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### Pastor Paul Guiton's Retirement Eucharist

RANDY MURRAY

Diocesan Communications Officer and Topic Editor

It was a glorious weekend weather-wise in the Fraser Valley, January 25th and 26th, 2014. In some regions, early daytime fog and mist dominated the landscape but were burned off by the bright winter sun by mid-morning. At 10 am on Sunday the 26th, at St. Dunstan's in Aldergrove, there wasn't a cloud in the sky and rays of light beamed through the large windows throwing glowing shafts into various quadrants of the St. Dunstan sanctuary, as the community prepared to participate in the final Eucharist celebrated by their retiring rector, the Rev. Paul Guiton.

St. Dunstan's is the newest Church building in the Diocese of New Westminster. It opened in 2004, and was consecrated in 2013, after all the mortgages had been paid up. It is an architectural highlight of our diocese. The sanctuary is brightly illuminated in the day, thanks to a great deal of glass used in the building's construction. It is particularly conducive to worship in the round, with the Altar and Lectern occupying a significant portion of the oval-shaped sanctuary's east section.

The service began with the Gathering Song, *We are Standing on Holy Ground*, a song that is of particular significance for the Parish of St. Dunstan's as they have worked very hard to build their building, their ministry and their mission over the past 10 years.

Prior to the procession, the Wardens welcomed the Ven. Stephen Rowe, Archdeacon of Fraser, who was present at the worship and who would also be participating as co-preacher. They went on to announce that the Rev. Helen Tervo, currently serving as an Honorary Assistant Priest at St. Dunstan's, had been appointed priest-in-charge until a new incumbent is installed. This announcement was greeted with enthusiastic hoots and applause.

Pastor Paul began the service by thanking all the visitors present that are not members of the parish, including the Rev. Arthur Nash who began his ordained ministry at St. Dunstan's Parish 40 years earlier. Paul gave the Children's Talk next. He compared his feelings about his imminent retirement to the feelings that he suggested that some of the youngsters may have already experienced when they have changed schools or neighbourhoods. One is sad to leave one's friends behind, nervous about the future but excited because of the hopes that new opportunities have to offer.

Following the reading of the Gospel for the day, Pastor Paul stood in the middle of the sanctuary to begin the first section of the morning's homilies. He opened with the continuing story of the *Beautiful Castle*, a metaphor for the St. Dunstan's community, the focus being that the Steward of the Castle was now retiring. He continued the metaphor of the Castle and of the people of the Castle, however he did briefly break character to comment that he'd noticed during the previous week that the large sign in front of St. Dunstan's facing on to 264th Street in Aldergrove displayed the words, "Pastor Paul's Last Service—Come and Celebrate." This observation produced a great deal of laughter. It was noted that the sign had been changed with "Come and Celebrate" removed and replaced with the phrase "Wishing Him Well." Back in character, he continued the story of the people of the Castle and how some folks would see the retirement of the Steward as an opportunity to go back to the old ways of doing things, but the general feelings of the people included: sadness, concern, worry and anxiety. "Change brings about fear and anxiety that things won't

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Paul, with his spouse Carol, wait while the congregation moves to the area between and around the Altar for the laying on of hands. The Ven. Stephen Rowe is seen on the left.



The St. Dunstan's Community gathers in the chancel area of the Church to lay hands on the Rev. Paul Guiton and ask for God's blessings.





The St. Dunstan's Faith Community on January 26th, 2014.

## A Fond Farewell to the Steward of the Castle

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

be as good as they were, however fear and anxiety usually make us lose sight of our better judgment." He continued reading the story sharing the wisdom that Stewards of the Castle have come and gone but on every occasion God supplied the Steward that was needed to lead the people for that time. Paul reminded the congregation that the Castle is first and foremost God's Castle. The history of the Castle and its people has always been to focus on God "as a force for good in this world." God as a force for good is "Love... Love filled with Hope." Love and Hope, the message of Christ, the Light of the World is not restricted to the care of just one person in a faith community.

Prior to introducing the Ven. Stephen Rowe, Archdeacon of Fraser, Paul thanked everyone for their journey together in ministry, sending out his love and letting the people of St. Dunstan's know that he will miss them very much.

In his section of the morning's homily, Archdeacon Stephen Rowe assured St. Dunstan's Parish that he and others in leadership in the diocese will be present to help in the process of transition following Paul's 6 years of "committed and valued leadership of the shared ministry of St. Dunstan's." Clergy are like "ships that pass in the night;" it is the community, the members of the parish who carry on and continue the tradition. The clergy help to guide the mission and ministry but we are all led by our baptism to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Pastor Paul preaching his final sermon as rector of St. Dunstan's.



Paul smiles as he offers a blessing to one of the younger members of the parish during the Eucharist.

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An initiative of the Bishop's Fund for Local Mission

For more information please contact  
The Reverend Ruth Monette: 604.684.6306 X219  
[rmonette@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:rmonette@vancouver.anglican.ca)



Pastor Paul speaks to the youngsters of the parish about change and transition.

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



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**Thank you!**



# Diocesan Council Decisions on Funding Camping Ministry

RANDY MURRAY

Diocesan Communications Officer and Topic Editor

Following discussions at the December 2013 meeting of the governing body of the Diocese of New Westminster, the Executive Officers of the diocese were asked to come back with draft resolutions for discussion at the January 14th meeting with the goal being to make some decisions about the ongoing issue of Christian Camping Ministry in our diocese.

**Resolution 1** • Diocesan Council affirms the importance of ministry among young people and requests the Diocesan Administrator, working with the Diocesan Youth Movement, to establish a working group mandated, upon completing an evaluation of current youth ministry programming, to create strategic directions for ministry with young people in the diocese to be presented to Diocesan Council no later than April 2014, for comment and recommendation to Synod 2014 for consideration and approval.

## The Motion was Carried.

**Resolution 2** • Diocesan Council requests the Diocesan Administrator, following the recommendation of the Report of the Task Force on Christian Camping, to appoint a working group to formulate and present an implementation plan to Diocesan Council no later than April 2014, for comment and recommendation to Synod 2014

for consideration.

## The Motion was Carried.

Specifically, **Resolution 2** is in response to the request from the Christian Camping Task Force that a group be struck to look more closely at this issue. The Christian Camping Task Force, a group appointed by former Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham in early 2013, delivered their report to Council at the November 2013 meeting. The 30 page report is available online at <http://bit.ly/1bh6xwS>.

**Resolution 2a** • That the two working groups established this evening (Resolutions 1 and 2) are directed to work together and cooperate with each other to ensure that their recommendations are cohesive to the degree that may be possible.

## The Motion was Carried.

**Resolution 2a** was developed by Legal Registrar Don Paul following the suggestion by Youth Representative to Council, Cameron Gutjahr's that there be some "overlap" directed by Council for the two groups established by these resolutions.

**Resolution 3** • Diocesan Council directs the Budget Committee of the Administration & Finance Committee to exclude support funding for current operations or capital infrastructure at Camp Artaban in 2014, with future funding to be reviewed on the basis of the Synod approved strategic plan for Youth Ministry and Christian Camping Ministry.

## The Motion was Carried.

Bob Hardy (Diocesan Treasurer), Rob Dickson (Business Administrator of the Diocese) and the Rev. Ruth Monette (Acting Director for Mission and Ministry Development) reported on their January 9th meeting with Artaban Board representatives. The Artaban Society representatives informed the diocesan leadership group that they plan to open the camp in 2014, but that continued financial support of the diocese (the 2014 Budget allocated \$52,000 grant to Artaban) would be an integral part of the funding needed. There was a general lack of definition on the income side of the projection. It was the opinion of the diocesan leaders present at that meeting that the budget and income projection materials presented by the Artaban Board representatives did not adequately address the key questions of what it would cost to open the camp and how many campers might attend in 2014.

In response to the passing of **Resolution 3**, George Cadman, the Chancellor of the Diocese and Chair for the January 14th meeting spoke to council saying that in his view the Artaban Society representatives are a "very sincere group of volunteers whose hearts are in the right place. The decisions made this evening were driven by the reality of the finances that have been in front of us for some time." He reminded council that it was necessary for the representatives of the Camp Artaban Society to be heard and to be able to respond. And that this resolution only removes funding Artaban from the budget for 2014. Diocesan Council has affirmed the importance of Christian Camping through its majority support of the previous resolutions.

At the Communications Committee Meeting January 29th, member-at-large Rod Mackin summarized Council's decision specifically around **Resolution 3** when he said, "this is not rejection, it is prudent delay." More information will be forthcoming pending focused study and discernment of Diocesan Youth Ministry and Camping Ministry.

**Resolution 4** • Diocesan Council approves the participation in the Sorrento Centre Capital Campaign by matching the grant from the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada (\$250,000), with an additional amount to be possibly considered post Synod 2014 and Diocesan Council defers any decision about further financial support until after the reception and adoption of the strategic plans for Youth Ministry and for Christian Camping Ministry as directed by Synod 2014.

The grant is to be funded, subject to confirmation by Administration & Finance by converting the outstanding loan of the Diocese to Sorrento Centre into the grant of \$250,000.

## The Motion was Carried

Diocesan Treasurer Bob Hardy gave some context to the recent loan to Sorrento Centre authorized by Council in 2013. The money loaned to Sorrento Centre was seed money to begin their current Capital Campaign. The loan agreed upon was up to \$250,000 and currently they have received the \$250,000 and have been paying on that loan to the Diocese of New Westminster as money comes into the Centre as a result of the campaign. This motion converts the \$250,000 already remitted by the diocese to the Sorrento Society to a grant. This grant of the Diocese of New Westminster activates the matching grant from the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada to the Sorrento Centre Campaign. As with **Resolution 3** regarding Artaban, **Resolution 4** leaves the door open for future funding. ✠

## A Fond Farewell to the Steward of the Castle

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

be ministers of Christ.

Nearing the close of worship and following the Doxology (which was said twice because Pastor Paul didn't think it was said by the congregation with enough committed enthusiasm the first time), the clergy invited the people of the parish and everyone present to the open area between the Font and the Altar to lay hands on Paul and ask for God's blessings for their retiring pastor and for his spouse Carol as they move to the next phase of their lives and min-

istry. Next on the agenda was a group photograph with all in attendance gathered in the chancel area and then a large majority of those at worship moved through the narthex area from the sanctuary to the hall to enjoy a meal together.

The Rev. Paul Guiton was also the Regional Dean of the Yale Deanery. The Rev. John Sovereign, rector of St Thomas, Chilliwack, on the recommendation of his clerical colleagues, has been appointed Regional Dean of Yale, effective January 31st, 2014. ✠



The line-up to shake Pastor Paul's hand.



## PONTIUS' PUDDLE by Joel Kauffmann



## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

compiled by Anglican Archivist Melanie Delva

- 40 years • 1974 Camp Artaban is closed for the summer due to financial losses.
- 30 years • 1984 Diocese takes part in Jewish/Christian dialogue on Faith and the Holocaust.
- 15 years • 1999 Tireless volunteer Hilda Gregory receives Order of Canada medal.



# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## • Sharing • Caring • Learning • WOW! • St. Michael's 101 •

SUBMISSION Val Hampton

The Rev. Louie Engnan introduced the first *New Members Orientation Day* to twenty participants on Saturday, November 16th, 2013, at St. Michael's, Surrey. The meeting was held in the Millennium Hall, where all present gathered around two long tables for coffee, morning devotion and bible reading.

After devotions, the participants — eleven "new" members and nine parish leaders — were invited to introduce themselves, tell the story of how they began attending St. Michael's and what they would like to see in our Church in the future. Following the introductions, the Rev. Louie gave a short talk, which outlined the beginnings and history of the Church.

The next section of the session involved various group leaders (ACW, Altar Guild, Sidespersons & Counters, Sunday School, Worship Services, etc...) who presented explanations of their ministries and answered questions. Information was also shared regarding Parish Council, and the structure of the Anglican Church hierarchy. For example, the role of the Bishop, the Diocese of New Westminster and its various ministries.

Midday, the "learning" portion of the event was interrupted by a delicious potluck

PHOTO Louie Engnan



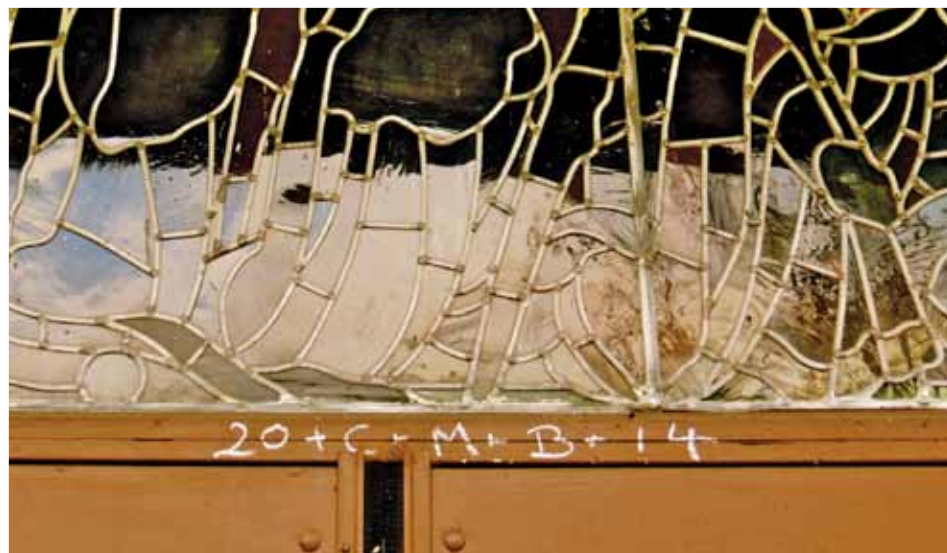
## • Chalking the Door at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale •

SUBMISSION Jane Dittrich

Early in January 2014, the Rev. Jeremy Clark-King, rector of St. Mary's, Kerrisdale, "chalked" the main entrance doors of the 103-year-old Church in the beautiful southwest Vancouver neighbourhood.

*Chalking the Door* is the focal point of a short liturgy where sacred signs and/or symbols are written above the door to the main entrance of a home as an intentional way of asking for God's blessing for those who live, work or visit in the place beyond the doors throughout the coming year. The scriptural reference comes from Exodus. The Israelites would mark their doorposts with lamb's blood as a way of showing God that those in the home were faithful believers. This was also done for protection from death. The more modern liturgy of *Chalking the Door* is a sign that God's presence and blessings have been invited into the home.

The chalk on the doorframe at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale. PHOTO Jane Dittrich



lunch, when everyone broke bread together. A sharing of food and relaxed conversation was much enjoyed and appreciated.

Very encouraging and positive feedback was received from the participants who replied to a questionnaire. They all commented on the sharing part, especially the personal sharing which made everyone feel comfortable and welcome. Everyone agreed that they had learned a great deal about what is involved in the various ministries of St. Michael's. Several indicated an interest in becoming involved in a personal way.

The Rev. Louie's goal of equipping our new members with information regarding the various ministries at St. Michael's was very successful. Our Bishop's Warden, Jeddy James, commented that, "The responses, queries, suggestions and recommendations... proved that this was a good, informative and proactive team building exercise." New member, Bernard Li's comment, "We need to continue to pray that by the leading of the Holy Spirit, St. Michael's will grow as a Church family, filled with God's love to reach out to the community and beyond," summed up the fulfillment of our objectives for the day! ✚

## • A Visitor from the National Church •

On Friday, January 17th, the Ven. Bruce Myers, Coordinator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, Faith Worship and Ministry, General Synod (*on the right*) paid a courtesy visit to the Offices of the Diocese of New Westminster and caught up with his friend, the Ven. Douglas Fenton, Executive Archdeacon. Archdeacon Myers was in Vancouver to staff the Anglican Church of Canada—United Church of Canada Dialogue, which met at Vancouver School of Theology from January 13th to 16th. The representatives of the two denominations dealt with a very full agenda over the three days and reports resulting from these dialogues will be available soon: stay tuned. ✚



PHOTO Randy Murray

## • Faith • Freedom • Selfhood with Bishop Jim Cruickshank •

The Christ Church Cathedral (CCC) Men's Group grew out of discussions between CCC deacon, the Rev. Alisdair Smith and then-curate of the Cathedral, the Rev. Patrick Blaney (now rector of St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver) in 2008. In the five and half years that have passed, the group has grown from 5 or 6 people meeting every couple of months on a Saturday morning to over 30 getting together for a delicious and hearty breakfast in community. The group now meets several Saturday mornings a year in a safe and caring environment to spend time together, to learn together and to reflect together on what it means to be men, and sometimes what it means to be men of faith in 2014. Ivo, an IT security specialist who is not a Church member and in 2012 began attendance at CCC Men's Breakfast on the invitation of a parishioner remarked that "the collective wisdom in this room is amazing."

The program organizers, Dr. Jack Forbes, David MacMillan and Dr. Marv Westwood presented the first speaker of 2014, on January 18th, the Rt. Rev. James (Jim) Cruickshank, retired Bishop of the former Diocese of Cariboo, former Dean of Christ Church Cathedral and former professor at Vancouver School of Theology. Bishop Jim is a parishioner at CCC. His topic was an ambitious one, *Faith—Freedom—Selfhood: Our Relationship with Faith*. Bishop Jim's insightful, engaging and enlightening presentation addressed the complexity of how personal faith becomes our faith and how we can approach God's **truth**. "I've never taken a course on truth" quipped Bishop Jim, "but **faith** is the journey to **truth**." Early in his presentation he said, "In order to talk about Faith and how we move towards Faith, we must confront Fear. Overcoming Fear that moves us to Faith moves us to Freedom and Christianity is

about freedom."

For Bishop Jim, "Faith is the belief that God's promises are true. Christianity is not that we believe in God but that God believes in us." It is always about God and God's people, which is why we say "Our Father." Faith is our response to God's promise:

- I am your God
- You are my people
- I will never stop loving you
- I will never let you go

Faith is not separate from Love and Hope.

Bishop Jim explored these ideas in a room full of men who were paying very close attention, the informal lecture evolved into a lively discussion that added some thoughtful and occasionally profound ideas into the conversation. Truly, Bishop Jim Cruickshank is one of the wisest of the wise elders of "Our Faith." ✚



Bishop Jim Cruickshank with God's Truth listed on the flipchart paper. PHOTO Randy Murray

Ivo and Dr. Marv Westwood. PHOTO Randy Murray





# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## • Diocesan Performing Arts Ministry Greet 99 Theatrical Hopefuls •

SUBMISSION Andrew Halladay

The Diocesan Performing Arts Ministry is doing its work on the North Shore this year. *Sheep 'n' Goats*, the group that brought you *Godspell* at Christ Church Cathedral, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at St. Mary's Kerrisdale, and *A Christmas Carol* at St. Augustine's in Marpole, is producing *The Sound of Music* with the North Vancouver Anglican/Lutheran Youth Ministry at St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver.

The North Vancouver Regional Ministry includes all of the Anglican congregations in North Vancouver—St. Catherine, Capilano; St. Martin; St. John the Evangelist; St. Agnes; and St. Clement—and two ELCiC (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada) congregations—Gloria Dei and Mount Olivet. This year, these Churches together hired the Rev. Andrew Halladay priest-in-charge of St. Augustine's, Marpole as the part-time youth worker to come in and “take care” of their children, youth and young people. Andrew is also one of the principal creative personnel with *Sheep 'n' Goats* and often takes on the task of directing the productions. Given this (and the beautiful Alpine setting of North Vancouver, reminiscent of the Austrian Alps) it was decided this was the perfect opportunity to tell the story of the Von Trapp family as they search for and discover the perfect person to become a part of their family. You never know when a governess might turn out to be the perfect mother! *The Sound of Music* also has some wonderful themes for

all Churches and congregations to consider about how people respond when they have no control over how the world is changing around them.

In addition to a large chorus of nuns, the seven Von Trapp children, and various characters who become Nazis over the course of the play, the creative team is including a children's chorus to support the character of Maria as she teaches us all the joy of song. The Greek Chorus has long been a tradition in theatre, commenting on, and responding to, the action happening on stage. The leaders of the Performing Arts Ministry have long been advocates for the Church to listen more closely to the voices of children and adjust their methods and strategies accordingly. This seems like a good time to bring these two ideas together.

Over two weeks of auditions held on January 11th at St. John the Evangelist and January 18th at St. Philip, Dunbar, 99 people auditioned for *The Sound of Music* and the children's play, *The Selfish Giant* (which will be produced concurrently and will be performed at St. Philip). You will hear more about these exciting upcoming productions in the April issue of *Topic*.

The production of *The Sound of Music* will run on the last weekend of May 2014. Information about times, dates, and tickets is forthcoming. ✦

The Rev. Andrew Halladay working with the cast of *The Sound of Music* on *How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria?*



## • Welcome Bishop Melissa •



As of this writing, Bishop-Elect Melissa Skelton.

When the March 2014 issue of *Topic* is posted to the web on March 3rd and then arrives in homes and Churches during the following week, our Bishop-Elect, the Rev. Canon Melissa Skelton, God willing, will have been Ordained and Installed as the 9th Bishop of the Diocese of New Westminster on March 1st, 2014. As of this writing, just hours before the March issue goes to layout in early February, many in our diocese are very busy preparing for this exciting event. The April issue of *Topic* will contain full coverage of the Ordination and Installation liturgy, reception and more. ✦



## • Diocesan Synod 2014 •

The 115th Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster is scheduled to take place May 23rd and 24th again in the Grand Ballroom of the Italian Cultural Centre (3075 Slocan Street) in East Vancouver. As of this writ-

ing, in late January most volunteer, clergy and staff energies are being directed to the Consecration of the Bishop but as soon as that event is organized, Synod Planning will begin in earnest. ✦

The floor is open for debate on resolutions at Synod 2013, in the Grand Ballroom of the Italian Cultural Centre.



## • From Refugees to Canadian Citizens •

SUBMISSION Wilna Parry

On July 13th, 2009, a group of parishioners from the North Vancouver Deanery gathered at the Vancouver airport to greet two families arriving from a remote refugee camp on the Burma/Thailand border. There was a striking contrast between the two groups of people who came together in the arrivals hall. On the one hand our Deanery group, boisterous and excited to meet the families after working hard preparing for their arrival. On the other, two families, exhausted and bewildered after traveling for three days to reach their destination, each with only a small bundle of possessions, their faces filled with the pain of leaving some vestige of home behind yet desiring a new beginning for themselves and their children.

What courage they had! What determination to follow their dream. On January 31st Kler Taw, Ehmoo Si and Eh Thanay became Canadian Citizens, yet another milestone in their five-year journey. A

number of the same group who met them at the airport were at the ceremony to celebrate “our home and native land” together. Together with 76 people from 21 nations, they pledged loyalty to their new home. What a proud moment for us all.

In July 2014, Kler Taw and his family will be attending the Sorrento Centre's program *Welcome to the Refugee Among Us*. Kler Taw's next objective is to travel to Burma/Myanmar to try and locate his father and other relatives. There's no doubt that he will succeed and we wish him and his family the very best and a safe return to Canada. ✦

LEFT Six-year-old Eh Thanay waits to become a Canadian Citizen.

RIGHT Eh Thanay, Ehmoo Si, Judge Dane Minor, Juliana their daughter born in Canada and Kler Taw with flags and Canadian Citizenship Certificates. The three new citizens are sporting Canadian Olympic Team mittens for 2014, a gift from Dave and Wilna Parry.





# My Journey With L'Arche

TRUDI SHAW

Deacon, St. John, Port Moody; Anglican Chaplain at Vancouver General Hospital and St. Jude's Anglican Home



The Emmaus Celebration! The Emmaus Centre participants and assistants celebrate their newly renovated space. PHOTO Courtesy of L'Arche Greater Vancouver

As a deacon I understand my call to be one of servanthood modeled on the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. For me, servant ministry is about building mutual relationships; about invitation and welcome; about walking with others; about giving and receiving. Many people of faith, myself included, tend to be very good about using their gifts and talents to give comfort and support to others, but may not be as comfortable being on the receiving end of what others have to offer. In fact, we often forget that those to whom we minister have a ministry to us. I am always grateful when I encounter individuals or communities that challenge me to grow and deepen my understanding of what it means to be a servant of Christ.

Such an example for me is Jean Vanier, and the movement he inspired when, in 1964, in Trosly-Breuil, France, he welcomed two men from a local institution to live with him. He called his home L'Arche, which means "the ark," and refers to the Biblical symbol of safety and refuge. L'Arche is now an International Federation of 145 intentional communities in over 40 countries. There are currently 29 L'Arche communities in Canada.

The mission of L'Arche is to:

*"Make known the gifts of people with developmental disabilities, revealed through mutually transforming relationships; to foster an environment in community that responds to the changing needs of our members, whilst being faithful to the core values of our founding story; and to engage in our diverse cultures, working together toward a more human society."*

• From the International Federation of L'Arche Communities, Identity and Mission Statements

L'Arche invites people with and without developmental disabilities to share life in communities of faith, and live together in family-like settings, celebrating the unique value of every person, and recognizing our need for one another.

My own journey with L'Arche began about 10 years ago when a colleague asked me to fill in for him leading community worship for L'Arche Greater Vancouver. To say that I was made to feel welcome in the community is a bit of an understatement. From the moment I was met at the door by my hostess and guide, Sue, to the moment I said my final good-byes, I was treated as more than an honoured guest—I was made to feel like an old friend who had finally come home. This welcome is truly one of the hallmarks of L'Arche Greater Vancouver!

The worship that evening was Spirit-led, inclusive, and infused with the joy of a community giving heart-felt expression to their gratitude to, and trust in God. After that one visit I was hooked—I knew without a doubt that I wanted to be involved in some way with this amazing



The Rev. Trudi Shaw. PHOTO Wayne Chose

group of people who lived their faith "out loud!" Some months later when I was approached to consider becoming a member of the Operations Board of Directors, I was grateful that God had provided this opportunity, and after accepting the position, started my formation in the ways of L'Arche. Over the next seven years, I would serve in various capacities as a member of that board and I've had an opportunity to be a part of L'Arche on a local, regional and even a national level. I have been struck by the thoughtful and intentional ways communities continue to live out the identity and mission of L'Arche even in times of loss, change, and great challenge.

I am encouraged, especially in this age of materialism and self-absorption, by the young women and men who come to live in L'Arche homes, and who discover that vulnerability and tenderness are not weaknesses but strengths. Some of them stay to make L'Arche their vocation, and many return to their friends and families, but all will share the vision and mission of L'Arche with the wider world.

I am grateful for those individuals at the centre of L'Arche—the ones so easily dismissed by the world—whose unique gifts shared in community, make me stop and reexamine the true value of who I am and what I have to offer. They amaze and delight; I am so blessed for all they have taught me about what really matters in life.

*"Whatever their gifts or their limitations, people are all bound together in a common humanity. Everyone is of unique and sacred value, and everyone has the same dignity and the same rights. The fundamental rights of each person include the rights to life, to care, to a home, to education, and to work. Also, since the deepest need of a human being is to love and to be loved, each person has the right to friendship, to communion, and to a spiritual life."*

• From the L'Arche International Charter

L'Arche Greater Vancouver was started in 1974, in South Burnaby and provides homes and day programs for adults with developmental disabilities. In 2008, the City of Burnaby and the Burnaby Board of Trade named L'Arche Greater Vancouver the Not-for-Profit Organization of the Year. L'Arche Greater Vancouver homes and programs are accredited with CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities), earning the highest possible award—a three-year status.

They have six homes in which 22 core people—those with developmental disabilities who are the heart of the L'Arche community—share life together with those who assist them. They welcome people of all religions, races, genders and cultural backgrounds, and support each person's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7





Jean Vanier, L'Arche's founder with Gwenda from the L'Arche Greater Vancouver Community. This was taken on Jean's last visit to Vancouver.  
PHOTO Courtesy of L'Arche Greater Vancouver



Two of L'Arche Neighbours Helping Neighbours crew building a fence, Garth and Conrad. PHOTO Courtesy of L'Arche Greater Vancouver

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

spiritual journey.

They also operate two-day programs. The Emmaus Centre aims to build security and belonging through relationships by participating in meaningful recreational, social and volunteer outreach opportunities. The second day program, Neighbours Helping Neighbours, gives people with disabilities the opportunity to serve the wider community by providing yard work, simple maintenance and chores for elders and others who are physically unable to perform these tasks.

This year L'Arche Greater Vancouver celebrates its 40th anniversary, and will join with communities across the globe to mark 50 years of L'Arche International. The festivities will be launched on April 3rd with their signature event, the *Fifth Annual Art of Being Together*. This unique event brings together people with developmental disabilities, artists, respected art judges, sponsors, friends of L'Arche, and the general public, all in support of L'Arche and in celebration of "togetherness." It is L'Arche Greater Vancouver's major fundraiser and an opportunity to bring L'Arche's mission to the larger community.

Guests at the event become art judges as they vote for the *People's Choice Award* from the artwork that is submitted for the competition. They'll be invited to participate in creating a painting that will be presented to another community group at the end of the evening. Guests will also view and have an opportunity to purchase art created by working artists and teams of people with and without developmental disabilities.

L'Arche speaks of building transforming relationships—to me that is the process of becoming the people God has called us to be—fully human. My journey with L'Arche has certainly been about that ongoing transformation. Their love and welcome have been a gift that has helped me to recognize and develop rarely used talents, acknowledge my own vulnerability and need for others, and accept my own value as one beloved of God. That doesn't make me perfect, but I do hope it makes me more human.

How can you get involved?

- Pray for us • *L'Arche is God's work.*
- Visit • *give L'Arche a call to set up a tour or let them know that you'd like to come to one of their Community Worship evenings.*
- Invite someone from L'Arche to speak in your church or community group • *you'll be inspired!*
- Donate • *L'Arche depends on the generosity of others in order to live their mission.*
- Attend L'Arche's biggest event of the season!

*The Fifth Annual Art of Being Together*

DATE: April 3rd, 2014

TIME: doors open at 5 pm

PLACE: Nikkei Centre at 6688 Southoaks in Burnaby

TICKETS: \$25

For more information on L'Arche Greater Vancouver and the Fifth Annual Art of Being Together event please visit their website at [www.larchevancouver.org](http://www.larchevancouver.org) or by phone at 604.435.9544. ☙



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*Hope for God's Family*  
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# Meet Your Relatives

## Grassroots Ecumenism Dialogue Number 1

RANDY MURRAY  
Diocesan Communications Officer and Topic Editor

*A report on the first of three scheduled dialogues for 2014, between Anglicans and Roman Catholics, held January 26th at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Parish in North Burnaby, British Columbia.*

On Sunday, January 26th one hundred clergy and laity gathered at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Parish in Burnaby for the first of three sessions entitled *Meet Your Relatives: Grassroots Ecumenism*. This event has arisen after the clergy of the Archdiocese of Vancouver (Roman Catholic) and the Diocese of New Westminster (Anglican) met for a study day on November 30th, 2011. The Ven. Grant Rodgers, Chair of the Ecumenical Multifaith Unit of the Diocese and Marjeta Bobnar, Ecumenical Ministries Officer for the Archdiocese were given the task of preparing events for laity and clergy that would bring the two denominations together in dialogue and build on the success of the clergy day.

The opening liturgy celebrated in the sanctuary of St. Helen's was the Daytime Prayer service, *Liturgy of Hours* led by the Abbot of Westminster Abbey, Mission, the Rt. Rev. John Braganza, OSB (Order of St. Benedict). The chanting of Psalm 118 led by Father Braganza with the participation of all present was a perfect beginning to an afternoon of thoughtful dialogue and listening.

Following the liturgy, sweet and savoury snacks accompanied by hot and cold drinks were available downstairs in the St. Helen's Parish Hall where a dozen round tables of 8 were set-up for the dialogue. The majority of those in attendance were from either the Anglican or Roman Catholic Christian traditions but there were a number of other denominations represented as well which added another dimension and was very encouraging for the organizers.

The format of this, the first dialogue on the theme of *Growing Together in Unity and Mission* inspired by the theological paper of the same name presented two theologians, Dr. Christophe Potworowski, Professor of Theology at Pacific Redeemer College in Langley and the Rev. Dr. Richard Leggett, Rector of St. Faith's Anglican Church in Vancouver's Kerrisdale neighbourhood and Professor Emeritus of Liturgical Studies at Vancouver School of Theology (VST). Anne LaRoche of the Ecumenical Multifaith Unit of the Diocese would moderate their half-hour discussion.

On behalf of the Diocese and the Archdiocese, the Ven. Grant Rodgers welcomed the participants to the dialogue. He urged the group to make sure that there was at least one Anglican or one Roman Catholic at each table and said, "we are here to inspire and to be inspired... to listen to the wisdom from the voices of those amongst us."

Grant then turned the floor over to Anne LaRoche who quipped that her principal role would be to "make sure these two boys play nice" but on a more serious note she said that the underpinning of this session "is our common search for God and our bond in Christ that unites us."

Richard and Christophe had gotten to know each other in an informal way over meals (there was a reference or two made to both theologians' fondness for Ale) and they found that they shared many things. Christopher admitted that he met Richard with some trepidation, assuring himself that "he is not the enemy... it wasn't sentimental friendship I was looking for, it was that deeper connection in Christ." This set the tone for a dialogue based in *non-dual thinking*. Richard opened his section of the discussion saying, "our two Churches have been examining the same issues over the past 20 to 30 years, but we have come to different conclusions... there is a common language between our two traditions, we just speak different dialects." Richard affirmed the style of discussion that they had pursued where there is no clear division, no black and white, saying that either/or thinking is "death to the Christian experience." Then they more deeply explored the theme of *Growing Together in Unity and Mission*. Christophe said, "we are one in baptism, we have the same vocation in unity."

Throughout the discussion the theme continued to be supported that we are united in Christ through baptism and we are to share in Mission. *Unity* and *uniformity* are different and we need to go into the "shadowlands" where the differences are. There was some time dedicated to the Eucharist and both theologians agreed that each denomination "takes the Eucharist very seriously" which is the reason why dialogue about the Eucharist must be undertaken carefully and prayerfully over time. When asked by Anne if there were similar issues emerging from their discussions, Christophe replied, "This first encounter is easy... We are not going to solve the big issues, those will be discussed at the international level." Both theologians agreed that the



LEFT The Ven. Grant Rodgers and Marjeta Bobnar welcome the participants to the opening worship. RIGHT Dr. Christophe Potworowski. PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT Anne LaRoche. RIGHT The Rev. Dr. Richard Leggett listens to a question from Anne LaRoche. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Anglicans, Lutherans, United Church folks, Roman Catholics and others discussing what attracted them to this gathering. PHOTO Randy Murray

purpose of this series is to begin a conversation to reintroduce the concept that there are more commonalities than differences between the denominations, although during the next two discussions, March 23rd and May (TBA) the big questions will be visited. Richard advised that a constructive small step to take would be a simple phone call to the Anglican or Roman Catholic priest in ministry at a neighbouring parish and invite them for coffee and a chat.

After the moderated discussion, the Ven. Grant Rodgers again took the floor informing the group that they would now be asked to participate in a table discussion based on three questions. Each table had been staffed with a facilitator chosen by the two organizing groups who would be charged with recording the key responses given by those at the tables and reporting them back to the plenary. The three questions were:

1. What attracted you to this gathering?
2. What is the most important thing you heard today and why?
3. What questions (if any) has this raised?

The facilitators reported that the 40-minute table discussions were animated and thoughtful with many tables unable to progress past the first of the three questions in the time allotted. Here is a sample of the responses:

- The next two sessions would benefit by wider promotion in Roman Catholic parishes of the Archdiocese.
- We would like to know specifically what the "differences" are?
- There is a strong desire for ecumenical sharing.
- This was "great fun" and a "great help."
- Ecumenical discussions are already happening in people's homes and an opportunity like this helps to inform those discussions.



# Diocesan School for Leadership Refresher Day 2014

## Reunion, Review and Taster

TASHA CARROTHERS

MAP Associate, Diocese of New Westminster; Trainer, Diocesan School for Leadership

Part reunion, part review, and part taster: Forty-two participants and seven trainers packed a lot into Refresher Day 2014 on January 18th at St. Laurence, Coquitlam. Evaluations of the Diocesan School for Leadership—the Diocese of New Westminster’s week-long leadership development program—showed that participants valued both the content of the program and the opportunity to spend time with people from across the diocese. So school trainers decided to develop a one-day workshop that would allow returning participants and school graduates the opportunity to refresh their skills and dig more deeply into some of the material, all while enjoying each other’s company again. In addition, the day would allow people who are curious about the school the opportunity to sample the material and the format before deciding to dive into the deep end

and apply for the week-long program this coming summer, from July 13th through July 19th, to be held again at the Rosemary Heights Retreat Centre in South Surrey.

The workshop followed a typical “day in the life of Leadership School.” We opened with Morning Prayer, which included collective reflection on the day’s gospel reading and prayers from the Week for Christian Unity. From there we moved into a plenary session, which included reviewing key concepts (What is congregational development? How are organizations like icebergs?), before moving to the main model for the day, *William Bridges’ Change, Transition and its Stages*.

But what is a day in the life of Leadership School without flipcharts, markers and small groups? We rapidly moved into small groups to apply the model to a case study.

Discussions were lively as participants took the concepts of *ending*, the *neutral zone*, and the *new beginning* and applied them to the various characters in the case study. Several participants were pretty sure that the case was based on their own parish (it wasn’t, really—we made it up!), which confirmed for the trainers just how widely applicable this material is. Following the analysis of the case, trainers took time with each group to reflect on the group process: Did they accomplish their task? Did the materials help the discussion? Could everyone participate? Skilled attention to these elements makes collective work—such as we do all the time in committees—more effective and meaningful.

Lunch gave people time to compare notes and get reacquainted before the afternoon program. The “tasters” learned more about the School for Leadership and another model (affectionately known as “the hairball”), while returning students worked in groups to fine-tune possible parish projects. The afternoon session wrapped up with everyone gathering for a quick real-time evaluation, which revealed that overall, participants were very satisfied with the workshop. The last act of the day was to gather in the Church for Evening Prayer.

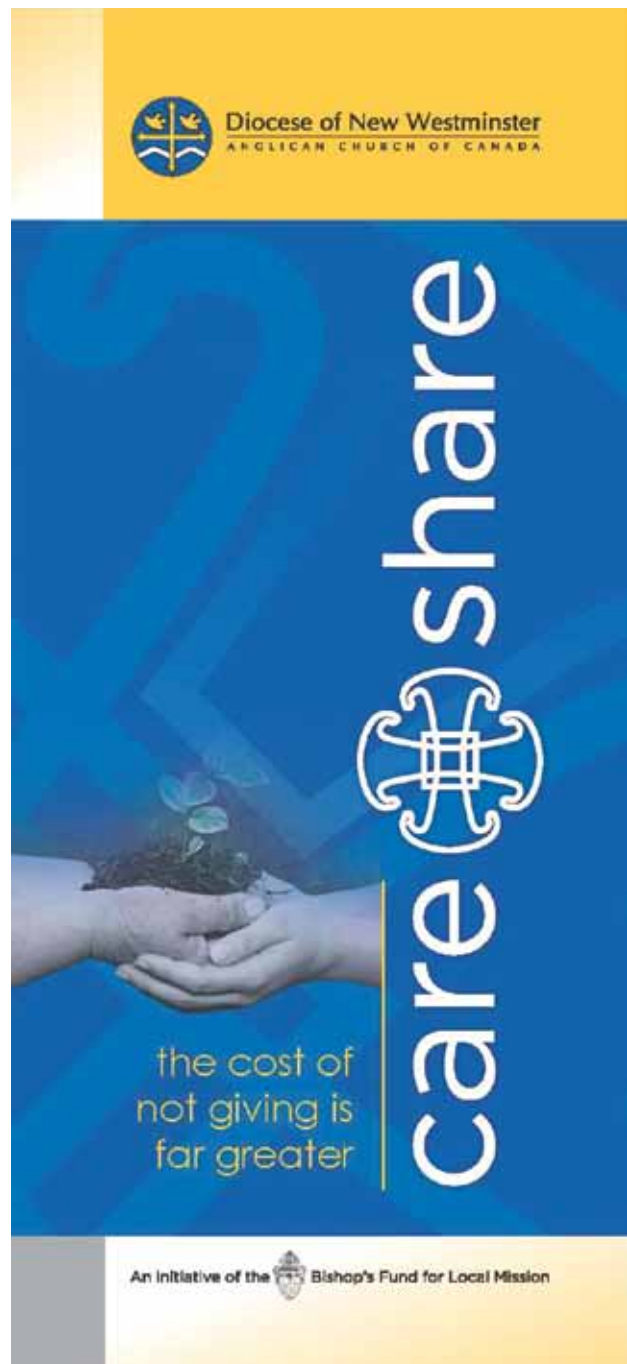
In addition to having heard good things about the Leadership School, the Rev. Heidi Brear attended to support one of her parishioners who is new to the Anglican Church. “I was excited to bring someone with me, and to see what it was about.” Attending with a relative newcomer, Heidi observed that we make a lot of assumptions about what people already know. One takeaway from the day? “It is great for parishes to get together to learn, and it is important that it be a group from the parish.”

You can find out more about the Diocesan School for Leadership or Register Now by visiting the Diocesan School of Leadership page on the diocesan website at <http://bit.ly/LZT5oe> ☩

Diocesan School for Leadership Trainer and Synod Staffer, Tasha Carrothers with her small group in session in the narthex of St. Laurence’s, Coquitlam. PHOTO Randy Murray



If you would like to find out more about the Diocese of New Westminster’s flowthrough donation program to these compassionate service ministries recommended by the Ministry Resources Committee and affirmed by Synod for 2014–2015 please pick up the new brochure from your parish office.



## Meet Your Relatives

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

- We need to be “real” because for these events to have substance they need to be more than a metaphorical “group hug.” And real connections require honesty in a safe environment.
- It is about loving one another and how we can do this.
- Events like this can inspire witnessing in a public forum; random acts of Christian witness together. Perhaps in a Flash Mob posted to YouTube.
- For one table it was new information to many at that table that Anglicans, Lutherans, Presbyterians and the United Church share the common Lectionary with Roman Catholics.
- We live in a divided world and if we who are believers are divided it doesn’t bode well.
- Praying together unites us.

Dr. Shawn Flynn, one of the table facilitators, reports back to the plenary. PHOTO Randy Murray



The next *Meet Your Relatives: Grassroots Ecumenism* event:

DATE: Sunday, March 23rd, 2014

TIME: 2 pm, registration at 1:30 pm

PLACE: The venue proposed is Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster (TBC)

The discussions will continue exploring the theme of Growing Together in Unity and Mission.

More information about the March event and the May event will be available through the communications vehicles of the Diocese of New Westminster and the Archdiocese of Vancouver as they become available. ☩



# Vancouver School of Theology Sells Iona Building to University of British Columbia

MEDIA RELEASE ISSUED BY SHANNON LYTHGOE  
Communications, Marketing and Recruitment Associate, Vancouver School of Theology



VST Principal, the Rev. Dr. Richard Topping making the announcement in one of the primary lecture halls located in the Iona Building, January 7th, 2014. PHOTO Melanie Delva



The Iona Building. PHOTO Courtesy of VST

The Vancouver School of Theology (VST) and the University of British Columbia (UBC) announced January 7th, 2014, that UBC will purchase from VST the 1927 stone-faced Iona Building located in the theological neighbourhood of UBC's Vancouver campus. The agreed purchase price is \$28 million, subject to both parties completing their due diligence.

The Iona Building is a property of VST, an independent theological academic institution that leased the land for 999 years from UBC in 1927. Following a recent comprehensive review. The VST board concluded that its programs require different facilities they therefore approached UBC to discuss a possible sale.

Iona will provide UBC with new academic space as various initiatives draw more students, faculty and staff to its Vancouver campus. UBC will use the building and land for university institutional and academic use only, with the Faculty of Arts' Vancouver School of Economics as the main occupant.

VST will use a portion of the sale proceeds to relocate their operations to more suitable space in the UBC theological neighbourhood, and place the balance of the funds in an endowment to support its educational mission and operations. VST retains ownership of nearby Somerville House and Chapel of the Epiphany.

Vancouver School of Theology Principal, the Rev. Dr. Richard Topping said, "We have the incredible opportunity to construct a purpose-designed facility to advance thoughtful, engaged and generous Christian faith for the 21st century." His sentiments were echoed by Dr. Heather F. Clarke, Board of Governors Chair, "This opportunity provided by the University of British Columbia gives

Vancouver School of Theology new flexibility to develop physical, technical and financial resources to meet the needs of theological students and the wider community."

University of British Columbia's President and Vice Chancellor Stephen Toope's comments were, "This building holds historic significance for our community. When approached by VST, we grasped immediately the unique value of this opportunity. The arrangement also supports a theological institution that has been a valued academic neighbour for many years." And Gage Averill, Dean of Arts responded to the news saying, "This will generate great excitement for the Faculty of Arts. The magnificent Iona building is ideally suited for the UBC Vancouver School of Economics. It is a treasure that will provide an inspiring setting for our faculty and students."

**Background**  
**The Iona Building**

- Located at 6000 Iona Drive on UBC's Vancouver campus, the Iona Building features a tower that faces the North Shore Mountains and Howe Sound.
- The 99,663 square-foot building includes two large modern conference rooms, four seminar rooms, offices, residential rooms and a chapel and library.

**The Purchase Agreement**

- Over the past 20 months the VST board, faculty and senior staff studied how the institution could best fulfill its future mandate. The process revealed Iona was no longer suited to the school's new programming, and that different facilities were needed.
- VST approached UBC in 2012, to discuss the sale. UBC recognized the inherent value of this Vancouver architectural treasure on its

campus and its potential as much-needed new academic space.

- The UBC and VST boards have approved a purchase price of \$28 million and are satisfied that the deal is fair. Both institutions will now finalize the details of the transaction.
- UBC is financing the purchase and further renovations with an internal loan from its working capital. It is expected the debt will be completely repaid over the next 30 years through a combination of fundraising and income generated from the Iona property.

**VST Future Plans**

- VST will remain in the UBC Theological Neighbourhood and is exploring two possible options for its future home. One would involve a new construction in the theological precinct on the UBC campus. The other option is the repurposing of Somerville House. In either case, VST wants to design a facility that will support training for ministry in the 21st century.

- VST retains ownership of other buildings in the theological neighbourhood: Somerville House and Chapel of the Epiphany.
- VST plans to use the proceeds of the sale to continue its existing operations as a theological college at UBC, by investing in its facilities on the Vancouver campus and by setting aside a substantial portion of the remaining proceeds in an endowment that will generate income to support professional and pastoral training.

**UBC's Plans for the Iona Building**

- The University of British Columbia is one of North America's largest and most prestigious public research and teaching institutions, and one of only two Canadian universities to be consistently ranked among the world's 40 best.
- UBC will use the building and land for academic use only, with the Faculty of Arts' Vancouver School of Economics as the building's main occupant. UBC has yet to complete a detailed occupancy plan of the building.
- The UBC Vancouver School of Economics ([www.economics.ubc.ca](http://www.economics.ubc.ca)) is a global centre for research and hands-on learning about pressing economic issues. The School is one of the world's best: in a recent ranking based on research publications, the School ranked in the top 20 worldwide, and number one in Canada. ♣

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*Of special interest to the Diocese of New Westminster and the Ecclesiastical Province of BC and Yukon are the Anglican Archives located in the lower level of the Iona Building. These archive facilities are shared 60% with the United Church, 30% Anglican and 10% VST. It will be necessary to find a new home for the Anglican archives and move the collection by March 2015. • Editor*

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## OPINION

### When Did the Funeral Die in the Diocese of New Westminster?

MICHAEL FULLER  
Rector, St. John's, Shaughnessy

In coming from a parish where it was usual to officiate at about three funerals per week it was surprising to find in Vancouver a paucity of funerals. What funerals there were, were strange interpretations of the funeral rite. This was possibly something to do with the sanitation of death that has occurred in our society. No longer does anyone die; they pass away or they move on or even in some instances, move next door. Some of this, of course, has been hastened by the Church itself. I think of that famous poem by Canon Scott Holland, *Death Is Nothing At All*. If death is nothing, why are we so upset?

I recall, in the United Kingdom, a significant move in the way in which we recognised death. It happened at a football match where the crowds applauded, instead of falling silent, in memory of George Best. Or perhaps earlier, in 1997, when crowds applauded as the coffin passed by at the funeral of Diana Princess of Wales. Those of us who have conducted funerals over recent years would have participated in the move

away from abstract, grieving solemnity to a less formal focus of celebration of a person's life. I recall recently, when I led a funeral for a young man, I agreed to the family's request that at one point in the service, his friends could come forward and write messages on the plain white coffin. This was a long, informal and very moving section of the service as the many young people present wrote, drew and read words of appreciation for their friend. By contrast, another funeral that I led, the request was made to illuminate the coffin with red and white flashing lights and have reindeer horns on the front of the coffin because the younger person in question loved Christmas time.

We need to recall that there are four main purposes of Christian funerals and memorial practices: remembrance and thanksgiving for the departed; solemn farewell to a loved one; the proclamation of the hope of resurrection in Christ, in the face of the "last enemy" with its state of sin; and the commendation of the dead to God's love in eternity.

Sadly, the first of these is beginning to overshadow the other three, even in Church funerals. I believe that the Church is colluding too easily in the "death is nothing at all" culture, failing to offer a rounded Christian theology of death, and implicitly encouraging modern fantasies (Such as adults telling children that grandma is now a star in the sky or grandpa is an angel), which do not face the real scandal, and hope, of death. Sometimes I think we may be right to suggest, sympathetically and carefully, that some of the readings, music or endless photographs more properly belong at the funeral reception or wake and not in Church. We could also take more seriously the need for a sermon as well as the tributes. We should preach, in a way appropriate to the listeners, of the cross of Christ, the sharpness of death and its sting, and the hope not of "going to heaven," but of the final resurrection of the body. Quiet meaningful religious funerals and memorial services with, say, the lighting of candles, are one of the greatest gifts of the Church to

our culture; we ought to think more of how we do this, and how we create small oases of beauty and peace in a time of great sadness.

I think the time has come for the Church to begin challenging more firmly the surrounding culture of funerals and memorial services, in which, let's not forget, the denial of death is also the denial of resurrection. ♣



The Rev. Michael Fuller.



## OPINION



Cathy AJ Hardy. PHOTO Darrell Lecorre



*I am she... a soul's journey home*

Music by Cathy AJ Hardy  
Photo by Darrell Lecorre

### An Autobiography

CATHY AJ HARDY  
*Singer-Songwriter*

My name is Cathy AJ Hardy and I am a singer-songwriter from Mission. I was born in Chilliwack and grew up on Church property in the small town of Harrison Hot Springs where my father was a minister. My earliest memories are of the sacred space of the Church sanctuary and of the great outdoors that were on my doorstep. Bear Mountain stood with grandeur beside me as I rode my bike to school; the beautiful woods were a few steps away where I would follow my mother as she collected large basketfuls of ferns, moss and pussy willows to make displays of nature for Sunday mornings. And Harrison Lake was a beautiful blue landscape for me to feast my eyes upon.

I grew up loving the sounds of harmony flowing through the Church and the sense of community around me. From a very young age I felt a strong connection with God, especially when I was alone on Saturday mornings in the sanctuary, as it was my job to dust the pews and window ledges. I would take my dust cloth and fling it into the air and watch the dust particles turn into diamonds as they reflected the sunlight dancing in the yellow stained glass windows. In these moments I would sing to God.

It is these moments of connection with nature and with the great love of God to which my soul returned after many years of struggle, disappointment and heartache. The last fifteen years of my life have brought me through great transformation and healing. One of the most significant aspects of healing for me has been the restoration of my voice, both physically and metaphorically. At the epicenter of my dark night, I felt the "kiss of the prince" on my sleeping soul and in that moment knew I was called to sing. It was my childhood joy that had become dormant and lifeless.

It has been a long journey to freedom, but it is now here and I am so grateful to have just released my second solo CD called, *I am she... a soul's journey home*. The album contains that essence of healing and freedom I have come to celebrate. The title of the album reflects the ability to know one's value in the Love of God, to return home to that Love and then to live out from that place of Love. I believe when we live out of this place of home, out of the richness of God's love, that we are able to be abundant in carrying that love to the world. It will flow naturally out of all we do, because it will become our very essence. It is my profound desire that the songs on this album bring us into the experience of being reminded of that love, allowing our hearts to be transformed in that place of love.

One of the inspirations for me in the past 15 years in my healing journey has been the music of Taizé. Taizé is a place in France that has become a pilgrimage location for

thousands of people during the past 50 to 60 years. The writings of Brother Roger, the founder of Taizé, and the prayer songs of the Taizé community helped form my prayer life and root me in my spiritual practice. Brother Roger was passionate about reconciliation and inspired me to live a life with this as a central value. As a result, I became passionate about creating interdenominational Taizé evenings of prayer/song and have been creating, leading and writing music for these kinds of services in the Fraser Valley for the past 12 years. One of the places that I have had the joy of leading is St. John's in Sardis, where my friend Dale Yardy (currently rector of Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster) was priest for many years. For the past 11 years I've led Taizé services once a year at Westminster Abbey in Mission helping build friendship and understanding between Christians of different denominations. Hundreds of people from across the valley have attended these services and many have told me that these services have become a sacred space of prayer for them.

It was the Taizé music that inspired my first recording in 2006, called *rest, inspirations from Taizé*, funded by *Communitas Supportive Care* (a non-profit, faith-based social services agency providing care for communities in the Fraser Valley). In 2008, Communitas supported a second recording called *trust... inspirations from Taizé*, which was nominated Inspirational Album of the Year at the Gospel Music Awards (GMA) of Canada. In 2011, I embarked on my first solo album, *Love Shines*, which was nominated for Folk/Roots Album of the Year with the GMA.

I have also brought my music beyond the Church into the wider community through folk festivals, community events, and concerts. I've sung to individuals in hospice at the end of their lives and for large crowds of people from all walks of life. The songs of my heart have been described as "healing, inspiring, hope-filled, honest and courageous."

My heart continues to create music for the Church to lead us into the sacred chambers of prayer for the heart as well as bring music into the community to create songs that open up a connection with God's love. I love to partner with the community and support organizations working for justice.

Partial proceeds from the concert at Holy Trinity Cathedral on International Women's Day (March 8th), will be directed to Monarch Place, a transition home for women and children in New Westminster.

My deepest passion lies in sharing the songs of my heart and creating spaces of wonder, healing, beauty and connection with God through the gift of music. ✠

### CD Review

DAVID VAN BLARCOM  
*Christ Church Cathedral*

With her latest release, *I am she... a soul's journey home*, Cathy AJ Hardy presents her pitch-perfect voice in a sophisticated package of excellent back-up musicians and production values. The CD album itself is a pleasure to unwrap, with its booklet of lyrics and notes, and the CD itself imprinted with a labyrinth.

Cathy performs a variety of musical styles in an overall album concept that is soothing to listen to. A New Age sensibility, both musical and spiritual, pervades the album. The opening song, *Mama*, provides a good flavour of what is to come: A quiet, slow piano introduction (played by Cathy) is layered with wood block and bird sounds, and then by Cathy's voice, until the up-tempo shift when the drums come in.

The words of the songs are obviously important to Cathy. Like most of the songs, in *Mama* there is a poetic ambiguity as to the nature of the love:

Girl I don't do shame  
I'm the one who loves your name  
You are made to be free  
You are beautiful to me.

On one level, it is a mother singing to her daughter in the bath, but the deeper reference is to absolution by a Mother God who loves and redeems.

Cathy's 2011 album, *Love Shines*, was nominated as Folk/Roots Album of the Year for the Gospel Music Awards of Canada, but this is an album of the "spiritual," rather than the "religious." There are a few overtly Christian references:

The cut *Hallelujah* is (mercifully) not another cover of the Leonard Cohen classic, but a repeated chant of "hallelujah," often with South Asian references reminiscent of hare krishna; *Freedom For the Soul* is a jazzy setting of the gospel classic, *Let My People Go*; *Ina* is the Aramaic mantra "I am;" *Open* begins with the mantra "We open our hearts" and morphs briefly into "Star of Wonder" from the Epiphany carol, *We Three Kings*, before returning to the mantra.

In her liner notes, Cathy says:

"Each song is a reflection of the deep rivers of my heart and their access to the Presence of Love, the Source of Life. Moments of epiphany, wonder, healing and transformation led me to write the poetry and melodies."

Much of the album then places these mystical encounters in chants with lush musical settings.

This Cascadian spirituality, informed by Christianity, is summed up in the last stanza of the final song, *I Am She*:

I am she — reflecting You  
Source of all, Good and True  
I am she — reflecting You  
I am, I am. ✠

*The May issue of Topic will have coverage of Cathy's March 8th, 2014 CD release concert at Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster. Information on Cathy's performances, facilitated retreats and CD sales can be found on her website, <http://cathyajhardy.com>. • Editor*

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## Diocesan Youth Movement

### YOUTH CONNECTIONS

News & Events for Youth in the Diocese of New Westminster

#### youth groups •

For Parish Youth Groups go to <http://tinyurl.com/DNW-Youth>

**contact •** The Rev. Ruth Monette,  
Acting Director for Mission & Ministry Development  
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For two weeks each year around International Women's Day on March 8th, thousands of delegates from governments and civil society gather at the United Nations in New York City for the annual United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW). As part of civil society, faith-based organizations such as the Anglican Church send delegates to participate in the Commission. This year, the International Anglican Women's Network in Canada will be represented by Evie Byrne, a member of St. Mary's, Kerrisdale at the 58th Commission on the Status of Women. Evie will be one of three teens who will join the ten-person delegation from the International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN) Canada.

This represents a significant increase in the number of young people as a part of the Canadian Anglican group at UNCSW. Beth Adamson, the Anglican Consultative Council's representative on the UN Working Group on Girls, points out why this is particularly crucial this year:

"We are reviewing the Millennium Development Goals this year and one of the underlying purposes is to be positioned more effectively for the Post-2015 (Development) Agenda. And that is the agenda that girls today will inherit tomorrow."

The Millennium Development Goals are a set of eight priorities for international development that were established following the UN Millennium Summit in 2000. The Anglican Consultative Council in 2005 recognized the implications of the Millennium Development Goals for gender equality in the Church when it passed motion 13-31 stating that it "acknowledges the Millennium Development Goal for equal representation of women in decision making at all levels, and so requests... all member Churches to work towards the realisation of this goal in their own structures of governance." The priority theme of this year's Commission on the Status of Women, as alluded to above, is "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls." In addition to the three young Canadians, this year's Anglican group will also include five teens from the Episcopal Church in Virginia and one from the Anglican Church in New Zealand.

While at UNCSW, these young delegates will attend orientation and events put on by the Working Group on Girls as well as other organizations, according to their individual interests. Through the orientation day, the Working Group on Girls hopes to prepare these young delegates for what is always a busy week of events, and empower them to share their own experiences and opinions with the Commission. One of the first events following orientation is the drafting session for the Girls' Statement to UNCSW 58—in addition to the encouragement to speak their mind, this process is also helped along by one of the other fundamental values of the Working Group on Girls, which is to work as collaboratively as possible. The youth delegates, a smaller group within UNCSW, are together not just for training and work, but also for several fun community building events throughout the first week of the Commission.

Community building and collaboration are also priorities amongst the Anglican group. The girls attending this year have connected with one another and with chaperones ahead of time on *Facebook*. They were also asked to collabo-

rate on preparing and leading intercessions for the Opening Eucharist of the Anglican Communion delegation. During CSW, the Anglican group works with Ecumenical Women, a coalition of progressive, Christian, faith-based organizations. We also gather every morning in the Chapel of the Church Center at the UN for worship, led each day by one of the member groups. For the members of Ecumenical Women, our activism and passion for gender justice finds its source in our faith. Morning worship allows us time to reconnect with God and one another and provides us with the strength and energy for the important and often difficult work of the Commission. It is also an opportunity for celebration of the achievements we have made together towards the goals of gender justice.

But the work of the delegates is not limited to the two weeks of the Commission. There is a great deal of preparation before anyone even arrives in New York. They must prepare reports on what contributions they hope to make to the Commission and how the priority theme connects to their own life and experience. In her letter to IAWN Canada, Evie spoke about how gender inequality in her school has affected her:

"I play rugby as a school sport and with a community team in the summer... men and women play with the same rules and regulations. Rugby empowers women as it proves men and women can achieve the same goals and participate in the same activities... The Vancouver School Board does not yet promote or support rugby as a sport for girls. It is taught in gym class for boys, ...but it is not taught in gym class for girls. Even at a community sport level, women's rugby teams who play internationally have to pay their expenses, with little support from the Rugby Union of Canada, or sponsors..."

Evie cited this as one of several examples of how the school environment treats people unfairly according to their gender identity or expression.



## Youth Transforming the Unjust Structures of Society for Women and Girls

CAITLIN REILLEY BECK

Youth Ministry Coordinator, St. Philip, Dunbar



LEFT Dance and movement are incorporated into prayer and music during morning worship at UN Church Center. RIGHT The Rev. Carolyn Seabrook and Debbie Grisdale (delegates representing IAWN Canada) arrive at the UN from Ottawa on March 2nd, 2013 for the 57th UN Commission on the Status of Women. PHOTOS Caitlin Reilly Beck

In addition to these reports, prior to their trip, delegates from Canada must find ways to cover the cost of their trip to UNCSW, which for someone travelling from Vancouver can reach \$2,500 for just one week in New York. This can be especially challenging since in Canada, there is no national source of funding to support delegates participating in UNCSW and in most dioceses there is no money earmarked for this purpose so funding is dependent on what is available in discretionary funds. Since being able to find one's own funding is actually a condition of being chosen as a delegate, this places participation in UNCSW outside of the financial reach of many people, for example youth and young adults.

The situation is not without hope, however, as parishes and individuals have stepped up to provide funding for delegates. This year, St. Mary's, Kerrisdale has been the base of operations for fundraising to cover the costs of Evie's trip. Evie hosted a fundraising lunch on Sunday, February 2nd at St. Mary's with the help of the combined youth group from St. Philip's, Dunbar and St. Mary's. She also made and sold cookies after Church on Sundays, which then inspired more bakers from the parish to generously prepare and donate baked goods for her to sell each week. These different kinds of support offered to Evie by many generous people are all ways in which we are living out the Marks of Mission. Through these efforts, we are seeking to transform the unjust structures of society, which have prevented the voices of many women and girls from being heard and valued.

Evie, along with Caitlin Reilly Beck, Youth and Family Worker at St. Philip's and this year's official Primate's delegate to UNCSW, will share their experiences from New York at an event supported by the Diocesan chapter of the International Anglican Women's Network, presently coordinated by the Ven. Ellen Clark-King sometime later in the spring. ✠



LEFT TOP The Anglican Communion delegates to UNCSW after leading worship in the Chapel of the UN Church Center in March 2013.

LEFT BOTTOM Representatives from Ecumenical Women and Canadian delegates from the International Anglican Women's Network meet with Suzanne Cooper (Chief Negotiator for the Canadian Delegation) at the UN Commission on the Status of Women, UNCSW57).

RIGHT Stained glass window from the UN Church Center Chapel of the "all seeing eye" of God symbolizing that in the midst of humanity's struggle with destruction and violence, God is ever present. It is in turning to God that humanity is able to escape despair and bring about peace.

PHOTOS Caitlin Reilly Beck