127 Society for Housing signed a 60-year leasehold with the City to operate the building as social housing with 87 low-income units and 75 low-end-of-market units.
- In the absence of subsidies from senior levels of government, rent from the 75 low-end-of-market units will subsidize the operation of the 87 low-income units.
- New Jubilee House has 11 fully wheelchair accessible units and two elevators (compared to old Jubilee House which had many stairs and only five partially accessible units).
- Jubilee House has a state-of-the-art bedbug baking room on basement level 2.
- There is a beautiful rooftop garden with a capacity for up to 60 persons.

The MC for the event was Joan Seidl, the current President of the 127 Society for Housing. The Very Rev. Peter Elliott offered a reflection and a prayer of blessing. Deputy Mayor Heather Deal offered remarks as did Max Kerr, the Executive Vice-President of Brenhill Developments the company involved in the project.

Joan Seidl began her address by saying, “moving is not always fun. We’ve just moved 87 people.” Joan was referring to the fact that the original Jubilee House across the street, which will be torn down and a new development constructed on the site had to be emptied of tenants. The site of the old Jubilee House is part of a land swap deal with the City and Brenhill Development that created the opportunity and subsequently the resources to build the new building that is housing the former tenants of the old building. Joan continued in her remarks, thanking the staff, tenants, board members, volunteers, the City of Vancouver, and Brenhill Developments for all they have done. She focused her gratitude toward everyone that had helped move the 87 residents into the new building.

The Very Rev. Peter Elliott, dean and rector of Christ Church Cathedral, followed Joan. He began with an observation about the weather, it was indeed a “perfect” late summer day and then he made reference to his written

New Jubilee House

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor



reflection available in the *Celebration of New Jubilee House* program bulletin, which was as follows:

“Not many apartment buildings are named after a theological vision. Jubilee House is. An ancient vision outlined in various sections of the Hebrew Bible, the year of Jubilee occurred once every 50 years. Traditions of a Jubilee Year included freeing people held in slavery and forgiveness of debt: a Jubilee year was an economic revolution that would give everyone a home and debt free life in a peaceable kingdom.

Of course a Jubilee Year never actually fulfilled the promise, but the theological vision continued through the generations and was

embraced by Jesus in his first recorded sermon, in the synagogue at Nazareth (*Luke 4*). There he chose to read the proclamation from Isaiah of the Jubilee year:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s Jubilee.’

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Joan quietly acknowledges the applause of gratitude. PHOTO Randy Murray

“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain
Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.”



LEFT Max Kerr of Brenhill Development. RIGHT Long time Cathedral parishioner Howard Teasley displays some of the products available in the “Low Cost” food store in the Jubilee House lobby. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Ian and Jenny Birtwell on the roof. PHOTO Randy Murray



The view to the east from the roof. PHOTO Randy Murray

REST Members Greet Ali Salat Bugare

WITH FILES FROM WILNA PARRY

On October 17, 2015, members of interested churches (about 40 people) were invited to meet at St. Clement's, Lynn Valley to decide on refugee sponsorship. This group would evolve over the next few months into the North Vancouver Regional Ecumenical Support Team (REST) a partnership of ten churches with other individuals who have united to support the sponsorship of refugees. The group operates in close cooperation with the diocese of New Westminster.

At that meeting in 2015, it was decided that the group would work towards the sponsorship of one Syrian family and two young men from a list provided by Immigration Services. One of the young men was Ali Salat Bugare, a visually impaired Somali man from Mogadishu.

Bugare's profile indicated great urgency as his medical assessment and clearance was expiring on November 17, 2015. The estimated timeframe to departure after sponsors were sourced was to be 30 days, so it was expected he would arrive in mid-December 2015. Instead, Honada's family, the Palestinian family who had long been residents of Syria arrived first on January 15, 2016 (*see the story in the March 2016 issue of Topic on page 19*).

The group decision to sponsor Bugare was based on his profile (warmer climate and a city which has a hospital/research centre for vision-impaired adults) and needs: they felt that Bugare (as he is commonly addressed) as a blind person would face enormous obstacles in a large refugee camp. Bugare has eight years of formal education, speaks some English (upon his arrival it was discovered that he understands English quite well), and has experience working as a shopkeeper and waiter. He gradually lost his sight after a fall in Mogadishu (he was ten) and was able to flee and seek medical help before he became completely blind in 2010. He is motivated and "looking for a better life in Canada." He is unmarried. Bugare has a mother, father, four sisters and one brother living in Somalia.

In late August, members of REST were notified that Bugare would be arriving at Vancouver airport on September 12, 2016.

And arrive he did. After a very long trip that originated from Nairobi on September 11 with plane changes in Zurich and Toronto, Bugare's aid, Peter Mbatha accompanied him from AC flight 161 through the terminal to the baggage carousel at YVR where he was greeted by a small group of folks representing REST.

Cynthia Bunbury, the principal REST representative had arranged that the REST group be augmented by Abdullah, originally from Somalia and Aryn Bhulji and Gulnar Carlisle who are fluent in Ali's principal language, Swahili. They welcomed Bugare and his aid Peter. Peter was scheduled to return to Toronto the following afternoon.

Bugare was a bit uncomfortable and somewhat stiff from the many hours on planes. He was concerned about the temperature outside and asked Abdullah for a jacket. St. Clement's parishioner Wilna Parry had brought along a jacket owned by her husband Dave, which she gave to



Bugare is guided into the arrivals area at YVR by Peter Mbatha.



Aryn does some helpful translating.



The North Vancouver Regional Ecumenical Support Team (REST) with Ali Salat Bugare and Peter Mbatha.

Bugare and he gladly donned it.

Bugare was introduced to members of the greeting party and he happily agreed to pose for some arrival photographs. Then it was time to head out to the waiting car and begin his new life in Canada. Bugare was taken to Wilna and Dave Parry's home in Lynn Valley where he will stay until such a time that appropriate accommodation can be found for him. Cynthia Bunbury will coordinate the volunteers who have signed on to be part of his care and transition team.

Bugare has appointments with a dentist and ophthalmologist and an appointment had been set-up with a physician, however because of digestive and stomach issues Bugare visited Lion's Gate Hospital emergency on September 13 for immediate treatment of that condi-

tion. He apparently has a cataract on his right eye and it is hoped that if that is removed, he will have some vision, but those needs will be clearer once he has had further medical attention and tests. All these appointments were scheduled to take place in September. Aryn Bhulji and Gulnar Carlisle helped with arranging the medical appointments. Aryn stayed with Bugare the first night at the Parry home.

Prior to Bugare's arrival a REST representative had been in to see the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) about resources. An occupational therapist (OT), Julia Rowlands, as well as a vision impaired man met at the Parry home, to give advice on accommodation and what Bugare's household needs would be.

Welcome to Canada Bugare! ♦

New Jubilee House

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

The vision of Jubilee inspired leadership of the 127 Society for Housing to name their first building 'Jubilee House': this new building continues that designation. Today's celebrations are a wonderful occasion to express thanks, first to God who gave this vision of Jubilee, and secondly to the people that God inspired to make this vision a reality — those who have taken leadership in ensuring the provision of affordable and safe housing in Vancouver's downtown.

The 127 Society for Housing particularly honours the memory of the late Hilda Gregory, whose vision and tenacity provided the impetus for this work: together with her good friend Cynthia Llewellyn, Hilda's deep commitment to putting faith in action has paved the way for today's celebration."

Dean Elliott thanked Joan Seidl who is following in "the footsteps of giants" and then he said a few words about those "giants," the late Hilda Gregory and Cynthia Llewellyn. Cynthia now aged 96 who was in attendance and took time to meet with folks in the Jubilee House Library. Many of the books in the library are from the collection of the late Hilda Gregory. The dean went on to say that we are inspired by Hilda and Cynthia and those who have followed, and through their devotion to justice and compassionate service "we hold in our hearts a vision of what the world could be... a world of peace and dignity." He then offered the following prayer of blessing:

"Loving God, you made us in your image and blessed us with

wisdom, creativity, skill, compassion and love. Inspire us to action as we glimpse your vision of Jubilee where all dwell safely and securely.

In Jesus Christ you have called us to share food with the hungry and to provide shelter for the homeless. You give us a vision of Jubilee Peace where all will live equally and fully in the abundance of the earth.

We pray that your Holy Spirit will transform our world and transform our hearts and minds. Make us into a compassionate people, eager to serve, ready to forgive and always beholding in each other the grace and love of the God we know in Jesus Christ.

And so we ask you to bless this Jubilee House. May this be a safe dwelling place. May your peace descend upon this home for many. May this be a place of harmony, forgiveness and grace today and always.

Amen."

Joan began her introduction of Heather Deal by saying that things were getting pretty bleak, the old Jubilee House facility was falling apart, there was no money to come from the federal or provincial governments, however the City of Vancouver did not give up and worked with Brenhill and the 127 Society board to bring about this very positive outcome. Deputy Mayor Heather Deal looked around the audience and acknowledged a number of people present (including former City of Vancouver advocate for the homeless, Judy

Graves) who have committed themselves to the plight of the hard-to-house and been instrumental in increasing public awareness that moved to action. Deputy Mayor Deal admitted that there was pushback from a number of sources, not everyone was keen on the City of Vancouver getting involved in such a project. However, there were so many positives in the 127 Societies presentation that the obvious benefits of the plan won out. She mentioned the library, the affordable food store and the history of community available at 127 buildings.

The last to speak was Max Kerr of Brenhill who managed the development and construction of the building. In his address Max mentioned that the Brenhill building used to be on this site across the street from old Jubilee House.

In conclusion, Joan thanked 127 Society for Housing's Executive Director for the past 18 years, Joanne Graham and then she closed by mentioning the names of the members of the 127 board, many of whom are long time parishioners of Christ Church Cathedral.

The visitors were encouraged to look around the parts of the facility that were open for viewing: the library; low-cost food store; rooftop garden; sample suite 304, an example of a low-income bachelor suite; and the bedbug prevention baking room in the basement level 2. Folks were also encouraged to meet, reconnect and enjoy cake and snacks that had been served buffet style in the common room. ♦

To See the Face of Christ in All We Meet & the Light of Christ in Every Place

The Induction of the Reverend Peter Smyth as Senior Chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor



The Flying Angel Club. PHOTO Randy Murray

A group of clergy and lay gathered in the chapel of the Flying Angel Club, the Edwardian structure that serves as the home of the Mission to Seafarers at the Port of Vancouver the evening of September 20, 2016. They had gathered to participate in a Celebration of New Ministry, the induction by Bishop Melissa Skelton of the Rev. Peter Smyth as Senior Port Chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers.

The chapel is beautifully appointed with redcedar panels, millwork and furniture. Much of the wood is decorated with carvings depicting events from the life of Jesus and other representative symbols of the Christian faith with a focus on those who make their living on ships at sea.

For those of you not familiar with the Mission to Seafarers (formerly Mission to Seamen), Anglican Archivist Melanie Delva was kind enough to share the following brief

history with diocesan communications:

“The idea of ministering to sailors in this particular way was the vision of Fr. John Ashley on the banks of the Bristol Channel in 1835. One hundred and eighty-one years later, the Mission to Seafarers ministers to merchant seafarers in over 200 ports around the world.

Our own Mission in the diocese of New Westminster began as the Seamen’s Institute with Fr. Clinton of St. James’ in 1897. It was established as a diocesan ministry in 1903. Currently we have missions at the Port of Vancouver and Robert’s Bank, but we also had a ‘mobile mission’ in North Vancouver.

The ‘homes’ of the Mission have also looked different over time. The current Flying Angel Club was first the BC Mills Timber and Trading Company Office and built in 1905. It was built on the site of a sawmill that began production in 1867 and then named the Hastings Saw Mill Company in 1870 after Rear Admiral Honorable Hastings, Commander of the Royal Navy base in Esquimalt. Although we have no known images of the original Mission, this current Flying Angel Club on Waterfront Road is a beautiful bastion of comfort in the busy Port of Vancouver.”

It was in the aforementioned Chapel of this “beautiful bastion of comfort” that Rev. Smyth was installed. The liturgy was a little different than the usual Celebration of a New Ministry, as the induction did not take place within the context of the Eucharist. However, all the usual elements were present: the Bishop’s announcement of the choice of Peter as Senior Chaplain; the readings from scripture; the description by the Executive Archdeacon of the process by which the new priest had been chosen; the administration of the Oaths and Subscriptions by the Executive Archdeacon; the reading of the Oath by the new priest; the signing of the Oath by the new priest witnessed by the Executive Archdeacon; the examination of the new priest by the bishop in the presence of the congregation (primarily Mission to Seafarers staff); the presentation of the Symbols of Ministry of the Whole People of God, in this case by the staff of Mission and by members of Peter’s family; and an intercession but in this case offered by a representative of the Roman Catholic chaplaincy component of the Mission.

The preacher for the liturgy was the Ven. Elizabeth Northcott, Archdeacon of Westminster and rector of All Saints’, Ladner. The Mission to Seafarers is located in the Archdeaconry of Burrard and in the Deanery of Kingsway. The archdeacon and regional dean were unable to attend the service so Archdeacon Northcott conveyed the traditional welcome to the new priest to the archdeaconry and deanery. As she pointed out, her role in the liturgy and welcome made perfect sense because the other Lower Mainland location of the Mission to Seafarers at the Delta Port is in her archdeaconry, and the Rev. Smyth would be welcome in Delta, Tsawwassen and Ladner anytime.

Archdeacon Northcott took the Gospel reading, *Matthew 9: 9–13* for her text. She began by saying how fitting it was that the installation of the Senior Port Chaplain was taking place on the Feast of St. Matthew. She shared with the congregation her experience of being in Rome and viewing Caravaggio’s masterpiece, *The Calling of St. Matthew* in its location in the Contarelli Chapel in the church of the French congregation, San Luigi de Francesi. The gospel

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



Vesting prior to worship in the main floor space of the Flying Angel Club building. PHOTO Randy Murray



Archbishop Douglas Hambidge and David Nash in the main floor space of the Flying Angel Club building. PHOTO Randy Murray



The red cedar altar, lecterns and triptych. PHOTO Randy Murray

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

story read that evening is the subject matter of the painting. Of the five individuals seated at the table of the counting house, two are not paying any attention, two are kind of looking past Jesus and St. Peter and the figure assumed to be St. Matthew is staring at the two visitors with eyes wide and the index finger of his left hand pointing toward his chest as if to say, "Who? Me?" In the painting there is a window but there is no light shining through the window, the light comes from a different place behind where the figures of Jesus and Peter are positioned.

For Archdeacon Northcott, Matthew is seeing what the others do not see, "the light of Christ." And this vision moves him to leave the comfort of his wealth and privilege to follow Jesus Christ, eventually to the Cross. Matthew's story is one of "courage and conviction" of the commitment to spread the Good News of Christ. And "nobody in ministry gets to do this in a more remarkable way than the Chaplain to Seafarers." For Rev. Smyth "will hear stories of loneliness, danger and loss." This chaplaincy to those who make their livelihood in circumstances where they are often in peril and far from loved ones will "challenge you every day of your life in this ministry." In this ministry the Rev. Peter Smyth like St. Matthew will be challenged "to see the face of Christ in all we meet and the light of Christ in every place, even into deep dark places."

At the outset of the Covenant in Ministry, Executive Archdeacon, the Ven. Douglas Fenton shared with the congregation the desire that Gordon Houston the former mission board chair had communicated that this posting be sent all over the Anglican Communion, and a wide search undertaken for the next Senior Port Chaplain. There were applications, CVs and letters of inquiry from many parts of world for this ministry position with the result being the choice of the Rev. Peter Smyth. After sharing this information, the Executive Archdeacon added (with a glint of irony in his voice) that Mr. Houston had resigned as board chair soon after the selection of Rev. Smyth. This was greeted by many smiles and a few chuckles from the congregation. However, this was not the first time that Mr. Houston due to a busy life had resigned as chair. However, he and his spouse Kathleen remain staunch



Caravaggio's painting, *The Calling of St. Matthew*.

supporters of the Mission and members of The Flying Angel Club.

Following the worship, Peter and Bishop Skelton posed for photos in the chapel's chancel area and eventually everyone present moved to the main space of the Flying Angel Club building for a reception

and some refreshments.

Please keep the Rev. Peter Smyth and his family in your prayers as he embarks on this important ministry in our diocese. Peter intends that the Mission be a far more

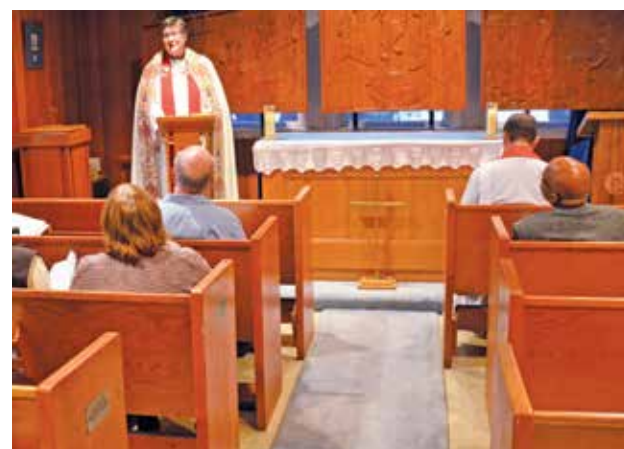
visible presence in our diocesan family than it has been in the recent past so there will be more information forthcoming through diocesan communications about the Mission in the near future. ✠

More about the Rev. Peter Smyth & photos on page 10...

"In this ministry the Rev. Peter Smyth like St. Matthew will be challenged to see the face of Christ in all we meet and the light of Christ in every place, even into deep dark places."



LEFT The Executive Archdeacon, the Ven. Douglas Fenton reads the Bishop's License. RIGHT Receiving the Bible during the Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry. PHOTOS Randy Murray



The Ven. Elizabeth Northcott preaching. PHOTO Randy Murray



About the Reverend Peter Smyth

The new Senior Port Chaplain of the Mission to Seafarers, Rev. Peter Smyth was born in Ireland and grew up in and around Belfast.

Prior to his arrival in Vancouver, he was ordained deacon and priest in the Church of Ireland serving there as a curate in the Parish of Stillorgan and Blackrock. He spent 10 years as incumbent of St. Michael and All Angels in Thunder Bay and then five years at Holy Trinity Sault St. Marie, both in Ontario and in the diocese of Algoma.

Peter's spouse Elizabeth was born in Nottingham, England and works with children with behavioural issues. Their two children, Aedan (10) and Isaac (9) were both born in Thunder Bay and attend Belmont French Immersion in Langley, BC where the family lives.

Peter reports that the family is settling into life in BC, and are finding themselves in the midst of new experiences daily. They are enjoying the "beautiful scenery" and the "variety of everything including cultures."

As well as supplying the above biographical information, Peter was kind enough to answer two questions posed to him by diocesan communications.

1. You were in parish ministry for 18 years, what do you think will be the biggest changes you will face?
2. What is your vision for your ministry at Mission to Seafarers in the immediate and for the future?

"At this point I think the challenges in my new ministry at the Mission are not having a regular sacramental ministry (Communion, Baptism), that the congregation is, seafarers, staff, all connected with the port, trying to make the Mission 'caring for seafarers' known more widely (particularly among the different churches), and how I bring the good news of Christ into my ministry in the port, on ships as a chaplain to all faiths and none.

As I start my ministry at the Mission I am getting out and meeting as many people connected with and working in the port as I can. This raises the profile of the Mission and what we do:

- To identify and anticipate the needs of seafarers so we can adjust and respond accordingly in how we do ministry, what we offer at the centres. That includes looking at the physical centres themselves.
- To connect with the local churches be they Anglican or otherwise through preaching and other methods.
- To grow the ecumenical nature of the Mission as a team including, staff, chaplains and volunteers.
- To recruit and train new lay and clergy volunteers.
- To increase our ship visiting, because it is there, that we connect with people: seafarers and those working in the port.

I have others but I think this is good start." ✠

To See the Face of Christ in All We Meet & the Light of Christ in Every Place

The Induction of the Reverend Peter Smyth as Senior Chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9



LEFT Receiving the Canons of the diocese during the Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry. RIGHT The Symbols of Ministry on the altar. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Bishop Skelton leads the "applause of welcome." PHOTO Randy Murray



Greeted by the Archdeacon of Westminster. PHOTO Randy Murray



Bishop and Senior Port Chaplain. PHOTO Randy Murray



Caring for seafarers
around the world

Located at Vancouver Waterfront
and Roberts Bank
www.flyingangel.ca

Caring for Seafarers on Land & at Sea CHRISTMAS AT SEA✠

Few of us know what it is like to work at sea, to be lonely away from family particularly during holiday times, to be at sea for weeks with nowhere to go especially if things aren't going well and to find yourself in unfamiliar places.

It was Jesus who said, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." *Matthew 25: 35, 36*

Responding to Jesus words and to the plight of seafarers who find themselves in Vancouver, the Mission is putting together Christmas gift bags that will be given to seafarers in the Port of Vancouver over Christmas.

Items that we would welcome include: toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, soap, razors, small travel alarm clocks, socks, gloves, toques, Canadian souvenirs, and chocolate.

An income tax receipt will be given for any cash donations.

Donations can be left at the Mission to Seafarers until Friday, December 16

Located at 401 East Waterfront Road
(over the flyover on Main Street and turn left and to the end) .

Go to www.flyingangel.ca or call the Mission at 604.253.4421 to find out more, to volunteer to pack gifts, or otherwise.

Get on board for seafarers!

Thank you

*Reverend Peter Smyth
Senior Chaplain, Port of Vancouver*



The Rev. Lynn De Brabandere's ordination as a deacon in St. Christopher's Anglican Church, Haines Junction, Yukon.
PHOTO Courtesy of the Council of the North



Youth in the diocese of Moosonee gather in "The Living Room" community centre in Schumacher, Ontario.
PHOTO Courtesy of the Council of the North

Northern Witness

Bible Study Shares Stories of Northern Ministry

PRODUCED BY HAUSER COMMUNICATIONS;
STORIES WRITTEN BY SHARON DEWEY HETKE
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Northern Canada has an enduring mystique in the minds of southern Canadians. Images arise of vast treeless tundra, polar bears, exotic foods, and the North's resilient inhabitants—both Indigenous and later explorers. Offsetting that mystique are the reports of grave social problems—youth suicide, hunger, and the lack of clean drinking water. But what is life really like, and what is Anglican ministry really like in northern communities?

The Council of the North's new 5-Session study, titled *Northern Witness*, aims to share stories of northern communities and ministry with the rest of the Church—and to show how northern ministry, with all of its particular challenges, is a ministry "of the whole Church, by the whole Church."

Comprising of 85% of Canada's geography and only 15% of its population, all of the Council of the North dioceses face isolation, harsh weather, and sometimes unreliable communications networks. Add to that the continuing effects of poverty in many areas, and the legacy of the residential school system—and you have a very high level of pastoral needs. The Council of the North includes the dioceses of Caledonia, Yukon, Athabasca, Saskatchewan, Brandon, Moosonee, the Arctic, The Territory of the People, and the Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh.

Study Module #2 has a special focus on the work of non-stipendiary priests. Taking as its theme a passage from Paul's letter to the Corinthians, we learn about a husband-and-wife team of non-stipendiary priests on Sagkeeng First Nation, Manitoba. The Reverends Richard and Nancy Bruyere have day jobs, but they also minister tirelessly to the sick and the dying and all those in need in their community. Richard says, "We get called to Winnipeg and we go pray for people in the hospital and it is challenging...

but it's also very rewarding."

As Richard and Nancy travel, they carry with them a treasure—the message of God's love and hope. And they know that God's surpassing power is working through them.

Richard and Nancy's story is just one of many northern stories that have been chosen in order to inspire fellow Anglicans to intensify their prayers and their support for those who serve in the North. But this Bible Study is designed not only to strengthen southern support for the Council, but also to enrich the ministry and faith of southern parishes using the Study.

Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, has called the Council of the North a "laboratory of experimentation in mission." At the Council of the North 2015 annual meeting, Hiltz commented that looking across the church at changing patterns of ministry, the church as a whole could point to the Council of the North for its leadership.

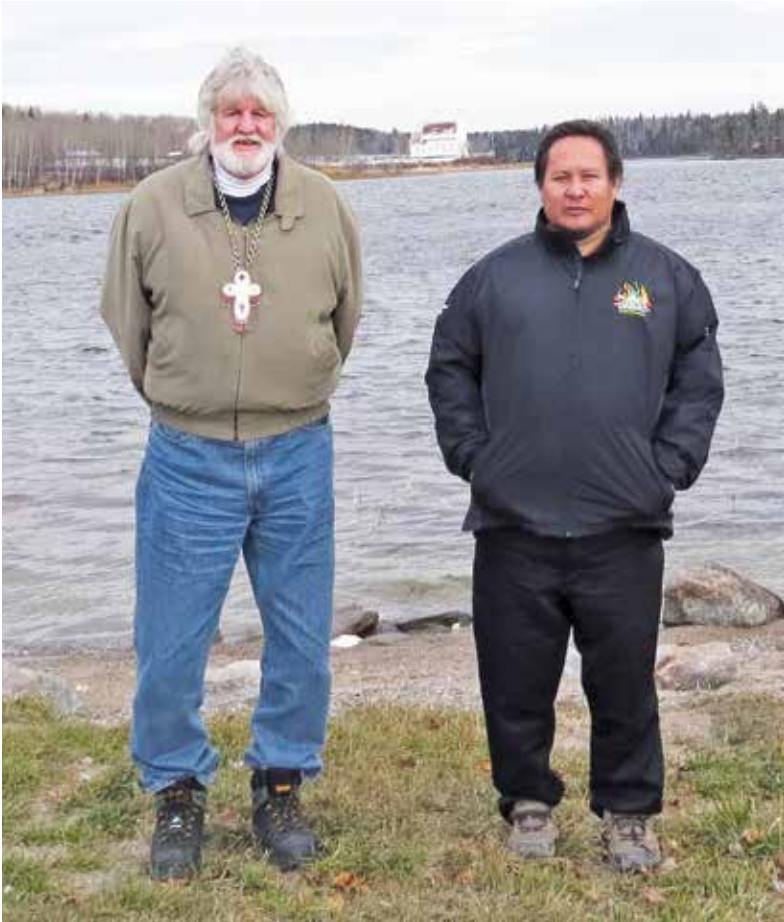
And indeed, ministry in the Council of the North, in spite of—or perhaps because of—its particular challenges, is marked by: a mission-minded approach, ecumenical co-operation, and a spirit of flexibility and innovation. To help participants relate their learning to their own lives and parishes, each session includes Discussion questions.

The 5-Sessions are titled: *Mission & Service: Standing in solidarity, seeing lives transformed; Sacrificial Ministry: The path of humble service; Seeking the Kingdom: Trust and treasure; Removing Barriers: Finding Healing in Jesus; and Partnership: Deepening our fellowship in Christ.*

To download or order colour copies of this free Bible Study resource, please visit: www.anglican.ca/cn/resourcesconmonth/orderform/. ✚

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us."

2 Corinthians 4:7



LEFT The Rev. Dr. Mike Foley and the Rev. Eugene Merasty on the way to Holy Trinity, Stanley Mission, diocese of Saskatchewan. PHOTO Alice Merasty



RIGHT In Eastmain, Quebec, participants at a healing gathering receive the Eucharist. PHOTO Courtesy of the Council of the North



The procession. PHOTO Randy Murray



The clergy of the diocese who had robed and processed sing the Opening Hymn. PHOTO Randy Murray

A Celebration of Mutual Ministry

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

A Celebration of *Mutual Ministry* took place at St. Laurence, Coquitlam the evening of Wednesday, September 14, Holy Cross Day 2016. The Rev. Eric Mason (formerly of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia) was installed by Bishop Melissa Skelton as rector of St. Laurence.

Rev. Eric Mason's arrival on September 1 as incumbent was preceded by over three years of interim ministry that followed the Rev. Trudy Lebars' retirement in 2013. For the past two years the parish was served by the Rev. Dr. April Stanley (¾ time) during which time they had posted the rector position and their parish profile three times. Rev. Mason was most recently priest associate at Grace Episcopal Church, Bainbridge Island in Washington State. Ann Strickland and Garth Edwards of Grace Church were present at the liturgy and performed the Alexi Murdoch song, *Her Hands Were Leaves* during the Offertory. Bishop Skelton prior to her election as bishop of the diocese of New Westminster was also a priest of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia. Bishop Skelton had encouraged the Rev. Eric Mason to consider applying for ministry positions in Canada and his application to St. Laurence proved to be a good fit for both parties involved.

This bright and energetic liturgy was quite different than the standard Celebration of a New Ministry Eucharist. The presentation by the wardens of the new rector was done a little differently with the new rector remaining at the rear of the nave near the narthex during the opening procession and only coming forward after the wardens had approached the chancel entrance and Bishop Skelton had said these words:

"People of St. Laurence, led by the Holy Spirit, and in partnership with me, your bishop, you have faithfully completed your discernment for a new rector."

To which the wardens replied:

"On behalf of the people of St. Laurence we recommend that the Rev. Eric Mason be appointed by you as our rector."

To which the bishop responded:

"I affirm your recommendation and am delighted to welcome Eric as rector of this parish and as a priest of this diocese."

Then Rev. Mason was escorted through the nave to the chancel entrance area for the Covenant in Ministry.

The Executive Archdeacon, the Ven. Douglas Fenton came forward and described the process that resulted in choosing Rev. Mason, and Rev. Mason read the Oath of Loyalty to the bishop and to the Anglican Church of Canada (at the end he quipped "I feel like I should say 'so help me God,'" which produced more than a few good-natured snickers). The Ven. Douglas Fenton read the license and the liturgy regained at that point the more traditional rhythm of a Celebration of New Ministry Eucharist with one exception being that the Symbols of Ministry of the Whole People of God were presented throughout the worship at points when those symbols were the liturgical focus, instead of one after the other during the Covenant in Ministry. A highlight of the Symbols of Ministry presentations was when representatives of the St. Laurence Youth Group which is known by the sobriquet *S'MORES* presented Eric with the three principal ingredients used in making the campfire treat.

Most Celebration of New Ministry liturgies have a large component of music in worship and this service did not disappoint in that regard. Music is a big part of the worship life at St. Laurence and it is led with skill and enthusiasm by the choir and musicians.

Bishop Skelton presided and preached. Taking the Epistle reading *1 Corinthians 1: 18–24* for her text, the bishop's sermon focused on Holy Cross and how the message of the Cross connects with this Celebration of Mutual Ministry, the endings and the beginnings for both the parish and for Rev. Eric Mason. Bishop Skelton began her sermon repeating the last three verses of the Scripture reading:

"Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."

CONTINUED ON PAGES 14 & 15



The wardens (obviously enjoying this joyful occasion) present the new rector to Bishop Skelton. PHOTO Randy Murray



Mitch Dodd and his daughter present the new rector with a Bible. PHOTO Randy Murray

More photos from A Celebration of Mutual Ministry on pages 14 & 15...



Bishop Skelton addresses the wardens and the congregation saying, "People of St. Laurence, led by the Holy Spirit, and in partnership with me, your bishop, you have faithfully completed your discernment for a new rector." PHOTO Randy Murray

*"...let me say that from my perspective
it is interesting, very interesting, it is rich, very rich
and it is significant, very significant
that this Feast of the Holy Cross, of all days,
should be the day of this new beginning for St. Laurence."*



The Rev. Eric Mason reads the Oath of Loyalty to the Bishop of the diocese and to the Anglican Church of Canada. When he finished he quipped, "I feel like I should now say 'so help me God.'" PHOTO Randy Murray



The first presentation of the Symbols of Ministry was a "singing bowl" presented by members of the choir. PHOTO Randy Murray



Deacon of the Word for the worship, the Rev. Wally Shea offers the Gospel, John 3: 13 – 17. PHOTO Randy Murray



Bishop Skelton preached about Holy Cross and how the message of Holy Cross connects with this Celebration of Mutual Ministry. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Following the pouring of water into the Font, Bishop Skelton led the renewal of baptismal vows. Here she and Rev. Mason are preparing bowls of Holy Water for asperges. RIGHT While the congregation sang *Here I am Lord* the Rev. Eric Mason and Bishop Skelton sprinkled the congregation with Holy Water. PHOTOS Randy Murray

A Celebration of Mutual Ministry

CONTINUED FROM PAGES 12 & 13

And then she said:

"It will stick in my memory for a while that as we were fixing the date for this induction and Douglas Fenton and I were exchanging emails about the arrangements, he appended a comment to the end of an email that read something like this: 'Holy Cross Day for an induction... interesting.'

Without getting into what he might have meant by this, let me say that from my perspective it is interesting, very interesting, it is rich, very rich and it is significant, very significant that this Feast of the Holy Cross, of all days, should be the day of this new beginning for St. Laurence.

And so, my friends, I have to wonder: what might this mean for all of us? What does it mean that, of all days, the mysterious and loving God we believe is real and active in our lives has conspired that this Holy Cross Day should be the day of this new beginning? And in that we will, of course, never know for sure what this is all about, how can we be open to what it might be about? How can we be open to and intrigued by what God as crucified and risen, what God as giver of new light and life, what God as liberator from bondage, might be suggesting to us on this day of new beginnings and also in the days ahead, when new beginnings give way to a more comfortable familiarity which in turn gives way to an even more mature partnership between incumbent and parish?

(The entire text of Bishop Skelton's sermon is available online at <http://bit.ly/2dGaCAq>)

As has become traditional at a Celebration of New Ministry Eucharist, water was blessed by Bishop Skelton and poured into the Font by the rector followed by the bishop leading the congregation in the renewal of baptismal vows and a congregational hymn. During the singing of the hymn, Bishop Skelton and the new rector sprinkled the congregation with baptismal water. The asperges were followed by the Intercession, the Peace, the Offertory and the Eucharist.

Another difference in the placement of events was that the welcoming of the new rector with applause led by the



Members of the youth group (S'MORES) came forward and presented the ingredients for that campfire delicacy. They said, "Eric, we are young, curious and full of new life. Take these, join us on our journey, and tell us stories of Jesus." PHOTO Randy Murray

bishop, followed by welcoming words from the regional dean and archdeacon took place following the Eucharist and prior to the Episcopal Blessing, Closing Hymn and Dismissal.

This liturgy worked very well and was much enjoyed by the 200+ parishioners, clergy, guests and visitors. Warden

Rick Barr was beaming throughout the entire evening and was heard to say, "we are really going to start doing some things here."

Please keep the Rev. Eric Mason and the community of St. Laurence in your prayers as they begin this new phase of ministry. ✚



LEFT Regional Dean of Tri Cities/North Burnaby the Rev. Stephanie Shepard (incumbent, St. Timothy) welcomes the Rev. Eric Mason with some geography and road tips and a comprehensive map booklet (in the gift bag) of the roads of the region. RIGHT Archdeacon of Loughheed, the Ven. Karen Urquhart gets a hug from the new rector. She pointed out that the word Loughheed is often auto corrected on computers to "Laughed" making her the *Archdeacon of Laughed*. PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT Presenting a candle for intercessory prayer — Symbols of Ministry. RIGHT Members of the compassionate service ministries of St. Laurence came forward and presented a basket of food. PHOTOS Randy Murray



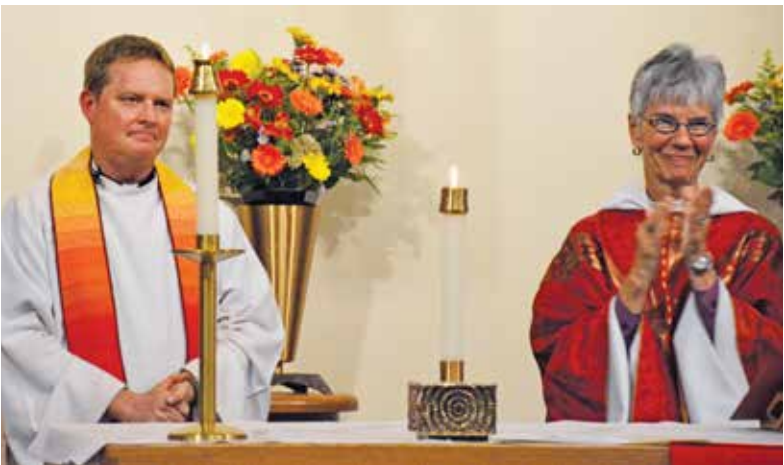
A close up of the s'mores ingredients. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Lord Bless You and Keep You by John Rutter — a duet sung by Mary Marter and Bethany Butler-Wong. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Choir of St. Laurence leads the singing of *As a Fire is Meant for Burning*. PHOTO Randy Murray



Bishop Skelton presents the Rev. Eric Mason as the ordained leader of the Mutual Ministry at St. Laurence, Coquitlam and leads the welcoming applause. PHOTO Randy Murray



Administering the Body of Christ during the Eucharist. PHOTO Randy Murray



The reception was well-attended. PHOTO Randy Murray



A goodly spread at the reception. PHOTO Randy Murray

Surrey Parish Event was Rare, Medium & Well Done

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Like many parishes in the diocese of New Westminster and beyond, the Anglican Parish of the Church of the Epiphany (Epiphany) located near Surrey’s Guildford neighbourhood

has its traditions. And one of those traditions is the Men’s Dinner, which was held this year on Saturday evening, September 24.

The Men’s Dinner is a great way to begin the programmatic year, to shake off the summer dust, renew friendships and focus the congregation on the vision and goals of the parish which are:

“To be a place of new beginnings for all who seek the divine through Jesus Christ and to be a place of ongoing spiritual nourishment for current members.”

The Men’s Dinner is also all about community and it may also be viewed as a metaphor for what each individual Christian can bring to the table for the enrichment of all.

The men of the parish: do the shopping, arrange for the silent auction, book the program, do the cooking, the clean up and all of the organization of a roast beef and Yorkshire pudding banquet. All are welcome to attend and the \$25 suggested donation begins the focus on generosity, which will be further explored as the days become shorter, the leaves fall, and the annual stewardship campaigns for funding mission and ministry are planned and implemented.

At the Epiphany dinner, silent auction tables were set up with a number of donated items as an added component to aid in fundraising for ministry.

The 2016 version of Men’s Dinner was well-attended with very few empty seats. Epiphany’s rector, the Ven. Stephen Rowe along with Jevon, Doug and others took on general duties of prepping, greeting, seating and organizing the auction and the program. Rob supervised the carving area but when it came to thank those who had produced the event the loudest and most sustained applause was for Ed who had supervised the shopping and did most of the cooking. In order to feed the hungry crowd, Ed had prepared and roasted nine 3–4lb Top Round Roasts (Inside Round), baked dozens of Yorkshire puddings, and prepped and prepared many pounds of fresh mixed vegetables. The dinner was delicious and much appreciated by all.

As I, the communications officer for the diocese had agreed to cover the event, the rector, who is also the Arch-deacon of Fraser thought it might be a good idea that I work up a brief act in order to entertain the diners after the meal or perhaps to expedite their hasty exit so the organizers could clean up, get home in time to watch some TV and have a good night’s sleep before worship the next day. For a good chunk of my life I was a professional entertainer (although not really in the oeuvre of the parish supper performer) so I did agree and decided to challenge the axiom that Neil Young made so famous, “rust never sleeps.”

The evening was a success; it raised a good chunk of money for the mission of the parish and created some good energy that will stay with the parish as they approach the new church year with the arrival of Advent on Sunday, November 27. ✚



A very good crowd on an early fall Saturday evening. PHOTO Randy Murray



Serving up Yorkshires, veg, roast potatoes. PHOTO Carol Williams



Lining up for the buffet. PHOTO Randy Murray



Ed, on the right, brings Rob another roast for the carvery. PHOTO Carol Williams



Happy diners. PHOTO Randy Murray



The carving station. PHOTO Randy Murray



Hail to the Chef! PHOTO Randy Murray



Silent Auction items. PHOTO Randy Murray



The author performs a brief set of songs with some mirth near the conveniently opened door of the parish hall. PHOTO Jevon Anonby



LEFT Rupert Lang conducts the Introit, Jacob Handl's *Duo Seraphim*. RIGHT Rupert Lang accompanies the choir and congregation during the Opening Hymn, *Angel-Voices Ever Singing*. PHOTOS Randy Murray

A Rare & Unique Talent

Rupert Lang's 30th Anniversary as Organist & Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Sunday, September 25, 2016 was an eventful day in North America. Golfing legend Arnold Palmer, the man who revolutionized the sport by making it accessible to millions largely because of his personal magnetism, and his ability to showcase the game on television, therefore making it accessible to more than just the Country Club elite, died at the age of 87. One of the most charismatic and beloved young pitchers in Major League Baseball, Jose Fernandez who defected from Cuba at 15 and went on to become one of baseball's brightest stars was killed early in the morning in a boating accident near his home in South Florida. He was 24. The day before, Vin Scully who for 67 years had been the radio voice of the Brooklyn/LA Dodgers MLB team was celebrated at Dodger Stadium, sang a moving rendition of Bette Midler's *Wind Beneath My Wings* and retired at the age of 88 (although he did continue for another week finishing October 2 with the Dodgers against the Giants).

Closer to home, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge began an historic visit to Vancouver at Jack Poole plaza at 10:30 am as a component of what is a very rare event, a visit to this part of the world by members of the British Royal Family. And very early in the morning, Calgary Stampeder's rookie defensive back Mylan Hicks was shot and killed outside a Calgary nightclub where he and teammates were celebrating a come-from-behind victory earlier on September 24. The death of a 23 year old is tragic enough but the sad irony here is that Hicks grew up in Detroit, a city that is often thought of as dangerous, a lot more dangerous than Calgary.

There were other happenings of note on that day and probably many more I don't know about, but I do know that at 3 pm, September 25 there was another significant event, a Celebration of Evensong for St. Michael and All Angels at Christ Church Cathedral (CCC), Vancouver. The Evensong was also in celebration and recognition of CCC's Organist and Director of Music, Rupert Lang's 30 years of extraordinary music ministry emanating from the church in the heart of downtown Vancouver at 690 Burrard Street.

Dean and rector of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott had sent out an email blast to the CCC community earlier in the week and this is what he wrote:

"It was in August 1986 that a search committee led by then dean, Jim Cruickshank invited Rupert Lang to come to Christ Church Cathedral from West Vancouver United Church. Rupert was uniquely qualified to be Cathedral Organist and Director of Music, having grown up in the Anglican Church (his father was a priest) and having studied at the Royal School of Church Music and at Cambridge University with the renowned organist and choral director George Guest. His first few years were tumultuous ones at the Cathedral as Dean Cruickshank introduced big changes to the liturgical life of the congregation by combining two morning services (9:30 am and 11:15 am) into one service at 10:30 am. The two liturgies had very different musical styles and Rupert was charged with finding settings that might appeal to those who loved traditional music and those who loved contemporary song. Of course he did this by writing something new altogether, the mass setting Terra Nova... to bring these worlds together. Even 20+ years later, to my ears, it sounds fresh and still intrigues listeners with its combination of melody and electronic music.

(The Mass setting that was used for the main Sunday Celebra-

tion of the Eucharist at CCC at 10:30 am, September 25 was Lang's Missa Terra Nova. • Editor)

There's much more that can be said about Rupert—but he is the first to move 'out of the spotlight' preferring to see his role as enabling community song in service of the worship of God."

Under Rupert's direction and organ accompaniment, Cathedral Choir, consisting of the current core with the addition of a number of past and auxiliary (those who sing in the choir for special liturgies and events, many who are now in other parishes and some who have retired) members led the music in worship. The repertoire included: Paul Halley's *Responses*; Stanford's *Magnificat*; Holst's *Nunc Dimittis* (the rendition of the Holst under Rupert's skilled and sensitive direction was transcendent); and one of Rupert Lang's Psalm settings for *Psalm 8, O Lord our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth*.

The music was sublime, but this Evensong wasn't just music, the Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham, retired bishop of the diocese of New Westminster was the guest preacher, and his homily, theologically grounded in the examination of the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels was also a tribute to Rupert Lang. It was heartfelt, touching and very funny. After a few opening remarks about the Second Lesson text, *Revelation 12: 7–12* Bishop Ingham read a section:

"There was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. Satan, the deceiver of the world, was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him." (*Revelation 12: 7–10*)

He then paused and continued...

"This ancient myth—for it is a myth—was a way of rescuing the

intellectual problem. Evil is not the design or intention of God, but the result of rebellion against God. Humans have not created evil but must suffer from it. The origins of evil lie in heaven and from heaven, therefore, must come its defeat. For some reason I don't understand, why we've chosen today, and this story of war in heaven, to celebrate Rupert's 30th anniversary! To my mind, war

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Bishop Michael Ingham preaching. PHOTO Randy Murray



Following Bishop Michael Ingham's address, Rupert acknowledges the standing ovation from the congregation. PHOTO Randy Murray

The Potential Change to the Marriage Canon

An Approach to the Next Three Years

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor



Bishop Skelton facilitates the consultation at St. John's, Sardis on September 20, 2016. PHOTO Randy Murray

A small but enthusiastic group gathered in the hall of St. John's, Sardis the morning of September 20 to participate in a presentation and discussion facilitated by Bishop Skelton. The purpose of the event was to clarify what had happened last summer at General Synod 2016 with a primary focus on the resolution changing the Marriage Canon (which passed First Reading), and to consult about Bishop Skelton's plan for what we will be doing in the interim period. The resolution to "declare that Canon XXI (On Marriage in the Church) applies to all persons who are duly qualified by civil law to enter into marriage," will need to pass on Second Reading by a 2/3 majority in all three houses: bishops, clergy, and laity at General Synod in 2019, which will be held here in the diocese of New Westminster. Including Bishop Skelton, six of the eight members of the diocese of New Westminster's delegation to General Synod were present at the meeting including lay members of General Synod, Melanie Delva and Rob Dickson.

By the time this meeting (the first of two open meetings scheduled) took place, Bishop Skelton had already engaged in four consults about her proposed plan for the next three and a half years. She presented the plan to the: archdeacons of the diocese, the Synod Office, the clergy of the diocese and Diocesan Council.

Assisted by the Ven. Lynne McNaughton, (a clergy member of General Synod from our diocese who had been elected Deputy Prolocutor at GS 2016), Bishop Skelton circulated copies of General Synod Resolution A051-R2. The Very Rev. Peter Elliott, dean of the diocese and rector of Christ Church Cathedral gave some history of General Synod discussions regarding the inclusion of LGBTQ2 people in the church going back to 1976. After the dean spoke, Bishop Skelton asked the group to submit any questions they may have about the resolution and the questions were written down on newsprint by the Ven. Lynne McNaughton and Kim Hodge, the chair of the Mission and Ministry Development Committee.

Following a plenary discussion of the questions contributed by those in attendance, Bishop Skelton, assisted by the other General Synod members from the diocese of New Westminster present went through her proposal for how "we will strengthen our ability to prepare, declare God's blessing upon, and support all qualified couples" through this interim period.

At the two open meetings a single sheet was given to groups of two and three who were asked to engage and respond to these three questions:

1. What is your overall response to this approach?
2. What ideas, concerns or questions about this approach do you want to voice?
3. Any other things that you may want to communicate?

At the St. John's, Sardis gathering the overall response to Bishop Skelton's plan was very positive with many of those in attendance in broad support of same sex marriage in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



LEFT At the St. John's, Sardis consultation the Very Rev. Peter Elliott presents some historical background. RIGHT The Ven. Lynne McNaughton distributes printed materials to those gathered at St. John's, Sardis. PHOTOS Randy Murray



"Bishop Skelton... went through her proposal for how 'we will strengthen our ability to prepare, declare God's blessing upon, and support all qualified couples' through this interim period."



Small group discussions. PHOTO Randy Murray



Small group discussions. PHOTO Randy Murray



Bishop Skelton facilitating the consultation with the clergy of the diocese on September 15, 2016. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Bishop Skelton also consulted with Diocesan Council, during Council's working retreat day on September 17. RIGHT The clergy are asked by Bishop Skelton to raise their hands if they had officiated at a wedding recently. PHOTOS Randy Murray

The Potential Change in the Marriage Canon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Anglican Church. As of this writing the consultation process is still not completed. Although the clergy and lay leadership of our diocese, and those who attended the two open meetings have heard the proposed plan it is still work in progress and there is a consultation planned for members of the LGBTQ2 community on November 2. Therefore the details of the plan will not be officially released until Bishop Skelton is satisfied with this process of consultation. Bishop Skelton plans to issue a pastoral statement to the diocese after the final consults have taken place which will likely be soon after this issue of *Topic* is online and a few days prior to the time that the print issue has been delivered to homes and churches. The discussion will not end with the aforementioned pastoral statement, Bishop Skelton has affirmed that as a diocese we will discuss the potential change in the Canon at Diocesan Synod 2017 (May 26 and 27) or call a special one-day Synod for such a discussion. ✦



A Rare & Unique Talent

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

and Rupert do not belong in the same thought. Rupert, as we all know, is a mild-mannered fellow, shy, introverted, and brilliant. Perhaps it's because our story today features angels—but that really doesn't work either, does it?"

Needless to say, the preceding paragraph led to a great deal of laughter in the nave and organ gallery at Christ Church Cathedral.

Bishop Ingham continued his address providing some information about how Rupert Lang came to Christ Church Cathedral. Rupert had reported that he was surprised to have been appointed to the position, as he had feared he was too young, inexperienced and the other candidates too formidable. Bishop Ingham also included his memories of *Terra Nova*:

"When I first met him he had written the *Missa Terra Nova*—*Mass for a New Earth* which employed the soaring and majestic sounds of a moog synthesizer blasting through the audio speakers of this Cathedral. When he first played it, sitting at his weird electronic keyboard at the back of the church, one of the parishioners, Mary Patrick (God rest her soul), walked back to him and said, 'Turn that damned thing off!'"

Bishop Ingham continued to share some stories about Rupert Lang's career at Christ Church Cathedral including the first official concert of the then brand new Kenneth Jones tracker action organ in February 2006, featuring the late organist, John Scott. Some wire and dust had gotten into the organ cases causing one of the keys to stick which somewhat shortened the performance. But the bishop saved his most heartfelt words for his reflection about Rupert's well-known piece, *Kontakion*:

"Rupert will be embarrassed if I say—but I do want to say—that the music in this Cathedral over the last 30 years has enabled many

people to murmur in the quiet of their hearts—this is the house of God. This is the gate of heaven.

It was here once, in the dead of night that Rupert came in search of an answer. He had been commissioned to compose a piece of music for *Chor Leoni* (a well-known Metro Vancouver male voice choir. • Editor) to be performed on Remembrance Day. As the day drew nearer, Rupert's creativity abandoned him. No muse spoke. God was silent. In a certain anxiety of spirit, he let himself into the building, long after midnight, and sat alone at the piano.

He picked up a prayer book. The pages fell open to the funeral liturgy, and his eyes saw the words, "Give rest unto your servants with your saints, O God, where there is neither pain nor sorrow, neither sighing but life everlasting." And in a moment of epiphany the music came to him. Today we have one of the most beautiful and timeless compositions ever to emerge from this place. Rupert's gorgeous Kontakion is now performed all over the world."

There is much more content to share from Bishop Michael Ingham's sermon and I commend it to you. The text and a video are available online at <http://bit.ly/2djvYUY>.

As the closing words of Bishop Ingham's address echoed and quickly faded away in the CCC sanctuary, the congregation stood up, turned to the south, looked up to where Rupert was seated on the organ bench and began to applaud. Rupert Lang visibly moved by the ovation acknowledged the tribute with a wave and a smile. He then led the Cathedral Choir as they sang the anthem, Edward Bairstow's *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*.

Following the anthem, the congregation joined in the singing of the Closing/Offertory Hymn, the Stanford setting of *When in our Music God is Glorified*, the choir singing the fourth verse featuring a gorgeous re-harmonization of

the text (bringing to mind the often spoken words of Jennifer Lopez during her tenure as a judge on *American Idol* "that gave me *goosies*"), which was perfect for this occasion:

And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night
When utmost evil strove against the Light?
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight,
Alleluia!

The worship concluded with E. W. Naylor's setting of the *Final Responses*, the congregation were Blessed, Dismissed and then many of the choristers descended from the loft to listen from the nave as Rupert Lang played his own composition, *Toccata*, a piece that showcased Rupert's exceptional skill as an organist and his incredible compositional gifts. There is a video of a section of the performance recorded on a smart phone by the Rev. Scott Gould available by visiting this address on Facebook at <http://bit.ly/2dqPBw2>.

In closing, here are the three paragraphs with which Bishop Michael Ingham concluded his homily:

"I asked Rupert just recently what was his best moment in the last 30 years. He said it was the day he was offered the job in 1986. He hadn't expected to get it. He was young and unknown and up against other more established applicants. It's typical of his humility, and even his occasional self-doubt, that he would not count himself worthy of such an opportunity.

But the Cathedral saw his talent, and sensed his potential. That was three decades ago. He is no longer unknown. He is no longer young. But he remains a rare and unique talent. He has opened our hearts to God in a way few others are able. He has enriched our lives. His name shall be honoured here as long as this Cathedral stands.

God bless you, Rupert." ✦

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Come & Journey •

All Saints' Mission Welcomes St. Andrew's United Church
SUBMISSION Donna Kennedy & Gilli McLaren

On Sunday, September 4 the congregation of All Saints', Mission lined the staircase leading to the sanctuary, and with applause and singing welcomed St. Andrew's United Church as partners in the building.

St. Andrew's faith community sold their building and were looking for a new home. In an act of Christian hospitality, All Saints' invited them to come and share their home.

The months of July and August were filled with negotiations between All Saints' leadership and the St. Andrew's board, with

invaluable guidance from the Synod Office. The agreed upon arrangement will honour and maintain the two separate identities while sharing costs and working together on outreach projects.

The two faith communities are looking forward to combined coffee hour on Sunday mornings. There are a thousand details to be worked out yet, but they have joined hands to begin a new journey together in the fellowship of Christ. Thanks to Gilli McLaren for the photos. ✚



• Another Successful Fundraising Concert at St. Christopher's •

SUBMISSION Hilary Clark

An Evening to Remember presented September 11 at St. Christopher's, West Vancouver was certainly well named, as this fundraising concert was one to look back on with joy. Initiated by St. Christopher's Director of Music, Dr. Annabelle Paetsch, the program showcased six other musicians performing a variety of works from the classical repertoire.

The opening selection, *Concerto for Oboe and Violin*, by Georg Philip Telemann featured Douglas Hagerman on oboe and Edgar Bridwell on violin with support from pianist, Paetsch and double bassist Anne Duranceau. This group also accompanied Alexandra Hill (soprano) and Jason Cook (baritone) who sang the *Papageno* and *Papagena* duet from Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. The audience was charmed by the flirtatious acting of the couple, as the duet very quickly became an "anything you can do I can do better" humorous competition.

Accompanied by the exquisite accompaniment by Annabelle Paetsch, Edgar Bridwell performed the violin *Sonatina in G minor* by Franz Schubert. These two performers added the oboe and double bass to back up Alexandra Hill's "come scoglio" Fiordiligi's aria from *Così fan tutte* where she states quite clearly that her love is "firm

as a rock."

A total change of mood was embraced by Douglas Lau, who offered the 1955 Erroll Garner standard *Misty*, on the concert grand piano. Douglas is the lead baritone in St. Christopher's church choir, and was remembered by the audience for his appreciated contribution to St. Christopher's jazz evening this past spring. The mood continued by the performance of two Sinatra songs by baritone Jason Cook, who then impressed the group by his approach to *Danilo's Aria* from Lehar's *The Merry Widow*.

The small orchestra united for three items: *Oblivion* and *Ave Maria* by Astor Piazzolla, and added the vocalists for the finale of *Somewhere* from Bernstein's *West Side Story*.

An evening to remember it was, and concluded with refreshments in the church hall.

Fundraising is for the renovation of the church and the Parish Hall exterior, including painting to restore the original colours, replacing some rotting roof timbers, the exterior sign, and repairs to the eavestroughs. The estimated cost of this current renovations project is \$40,000. A net of \$2,284 was raised at the concert. ✚



• Lynn Valley Church Celebrates Autumn "Back to Church" •

SUBMISSION Laurie Dye, ODNW

Bishop Skelton visited the parish of St. Clement, Lynn Valley for Pentecost 17 on September 11. Part of the autumn, "back to church" festivities was an egg toss. Laurie Dye, ODNW explains, "The Egg Toss was just one of several 'activities' we did as part of Bishop Skelton's visit. She is wearing a plastic tablecloth to keep her clothes free of raw egg. Great sport that she is, the bishop did very well and finished 3rd in the toss with her partner Ian Thomas (St. Clement parishioner who is a current member of Diocesan Council)." Thanks to Laurie for these photos. ✚



AROUND THE DIOCESE

The diocese of New Westminster and BC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada was well represented at the Metro Vancouver Alliance (MVA) Annual General Meeting held at St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church in Kitsilano on Thursday, September 22.

Some of the churches represented included: St. James'; St. Thomas'; Holy Trinity Cathedral; St John's, Shaughnessy; St. Clements; St. Laurence; First Lutheran, Vancouver; and Gloria Dei Lutheran, North Vancouver.

The Anglican parishes of St. James', St. Thomas', St. Clements', St. Laurence and the Eco-Justice Unit of the diocese of New Westminster are member organizations of MVA, a broad-based alliance working for the common good.

The diocese of New Westminster is a Sponsoring Organization of MVA along with the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Vancouver.

MVA is nonpartisan and works on and for issues that have been raised by the member organizations, which are: afford-

able housing, public transportation, social inclusion, and economic justice.



Pastor Adolf Manz, First Lutheran Vancouver; Gail Berger, Gloria Dei Lutheran, North Vancouver; and Sarah Rift, Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster in discussion. PHOTO Margaret Marquardt

For further information or for someone to visit your parish about MVA, please con-

tact the Rev. Margaret Marquardt, chair of the diocesan Eco-Justice Unit. ✚



Jayne Fenrich and Paul Clark, Co-Chairs of the Social Inclusion Team of MVA addressing the member organizations. PHOTO Patrick Bragg



Some Anglicans at the MVA AGM: Front row (left to right): Jayne Fenrich, St. Thomas'; Jean De Dieu, St. James'; Patricia McSherry, St. James'; the Ven. Lynne McNaughton, St. Clement; and Pat Sharpe, St. Laurence. Back row (left to right): Bennett Mitten, St. James'; the Rev. Margaret Marquardt, Eco-Justice Unit; the Rev. Michael Batten, St. Thomas', Vancouver; the Rev. Matthew Johnson, St. James'; Paul Clark, St. John's, Shaughnessy, Co-Chair social Inclusion Team of MVA; Ross Bremner, St. Laurence; and Justin Berger, St. James'. PHOTO Patrick Bragg

• An Announcement from the Diocesan Archives •

SUBMISSION Melanie Delva

The archives will no longer be accepting weekly bulletins from parishes. Instead of saving each leaflet, please save a "representative sample" from the year. This could include holidays, special services, dedications and one or two regular services. This will help the archives conserve space while still having a sample of what is happening

on Sundays in the parishes. Thank you so much to those parishes that have faithfully kept these over the years.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Archivist at 604.684.6306, ext. 230 or archives@vancouver.anglican.ca. ✚



• Quiet Day •

Creating Your Rule of Life

SUBMISSION Patrick Blaney

A day to rest with God and seek balance in our lives will take place at St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver on November 19. The facilitator for the day will be Juanita Clark.

St. Benedict, a 5th Century Monk and scholar, created a rule of life to help guide and support his Brothers to live in the presence of God, and in harmony with all living creatures. Come and join us to learn more about the wisdom of these teachings and how you can integrate them into your life

Please dress for comfort. Lunch and snacks will be provided. RSVP deadline for this event is November 10. Please let the St. John's folks know ASAP if you will be attending by phone at 604.986.1151 or by email at stjohnnv@telus.net. Admission by Donation.

Everyone Welcome! ✚



Juanita Clark. PHOTO Courtesy of St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Clergy News Around the Diocese •

From the desk of the Executive Archdeacon, the Venerable Douglas Fenton

Bishop Skelton has appointed the Rev. Helen Tervo as Interim Priest-in-Charge of St. Andrew, Langley beginning on November 1 and the Rev. Roberta Fraser as Interim Priest-in-Charge of St. Alban the Martyr, Burnaby effective November 1. Most recently, Rev. Tervo was priest-in-charge of St. Dunstan's, Aldergrove prior to the induction of their new rector, the Rev.

David Taylor in August 2015. Rev. Fraser completed 18 months as priest-in-charge of St. Stephen's, West Vancouver who welcomed their new rector, the Rev. Canon Jonathan Lloyd on October 17.

St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby will interview candidates for a ½ time temporary priest-in-charge who will serve while they complete the Parish Profile and until

the appointment of an incumbent.

The Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark-King, Assistant to the Rector at Christ Church Cathedral and Director of Diaconal Formation for the diocese of New Westminster has been appointed as Executive Pastor/Canon for Social Justice at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco. She has signified her resignation effective November 30 and resigned her

post as Director of Diaconal Formation, October 31. The Rev. Jeremy Clark-King has resigned as Rector of the Parish of St. Mary, Kerrisdale and as Regional Dean of Point Grey, effective December 31, 2016. He too will be relocating to the diocese of California. We will miss them and pray God's blessing on their transitions. ✠



The Rev. Helen Tervo administering Communion, January 2014. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark-King. PHOTO Jennifer Friesen



The Rev. Jeremy Clark-King. PHOTO Wayne Chose

• Welcoming Light •

Christ Church Cathedral's Bell Spire is Revealed

SUBMISSION Emily Pritchard

The new stained glass bell spire at Christ Church Cathedral was revealed the week of October 2, 2016, when the scaffolding was removed.

There have been multiple attempts to raise funds for a bell spire since the 1940s, but only in the recent campaign *Raise the Roof, Ring the Bells, Feed the Hungry* was the possibility made reality. Early in the campaign, in 2014, Vancouver philanthropist Darlene Poole offered a gift of \$2.5 million toward the Cathedral's capital campaign. This gift allowed the Cathedral to begin fundraising and provided the financial confidence to complete the 75-year-old vision.

The design and construction of the bell spire involved dozens of artists and tradespeople. The tower was designed by Hugh Cochlin and Ben Nielsen of Proscenium Architecture + Interiors and the cross was designed by Ben Nielsen. The four bronze bells were designed and cast by Paccard Foundry of Annecy, France. The stained glass, *Welcoming Light*, was designed by

Sarah Hall (Royal Canadian Academy of Art), who designed a tower at Regent College as well. The stained glass was fabricated in Germany and shipped to Kitsilano Glass, Richmond where the glass was cut and placed in each of the 204 panels. Scott Construction managed the installation of the spire, the bells, the electrical, and the glass. Christ Church Cathedral is grateful for the dedication to care and detail by all involved.

The bell-ringing program is scheduled to begin as early as this month. The four bells, which ring the "Westminster" chime, will ring for the four services each Sunday, for weddings and funerals, at the beginning and end of each workday and in celebration of civic holidays and those of our interfaith neighbours.

For further information and to give in thanksgiving for the sound of bells downtown, contact Emily Pritchard at the Cathedral at 604.682.3848. ✠



These photographs of the bell spire were taken the afternoon of October 3, 2016. PHOTOS Martin Knowles for mkphotomedia

OPINION

Changing Our Minds

LESLIE BUCK
St. Paul's

Our General Synod is proposing to change fundamental doctrine concerning Christian marriage. If adopted, the Church will no longer teach that Christian marriage is a lifelong covenant between a man and a woman. Instead, it will abandon our centuries-old understanding of marriage as clearly taught in the Bible in order to accommodate modern secular views regarding same sex relationships. Biblical orthodoxy is being discarded or, some will say, modified. That is, indeed, the case, and none of us should claim otherwise. What we also need to bear in mind, however, is that this will not be the first time that a doctrinal change of this magnitude has occurred.

It is clear from our reading of the Acts of the Apostles that, in the very first days of the nascent Christian community, the believers were taught that all goods must be held in common. By the time that Acts had assumed its final form, that doctrine had already been abandoned. The communist practices that were once regarded as biblical orthodoxy became, in more recent times at least, to be seen as the very antithesis of that orthodoxy.

Passing through many centuries, and several other examples of fundamental changes in doctrine, we have contemporary examples to consider. In my own experience, I recall the changes made in the doctrine of the indissolubility of marriage, a doctrine based clearly and explicitly on the words of our Lord as recorded in the Gospels: "What God has joined together, let no one separate." On this basis *The Mothers Union* of my younger years refused membership to women who had been divorced, thus

effectively ostracising many women who had escaped from abusive relationships and were in need of Christian love and support.

This attitude characterised the Church of England at that time. Women, and men, who divorced and re-married were said to have committed adultery, a position clearly supported by scriptural text: "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her." For this reason Communion was withheld from re-married persons.

Younger members of our Church are now quite unaware of how we agonised at the time over the problem that we knew we had to face. How could we reconcile our hard-hearted attitudes with the equally, if not more, compelling Gospel injunction: "that you love one another?" In the end, of course, love won out. Recalling those disputes of 50 years ago leads me to ask why we would have wanted to lay such burdens on others, not to mention ourselves?

With all of this in mind then, when I listen to the current disputes regarding same sex marriage I cannot avoid a feeling of déjà vu. From that perspective the final outcome is almost inevitable: change will come. And what else is possible? To persist in holding onto the present teaching regarding marriage implies that we should have been equally uncompromising in the past. If, then, we were wrong to change our doctrine, to what positions should we revert: withholding Communion from divorced persons who re-marry? Acknowledging that monarchs hold divine right to rule? Possessing our goods in common? Permitting men to marry more than one wife? All of these teachings can be justified in terms of

"...when I listen to the current disputes regarding same sex marriage I cannot avoid a feeling of déjà vu. From that perspective the final outcome is almost inevitable: change will come."

biblical orthodoxy.

Unhappily, the inevitability of change carries with it the inevitability of schism. Some will choose to go their own way, as has happened too often in the past. The website www.anglicanonline.org/communion/nic.html lists 141 bodies which claim to be in the Anglican tradition but which are not part of the Anglican Communion, ranging alphabetically from the American Anglican Church to the World Anglican Episcopal Communion. Each broke away for reasons of biblical orthodoxy as they saw it. One wonders whether, perhaps, some of these bodies still refuse Communion to divorced persons who have re-married.

We must be prepared to accept reformulation of Christian teachings, now as in the past, but if we are ready to do that we should take no pride in the fact. In the past, Church doctrine justified slavery by quoting Noah: "Let Canaan be his slave!" Now we know better than to do that, but which of our present teachings will be, in a century or two, looked at in the way we now look at our past teaching about slavery?

My candidate for that position is our pernicious doctrine of the just war. How is



Leslie Buck. PHOTO Randy Murray

it that, in the face of the clear and explicit teaching of the Scriptures, we can contemplate and justify any circumstances in which waging war is acceptable? Younger persons in future years may well ask why we would have wanted to lay such burdens on others, not to mention ourselves. ✠

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Leslie Buck can be reached by email at elbuck@axion.net.
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No Point in Crying Over Spilled Marriage Canon

ALLAN CARSON
Rector, St. John's, Sardis

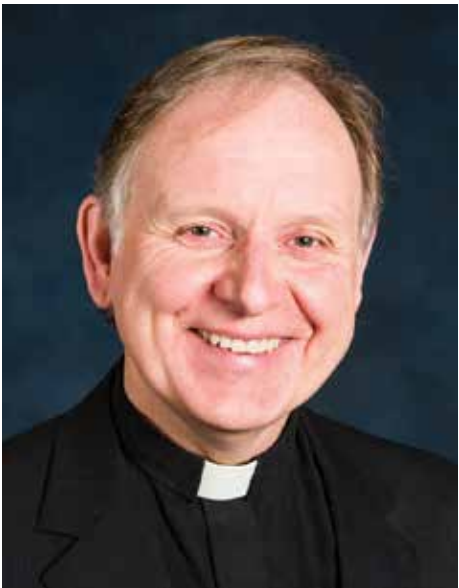
No point in crying over spilled marriage canon, or is there?

If those who attended General Synod 2016 reflect the views of the Church as a whole then there may be close to 33% of members of the Anglican Church of Canada who are weeping over the passing of the vote to change the marriage canon. If we add to that, those who are weeping because under canon law no change occurs until a second vote in three years, and if it passes it still does not come into effect until January 1, 2020, we have a pretty significant portion of those gathering to worship on Sundays who are weeping in their hearts. Albeit not for the same reasons. In fact it might be said for opposite reasons.

The way the proceedings at General Synod 2016 unfolded actually emphasized the weeping. At first when it appeared the vote to change the marriage canon had not passed those longing for the change were weeping, some literally. Then when it was discovered the voting system was in error and that the vote to change the marriage canon had actually passed those who rejoiced the night before were weeping, some literally, and the previous evening's weepers were now rejoicing.

Are we stuck in a win or lose scenario that seems to simply divide people? Our call is not to simply weep with those you agree with who are weeping or rejoice with those you agree with who are rejoicing. Our call is much more challenging than that. Our call is to simply weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice whether

"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."
Romans 12: 15



Allan Carson. PHOTO Wayne Chose

we agree with their reason for weeping or rejoicing or not. There are people in both camps who are there for biblical and faithful reasons, although they have arrived at opposite conclusions. Our call is not to choose the camp that we agree with and stay there but to enter into relationship with those who are in the camp we don't agree with. Our call is to "love our neighbours as

ourselves." That is hard intentional work.

I would like to suggest that there is something concrete that clergy can do to model a desire to weep with those who weep, and rejoice with those who rejoice. We can relinquish our provincial license for performing marriages. If we did that in significant numbers it would make a statement that we care about those who are weeping and that we will help by removing barriers that create divisions between people. It would force us all to have open and serious conversations with each other and with every couple who came looking for us to preside at their wedding how we understood the sacrament of marriage. We make the proclamation in our wedding service, "those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder." Since we could no

longer "legally" marry any couples if we turn in our "legal" license then our only purpose and focus would be in discussing the reality of God in their lives. Is that not our call? As a gathered church we proclaim at all ordinations that "the Church is the family of God, the body of Christ, and the temple of the Holy Spirit. All baptized people are called to make Christ known as Saviour and Lord, and to share in the renewing of his world." (*Book of Alternate Service*, page 646)

All members of the Church are called to do the hard work of weeping with those who weep and rejoicing with those who rejoice (especially the ones who you are not in agreement with). About that, may we all become much more intentional. The world understands love between family, between friends, it is expected and beautiful, but love between those who oppose one another the world does not understand nor expect. Now is the time to let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, which is in heaven. ✠

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Deadline for *Topic* Submissions
November 25 for the January 2017 issue
December 16 for the February 2017 issue
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Eighteen & Twelve

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Diocesan Youth Movement

YOUTH CONNECTIONS

News & Events for Youth in the Diocese of New Westminster

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The whole group in front of the renovated St. Alban's building. Much of the church was damaged by fire on June 11, 2015. It was a wonderful home for this year's event.
PHOTO Kimberly Blair

18 leaders and 12 participants gathered at St. Alban the Martyr Anglican Church in Burnaby on a Saturday at the end of September to learn about parish development, connect with one another and have fun. The event was Diocesan Youth Movement's (DYM) second annual junior youth leadership event. We partner with trainers from the Diocesan School for Parish Development to give junior youth, grades 5–8, an in-depth look at one of the models we teach in the school. This year we explored the Benedictine Life Model. Through the day, participants and their group leaders moved through three workshops, each one led by a trainer from the school and a member of the DYM leadership team based on a part of this model. The day also included lots of time for games and getting to know other

people. A highlight of the day for many was our diocese's new, colourful 20-foot parachute, which we used for one of the workshops as well as many parachute games.

What makes this event work? You have to turn back to those numbers mentioned at the beginning: 18 leaders and 12 participants. It might seem counter intuitive to have more people leading and helping out at an event than participating, until you consider the fact that these 12 young people now have the experience of all these different people gathering to prepare an event that focuses on them and their leadership. They know how many people care about them and their role in our church.

Each leader had their own role to play: we had the trainers from the school leading workshops, we had volunteers from the host parish preparing food for us, we had members of DYM leadership team leading games, and we had clergy from the diocese leading small groups and worship. We also had a group of senior youth who were there to help; they came Friday evening as well to help set things up, test out and choose some of the games and get some leadership training of their own.

This division of labour really helps such a complicated event to run smoothly, but more than that, it turns a youth event into an intergenerational event. On Saturday at St. Alban's we had people of all ages—we had three small children who came with their parents who are leaders, the junior youth, the senior youth helping to lead, young adult DYM leaders, trainers from the school, and clergy from around the diocese, as well as volunteers from St. Alban's.

This kind of intergenerational connection and experience is one of the most precious things the church has to offer people. Many people rarely get to spend time connecting with those of other generations outside the context of their own families, but this has always been a part of the life of the church and I believe it enriches the lives of all those involved.

That is the other reason the ratio of 18 leaders and 12 participants is wonderful at an event like this, because in fact, all of us are there to learn and grow together. We are all experiencing the joy of playing and building community, and eating, and worshipping. As much as this was an event to *equip, empower and engage* junior youth, it was really for all of us, and that is what made this event work. ✚



Participants listen intently as the Rev. Andrew Halladay teaches the Benedictine Life Model. PHOTO Kimberly Blair



Trying to figure out who is wearing the brightest colour in their small groups during a game of *Top Trumps*. PHOTO Kimberly Blair



LEFT Carrying and feeding a 25lb baby might have stopped some from playing ultimate rock/paper/scissors, but not Andrew. MIDDLE In the final tense round of ultimate rock/paper/scissors Elijah bests Anika to finish the game. RIGHT Chris Barr, chair of DYM, is all smiles as everybody plays games together. PHOTOS Kimberly Blair



LEFT & MIDDLE Participants play *The Beach Ball and Brain*, trying to toss the knitted brain out of the parachute while keeping the beach ball in. RIGHT The Rev. Elizabeth Mathers, deacon at St. Clement's, Lynn Valley, helps her small group get to know one another before workshops begin. PHOTOS Kimberly Blair