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Ordinations on the Feast of the Nativity of John the Baptist

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor



The Executive Archdeacon, the Ven. Douglas Fenton, the Rev. Patricia Ratcliffe, the Rev. Liz Hamel, the Rev. Alex Wilson, Bishop Skelton, the Rev. Lucy Price, the Rev. Clare Morgan, the Rev. Ross Bliss, and the Rev. Mark Munn. PHOTO Bayne Stanley



LEFT The three new priests. RIGHT The new vocational deacon with the Archdeacon of Deacons, the Ven. Bruce Morris. PHOTOS Bayne Stanley



The three newly ordained to the transitional diaconate. PHOTO Bayne Stanley

On Saturday, June 18, 2016 at 10:30 am more than 500 people filled Christ Church Cathedral where Bishop Melissa Skelton ordained: to the Vocational Diaconate, Patricia Ratcliffe; to the Transitional Diaconate, Mark Munn, Lucy Price, and Ross Bliss; and to the Priesthood, Clare Morgan, Alex Wilson, and Liz Hamel.

Seven were ordained, which is the largest number of ordinations in recent memory. And notably, the ordinations to the priesthood were the first of Bishop Skelton's 28-month episcopacy.

The inside front cover notes in the service bulletin prepared by Christ Church Cathedral presented a summary of the liturgy not just in its scope and content but also of its theological foundations including this following excerpt from the Book of Alternative Services (BAS).

"The Holy Scriptures and ancient Christian writers make it clear that from the apostles' time there have been different ministries within the Church. In particular, since the time of the New Testament, three distinct orders of ordained ministers have been characteristic of Christ's holy catholic church. First, there is the order of bishops who carry on the apostolic work of leading, supervising, and uniting the Church. Secondly, associated with them are presbyters, or ordained elders, in subsequent times generally known as priests. Together with the bishops, they take part in the governance of the Church, in the carrying out of its missionary and pastoral work, and in the preaching the word of God and the administration of the holy sacraments. Thirdly, there are deacons who, in addition to assisting bishops and priests in all this work, have a special responsibility to minister in Christ's name to the poor, the sick, the suffering and the helpless."

The service bulletin notes went on to include the following:

"Baptism is the foundation of all ministries. At this ordination you will witness many signs and symbols and hear many words about the ministries of deacons and priests. The purpose of all ordained ministry is God's mission to the world, which is exercised by the whole people of God so that all might know of the grace and love of God we have received in Jesus Christ our Lord."

In his opening address of welcome, Dean Peter Elliott informed those gathered that Bishop Skelton had transferred the June 24 Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist to June 18 in order that those ordained at this liturgy would celebrate the anniversary of their ordination on a feast day. This feast day has a deep connection to our country of Canada. He also let the congregation know that their financial gifts received during the offertory would be directed to Primates World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) relief to the victims of the May fires in Fort McMurray.

The music led by Christ Church Cathedral's director of music and organist Rupert Lang was geared toward congregational singing, which was made evident in the choice of the Opening Hymn, *For All the Saints*. Some of the music in worship led by Cathedral Choir included, the Peter Hallock setting of *Psalm 85* and Bobby McFerrin's paraphrase of the *23rd Psalm* as the Fraction Anthem which were both sublime.

In her sermon, Bishop Skelton began by summarizing the birth narratives of John and Jesus in the first chapter of Luke and the miraculous nature of those events. She presented the concept that perhaps the Angel Gabriel expected more from the senior priest Zaccaria than from the "young peasant woman," Mary,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



The ordinands line up for rehearsal prior to worship. PHOTO Randy Murray



Bishop Skelton and the diaconal ordinands prior to worship. PHOTO Randy Murray

Ordinations on the Feast of the Nativity of John the Baptist

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

as Zaccaria was rewarded with nine months of being mute—his doubt and Mary was given an explanation concerning her selection by God to give birth to the Messiah. Bishop Skelton's intention was not to "scold" Zaccaria and point out his faults "but to see in the story of Zaccaria the priest, a cycle of experience that those about to be ordained are likely to encounter in their ordained life." Drawing on the work of theologian Alyce McKenzie, Bishop Skelton went on to explain that this "cycle of experience has three movements":

1. **Reasonable Doubt (doubt with a reason and an explanation which is part of "the terrain of ordained life"):** "But reason and the doubt it brings to us, by itself, can't take any of us to a place of openness to how God may be moving through us, and at times in spite of us to bring new life out of what is old, spent, stuck and dark."
2. **Allowing our Reasonable Doubt to Lead us to Prayer:** "Prayer for the people and situations that mystify us," prayer for the Anglican Church, prayer for people and parishes, prayer for ourselves... and prayer for the World "for the Church is the only society that was created for the sake of those who are not its members."
3. **Out of a Time of Silence and Prayer the Naming of God's Faithfulness and Power:** Zaccaria, once he is able to speak, "prophesizes in poetic cadences... he speaks about God's faithfulness to God's people in the past, in God's ongoing faithfulness in the future through the son (John the Baptist) that he and Elizabeth have been given. It's a future in which it is God who will give light to those who sit in darkness; God who will give light to those sitting in the shadow of death; God who will guide our feet into the way of peace."

What our doubts drive us into through prayer is a new trust that "the God we worship and adore is faithful, is active... is alive!"

An audio of Bishop Skelton's sermon is available online at www.vancouver.anglican.ca/media/2016-06-18-ordinations-in-the-holy-church-of-god-june-2016.

The remainder of the ordination progressed through the various stages and peaked with the presentation by Bishop Skelton of the newly ordained to the community, followed by the exchange of the Peace of Christ and the Eucharist, with each ordinand administering the Body of Christ partnered with someone who has been close to them during their time of discernment. One of the most memorable moments during the sacrament of ordination was during the Examination of the ordinands by the bishop, Naomi,

Mark Munn's *almost* three year old daughter decided that she would come up to the chancel steps and be with her dad. This included rearranging the kneeler. It was a great moment.

Four of the ordinands: the Reverend's Clare Morgan, Liz Hamel, Mark Munn and Lucy Price did their theo-

logical studies at Vancouver School of Theology (VST); the Rev. Alex Wilson is a graduate of Trinity College, a college of the University of Toronto; the Rev. Ross Bliss is entering his third year at Huron College, a college of the University of Western Ontario; and the Rev. Patricia Ratcliffe did her diaconal training from 2011–2013 with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



LEFT In the Park Room at CCC organizing the items that will be distributed during the liturgy. RIGHT Clare and Patricia before the Vestry Prayer. PHOTOS Bayne Stanley



The more than 50 clergy gather in the Parish Hall of Christ Church Cathedral for the Vestry Prayer prior to processing. PHOTO Bayne Stanley

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



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The diocese of New Westminster

The Anglican Church in the Lower Mainland and on the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia, located on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish First Nations, consisting of 68 worshipping communities.



The Bishop of New Westminster

The Rt. Rev. Melissa M. Skelton

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Thank you!



LEFT Members of Cathedral Choir lead an SRO congregation in the singing of the Opening Hymn, *For All the Saints*. MIDDLE Members of the Munn family listen to the Old Testament reading. RIGHT John Wilson, ODNW reads *Isaiah 40: 1–11*. PHOTOS Bayne Stanley



LEFT The Rev. Dr. Bill Crockett, the Rev. Wilmer Toyoken and the Rev. Michael Batten are seen processing up to the Decani side of the chancel during the opening hymn. RIGHT Thurifer, Jeffrey Preiss incensing the Sanctuary Party. PHOTOS Bayne Stanley



LEFT Members of Cathedral Choir lead the *Psalm 85: 8–13*. RIGHT Felly Farinas shares the Epistle, *Acts 13: 14b–26* in *Tagalog*, one of the languages of the Philippines. PHOTOS Bayne Stanley



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

then-diocesan director for diaconal formation, the Rev. Dr. Richard Leggett

Congratulations are in order, and go out to: the Rev. Patricia Ratcliffe (presented by the Ven. Karen Urquhart, the Rev. Deacon Anne Anchor, and Eleanor Rogers) who will serve as vocational deacon with Archdeacon Urquhart at St. Catherine's, Port Coquitlam; the Rev. Ross Bliss (presented by the Rev. Jeremy Clark-King, Keith Landherr, and Jo Anne Tharalson) who will complete his third year studies at Huron College; the Rev. Mark Munn (presented by the Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark-King, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott, and the Rev. Canon Harold Munn) who will serve as assistant deacon curate with the Rev. Brian Vickers at St. Anne's; the Rev. Lucy Price (presented by the Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark-King, the Rev. Kevin Hunt, and Peggy Smyth) who will serve as assistant deacon curate with the Rev. Kevin Hunt at St. James'; the Rev. Liz Hamel (presented by the Rev. Deacon Dixie Black, the Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark-King, and David Swan) who will serve as assistant curate with Archdeacon John Stephens at St. John's, Shaughnessy; the Rev. Clare Morgan (presented by Marian Boyle, the Rev. Marilyn Hames, and Carol Simpson) who will serve with Archdeacon John Bailey at St. Philip's; and the Rev. Alex Wilson (presented by the Rev. Dale Yardy, Christopher

Jones, and Shirn Theophilus) who began his appointment as priest-in-charge (vicar) at St. Anselm's located at the

entrance to the University of British Columbia campus July 1, 2016. ✠

More photos from the Ordinations on pages 4 & 5...

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

compiled by Anglican Archivist Melanie Delva

20 years • 1996 The diocese of New Westminster becomes a sponsoring diocese with Education for Ministry (EfM) Canada, introducing the program for the first time in the diocese.

40 years • 1976 The Rev. John Jeffries begins pastoral ministry among the Indigenous People of Greater Vancouver.

50 years • 1966 The growing use of computers and "electronic equipment" as a dehumanizing factor in society is the main topic of discussion at the Diocesan Program Planning Committee gathering.

THE VICAR'S BREAK

HOW WE ARE GOING TO COPE



BETTY WILL SET UP THE MICROPHONES



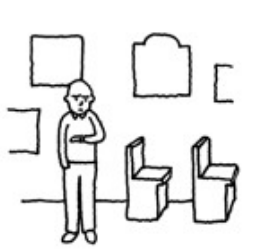
KEVIN WILL BOX THE BAUBLES



ARTHUR WILL TURN ON THE HEATING



GLADYS WILL FOLD THE SERVICE SHEETS



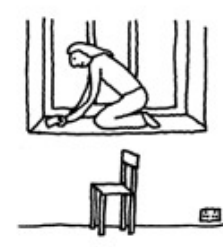
BRIAN WILL WAIT IN CHURCH FOR THE LADY TRACING HER ANCESTORS



ROSEMARY WILL OPEN AND BIN THE CHURCH-FURNISHINGS CATALOGUES



DAVID WILL PUT THE CHAIRS BACK IN A SYMMETRICAL PATTERN



TINA WILL SCRAPE THE CANDLE WAX OFF THE WINDOW LEDGES USING THE (EXPIRED) PARISH CREDIT CARD



SUSAN WILL CATEGORISE THE LOST UMBRELLAS



NIGEL WILL TAKE CHARGE OF THE GRIT

CartoonChurch.com

Ordinations on the Feast of the Nativity of John the Baptist

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



LEFT Prior to the reading of the Gospel, *Luke 1: 57 – 80*, the Rev. Andrew Wilhelm-Boyles, deacon of the Word for the Eucharist incenses the Bible and the ambo. RIGHT Bishop Skelton preaching. PHOTOS Bayne Stanley



The Presentation of the ordinands. PHOTO Bayne Stanley

EXPLORING
God's Call



The Examination of the seven ordinands. PHOTO Bayne Stanley

Vocations Day
October 22, 2016
9:30am – 2:30pm
Synod Office
• 1410 Nanton Avenue, Vancouver
• Lunch is included

The Diocese of New Westminster is taking steps to actively promote vocations to diaconal and priestly ministry. This active promotion aligns with our desire as Christian people to be faithful servants of the Lord, ensuring that all those who sense a call have the opportunity to explore and discern that call potentially leading to ordained ministry in Christ's Church.



Join Bishop Melissa Skelton; the Venerable Bruce Morris, Archdeacon of Deacons; the Reverend Dr. Ellen Clark-King, Director for Diaconal Formation; and others who explored God's call for a day dedicated to the topic of Divine Call.

Parish clergy interested in encouraging vocations also welcome!



“Discovering Vocation does not mean scrambling toward some prize just beyond my reach but accepting the treasure of true self I already possess.
Vocation does not come from a voice 'out there' calling me to be something I am not. It comes from a voice 'in here' calling me to be the person I was born to be, to fulfill the original selfhood given me at birth by God.”
• Fr. Thomas Merton, OCSO (1915 – 1968) •

Let us know you are coming by contacting
the Venerable Bruce Morris at bmorris@vancouver.anglican.ca
or by calling the Synod Offices at 604.684.6306



The soon-to-be-Reverend Lucy Price signs the Oath as the Executive Archdeacon looks on. PHOTO Bayne Stanley



The ordinands participate in the responses to the Litany. PHOTO Bayne Stanley



LEFT Ross is ordained with the laying on of hands. LEFT MIDDLE Naomi has possession of the kneeler as her father Mark is ordained. RIGHT MIDDLE The newly ordained deacons receive their stoles. The Rev. Mark Munn receives his stole from his father, the Rev. Dr. Harold Munn. RIGHT The priesting of the Rev. Alex Wilson. PHOTOS Bayne Stanley



The newly ordained are presented prior to the Peace. PHOTO Bayne Stanley

Incensing the Altar during the Offertory. PHOTO Bayne Stanley



LEFT The newly ordained deacon of the Table, the Rev. Patricia Ratcliffe. MIDDLE The Sanctuary Party singing the Sanctus. RIGHT The Rev. Lucy Price administers the Body of Christ. PHOTOS Bayne Stanley



The Rev. Clare Morgan administers Holy Communion to her mum, Moria Morgan, ODNW. PHOTO Bayne Stanley



Bishop, archdeacons, ordinands, and sponsors. PHOTO Bayne Stanley



The Episcopal Blessing. PHOTO Bayne Stanley

Congratulations!



LEFT The St. Michael's Multicultural/Anglican Church of Canada/diocese of New Westminster booth and supporters (the author is back row, far right). RIGHT The Executive Archdeacon joins the group from St. Michael's. PHOTOS Courtesy of Louie Engnan



The presentation of the Canadian and Philippine flags. PHOTO Louie Engnan



The Pride Group. PHOTO Louie Engnan



A Wonderful & Blessed Anglican Supported Event Celebrating Philippine Independence

LOUIE ENGNAN
Rector, St. Michael, Surrey

On Saturday, June 4, 2016, a very warm sunny day, between 600 and 700 people gathered for a daylong celebration in East Vancouver. The diocese of New Westminster, through the three parishes of: St. Mary the Virgin, South Hill; St. Michael's Multicultural Church, Vancouver; and St. Michaels, Surrey, supported the 118th Philippine Independence Day celebrations at Memorial Park South in Vancouver. It was a day of great anticipation and excitement. For the very first time Anglicans took part in *Pistang Bayan* (Feast of the Community).

At 7 am, a tent was set up in the venue and preparations were underway to ensure that the Anglican Church of Canada would be recognized by the different Filipino communities under the umbrella organization of the *United Filipino-Canadian Association of British Columbia* (UFCABC). UFCABC is the sponsoring organization for this festival.

The festivities began with a worship service. The Rev. Expedito Farinas, priest-in-charge of St. Mary South Hill, led a prayer of thanksgiving. The prayer focused on the gifts of freedom, justice, equality and human dignity. It also acknowledged that the Lord of history guided the Filipino people to unite and fight for freedom and independence from all forms of oppression, abuse and tyranny, and above all, the prayer celebrated the blessings of God for this beautiful land that has become a true home for many Filipino families, and the diverse culture that is now an integral part of our present day society.

Immediately following the worship service, participants assembled for the parade. The festive mood was intensified with a drum and lire group leading the parade. More than 45 affiliate members of the UFCABC from across the province joined in, including: Migrant Workers of BC; Pinoy Pride; BIBAK (folks from the towns/regions of: Bontoc, Ifugao, Benguet, Abra, and Kalinga); and Iloili Ati-Atihan (representing an ethnic community in the southern part of the Philippines).

The Anglican diocese of New Westminster was represented in the parade by: Executive Archdeacon, the

Ven. Douglas Fenton; the Rev. Wilmer Toyoken; the Rev. Expedito Farinas; the Rev. Louie Engnan; and some faithful members of the three aforementioned parishes.

Following the parade, everyone gathered in the middle of the park for the focal point of the day—the Philippine Flag Raising Ceremony officiated by the Consul General. It was a very moving moment for every Filipino-Canadian to sing the *Lupang Hinirang* (the Philippine National Anthem). All people gave their full attention while the Philippine flag was being raised in the middle of the assembly. All had their right hands on their hearts while proudly singing in their national language. At the conclusion of the anthem, everyone expressed their emotions with loud and sustained applause.

There were many visitors to the booth marked by the St. Michael's Multicultural Church banner representing the Anglican Church of Canada and the diocese of New Westminster. The visitors wanted to know the locations of the parishes, information about the priests and also how many Filipino families there are worshiping in each parish. Many of the visitors to the booth had no idea that there are Filipino clergy now serving in our diocese and many were unaware of the presence of a local denomination connected to the Episcopal Church in the Philippines and the Philippine Independent Church.

In any Filipino gathering, big or small, a celebration can only be completed and gauged as successful through the abundance of food. Every booth offered a different menu: *lechon* (roast pig), *pansit* (noodles), *suman* (sticky rice wrapped in a banana leaf), *fish ball* (a kind of street food in the Philippines), and much more. A variety of fruit juices: mango, *buko* (coconut), and *sama lamig* (gelatin) were made available for everyone. The Executive Archdeacon even tried some *sama lamig*, which he enjoyed very much.

This year's celebrations filled the hearts of the many people who value freedom and independence. The Filipinos believe independence is a blessing from a loving God who guides the Filipinos in the pilgrimage for equality, respect and human dignity. ♦



LEFT Staffing the St. Michael's Multicultural/Anglican Church of Canada/diocese of New Westminster booth. MIDDLE & RIGHT The Migrants Workers in the BC Rights Group. PHOTO Louie Engnan

Diocese Co-Sponsors Interfaith Spiritual Practices Series

The diocese of New Westminster is a long-respected leader in Vancouver's Interfaith community. Our leadership continues, advances, and even deepens with the Ecumenical & Multifaith Unit (EMU) and St. Paul's Anglican Church, Vancouver who are partnering on *5 Ways of Engaging the Heart: Experiences in Inter-Spiritual Practices*.

Open to the public, *5 Hearts* is unique in the history of Vancouver's Interfaith community. With a focus on the heart, not the head, it invites participants to directly experience and sample spiritual practices from a selection of the world's great faith traditions: Islam (Sufism), Judaism, Hinduism, First Nations and Christianity.

The series' emphasis on the heart is more than symbolic. The heart, referenced in all major faith traditions, offers mystics across traditions with a Divine-opening:

"Drumsound rises on the air, its throb, my heart. A voice inside the beat says, 'I know you're tired, but come. This is the way.'"

Rumi: Islam

"My children, forget not My instruction,
and may your heart keep My commandments..."
Mishlei 3:1: Judaism

“...worship me in the hearts of all...”
The Bhagavad Gita: Hinduism

"A good heart is the foundation of being
a human being."
*Nuučaan̓ul (Nuu-chah-nulth / Nootka):
First Nations*

"A silent heart is a pure heart;
a melody singing in the heart of God."
Sr. Marie-Aimée de Jésus OCD: Christianity

5 Hearts offers five separate Tuesday evenings within one integrated series in the welcoming and sacred surroundings of the Labyrinth Hall at St. Paul's Anglican Church. This series is intentionally designed to be experientially-based, learning-centred, and cumulatively-approached to help move participants from their head into the hearts in inter-spiritual practices. The intention is for participants to experience all five nights as a way to purposefully create a sense of community for mutual learning and spiritual growth.

The series launches on October 25, 2016 with Islamic Sufi spiritual practices. Under the theme of *The Practice of Sacred Turning*, this first evening offers participants a visual and direct experience of whirling (sema) meditation, a spiritual practice introduced 750 years ago by Sufi saint, mystic, and poet, Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī. This night is facilitated by David Coskun and semazens of the Rifa'i Sufi Order.

The second evening of *5 Hearts*, on November 15, 2016, focuses on Jewish spiritual practices. Themed, *The Joy of Hebrew Chant and Niggun*, this night is facilitated by Lorne Mallin and members of the Chanting & Chocolate Band. Participants will engage in sacred Hebrew chants and wordless melodies called *niggun*, which can be both contemplative and ecstatic. Lorne, long active and respected in Vancouver's interfaith community, leads monthly evenings of sacred Hebrew chanting at Or Shalom Synagogue.

5 Hearts third night, on January 17, 2017, is with Hindu spiritual practices. Themed, *Give Peace a Chant—Unity in Diversity—Peace Through Kirtan and Mantra Meditation*, this evening features Sandra Leigh of Vancouver's popular *Give Peace a Chant Kirtan*. Participants are invited to enter the sacred through call and response chanting and devotional songs called Bhajans from the Indian tradition of Bhakti Yoga (the yoga of devotion). Sandra, a respected leader in Vancouver's interfaith community, is additionally a celebrity Yoga instructor through her Shaw TV show, *Yoga*

Moves for Every Body.

The fourth evening of 5 Hearts, on February 21, 2017, is with First Nations spiritual practices. Themed, *xwaythut—to wake oneself up*, Audrey Siegl (sx̣ḷemṭəṇa:t—St'agid Jaad) from Musqueam, a prominent First Nations presence in Vancouver life, will directly connect participants to the spiritual practices of those welcoming first peoples on whose lands Vancouverites now reside. Audrey will use her Musqueam language, songs, and truth to open hearts and minds of participants for soulful re-connection.

5 *Hearts* final evening, on March 21, 2017, brings the focus to Christian spiritual practices. The theme of this concluding night is, *Sacred Walking—Holy Contempla-*

tion: Inner Journeying on the Labyrinth at St. Paul's Anglican Church, and is facilitated by both Amma (Mother) Jessica Schaap, rector of St. Paul's, and members of the parish's Labyrinth Guild. Participants will learn about, explore, and "inner journey" on St. Paul's labyrinth, a full 13-metre permanent replica of the medieval labyrinth laid in the stone floor of the 13th-century Chartres Cathédrale in France.

\$75 is the inclusive registration fee for all five nights of this *5 Hearts* series. For more information, including registration and how to pay via PayPal online, please visit www.stpaulsanglican.bc.ca/site1/event-items/5-hearts. To register over the phone and pay via cheque, please call

604.685.6832, ext. 10.

For more information on the Ecumenical & Multifaith Unit (EMU) please go to www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/unit-groups/pages/ecumenical-multifaith. And for more information about St. Paul's Anglican Church, Vancouver please visit www.stpaulsanglican.bc.ca.

With thanks to EMU Committee members for this 2016–2017 year for developing, planning, and organizing this series: The Rev. Deacon Steve Bailey, the Rev. Fr. Robin Celiz (Chair), Tom Esakin, Fernando Esté, the Rev. Deacon Christine Magrega, and Donna Wong-Juliani. ✠

5 WAYS OF ENGAGING *the* HEART

EXPERIENCES IN INTERO SPIRITUAL PRACTICES



location: The Labyrinth Hall of St. Paul's Anglican Church, 1130 Jervis Street, Vancouver

registration: \$75.00 is the inclusive fee for all 5 nights of this “5 hearts” series

Registration is for the full series of 5 nights and is not available per individual nights.

Pre-registration with pre-payment is required as space is limited.

To enhance experiential learning, registration is “non-transferrable.”

To register online and pay via Paypal, visit: <http://stpaulsanglican.bc.ca/site1/event-items/5-hearts>

To register over the phone and pay via cheque, please call: 604.685.6832, ext.10

Registration is non-refundable.



Presented by St. Paul's Anglican Church, Vancouver and the Ecumenical & Multifath Unit of the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster



Music in worship leaders and members of the congregation during the opening hymn. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Bishop Skelton welcomes those gathered at St. Laurence, Coquitlam. RIGHT The Rev. Andrew Wilhelm-Boyles, Diocesan EfM Coordinator. PHOTOS Randy Murray

Followers of the Way EfM Graduation Eucharist

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The following quote consists of the second and third paragraphs of the sermon that the Rev. Andrew Wilhelm-Boyles preached at the Education for Ministry (EfM) Graduation Eucharist that took place the evening of June 15 at St. Laurence, Coquitlam.

“We are followers of the Way of Jesus Christ who have made a huge commitment to gaining deeper understanding of that Way. We are well educated in the theologies, history, doctrines, dogma and practices of our church. We are equipped with a level of knowledge that enables us to discuss our faith in informed and nuanced ways.

We have spent serious time, together and alone, in prayer, reflection, worship, discussion and discernment of gifts, all for the purpose of... what? Two things in particular come to mind that are complementary:

1. Assuming thoughtful, caring leadership within the

community of faith

2. Engaging in meaningful dialogue with and service to the world outside our walls.”

(The entire sermon is available online at www.vancouver.anglican.ca/media/2016-06-15-efm-graduation-eucharist)

Rev. Wilhelm-Boyles, currently a deacon at St. Catherine’s, Capilano is also the EfM Coordinator for the diocese. With these few brief words he encapsulated the desired outcome of those who participate in and ultimately graduate from the four-year EfM program. Here is the introductory paragraph from the EfM Canada website:

“Education for Ministry is a program of theological education by extension for lay people. There are four years of study, but participants commit for one year at a time, meeting in small groups with a trained mentor. The program combines academic study with integrative components to help participants take what they learn about Scripture, church history, theology and ethics into their own lives and hearts, supporting them in living out a vibrant baptismal ministry in the church and in the world.”

The majority of the 12 graduates who were recognized on the evening of June 15 are leaders in their parish communities. Their strong desire to deepen their faith and have that faith working within, propelling into the world to strive for justice and peace for all, is of huge benefit to both the communities of faith where they worship, and to the greater community in general.

The service was joyful, prayerful and celebratory. There were a number of folks in the congregation who through their attendance were showing their support for friends and relatives receiving their certificates. Many of the congregation, music-in-worship leaders, communion administrators and sanctuary party consisted of: currently enrolled students, mentors and graduates, including our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Melissa Skelton who has a deep fondness and connection to EfM. For it was as a young mother in the southern United States that Bishop Skelton came to faith and then deepened her conversion through EfM. Never one to do anything by halves, Bishop Skelton quickly became one of the youngest EfM trainers and mentors in the Episcopal Church. Bishop Skelton made sure that even during a very busy week she was available to preside at this Eucharist and distribute the certificates.

Congratulations and prayers go out to the new graduates: the Rev. Helen Lingham, St. Andrew’s, Langley; Mary Bitroff, St. Hilda, Sechelt (Mary was unable to attend due to distance and travel issues); Leslie Hammond, Christine Longley, and Arlene Sturn, St. John, Port Moody; John Bower, Martha Melissen, and Melis Melissen, St. Thomas, Chilliwack; and Barry Goodwin, Gordon Graham, Lynne Graham, Wilna Parry, and Alison Watt, North Vancouver Region EfM Group.

During the worship, Bishop Skelton announced that the Rev. Paula Porter-Leggett a long time EfM mentor has been appointed Associate Coordinator to assist the Rev. Andrew Wilhelm-Boyles.

If you would like more information about EfM and EfM groups meeting or being formed in our diocese please contact the Synod Office at 604.684.6306. ✦



LEFT Alecia Greenfield, of the North Vancouver Region EfM group reads *Genesis 2: 4 – 7*. RIGHT The Offertory. PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT The Eucharist. RIGHT New graduate Wilna Parry receives the Blood of Christ from North Vancouver Region EfM group member, Jim Berger. PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT Bishop Skelton and Deacon Wilhelm-Boyles prepare to cut the TWO celebratory cakes. PHOTO John Sovereign RIGHT The graduates and mentors with Bishop Skelton. PHOTO Randy Murray



Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death

On the evening of Wednesday, June 8, 2016 a group of approximately 40 people gathered in the nave of St. Philip, Dunbar to participate in a panel presentation and facilitated open mic event in order to offer some perspectives of patients and families on *End of Life and Medical Assistance in Dying*.

The panel consisted of Dr. David Kuhl and the Very Rev. Dr. Peter Elliott. Dr. Kuhl is an MD (palliative care specialist) and holds a PhD in psychology. His book, *What Dying People Want: Practical Wisdom for the End of Life*, based on a research project he conducted more than 15 years ago has become one of the most respected offerings ever published on the subjects of death and dying. Peter Elliott is rector of Christ Church Cathedral and the Dean of the diocese of New Westminster. He has a great deal of experience in pastoral care to the dying, beginning in his days as a curate in the diocese of Niagara up to and including his long incumbency (22 years as of September 2016) as the rector of Christ Church Cathedral, a parish with a large congregation and a considerable connection to the unchurched in the City of Vancouver. Many non-churchgoers, the dying and their families seek spiritual care and guidance from clergy at the end of life.

The event was moderated by priest-in-charge of St. Philip, the Ven. Dr. John Bailey who is himself a scholar and expert on funeral practices in the church both from contemporary and historical viewpoints.

Wednesday's event took place in the context of the then-current debates in the Senate over Bill C-14. Bill C-14's subheading is as follows: *An Act to amend the Criminal Code and to make related amendments to other Acts (medical assistance in dying)*. In short, this is the physician assisted death (PAD) or medically assisted suicide bill. While folks were meeting at St. Philip, Dunbar the Senate was debating a motion to remove "near-death criteria" from the current version and that motion passed 41–30. This changed the Liberal government's assisted-dying bill because it amends the definition of who can obtain PAD.

In many ways the discussion at St. Philip on June 8 mirrored the caution and diligence of the Senate. A number of voices including the panelists were heard to say that this is something that we need to "get right" no matter how many amendments are proposed and debated and/or how long it takes to reach a consensus.

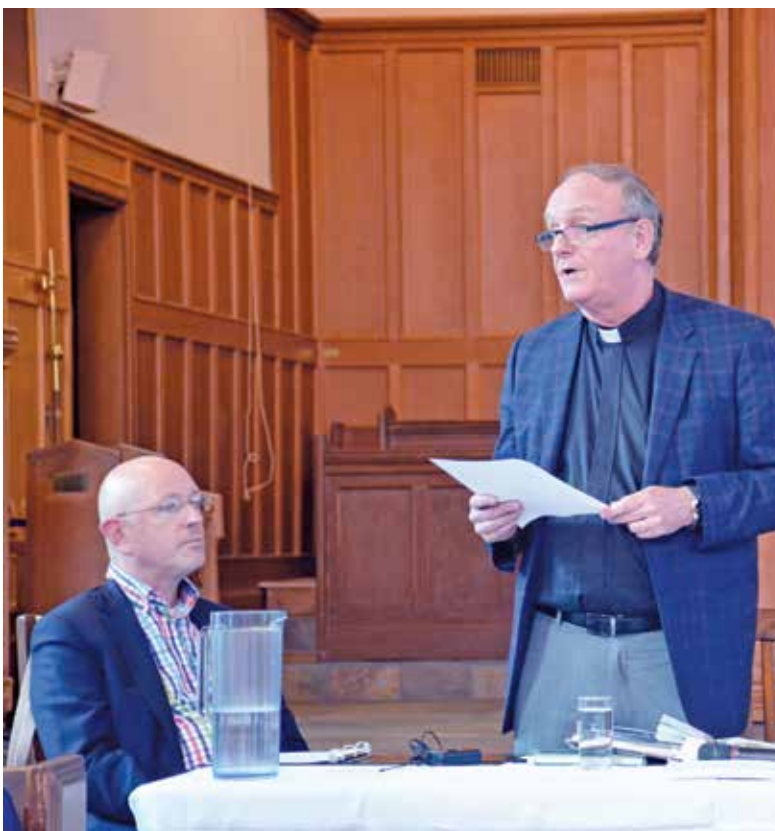
In his opening address, Dr. Bailey supplied some background on the changes the church has seen over the centuries involving death and funeral practices. Regarding how society currently views death and dying he encourages us all to raise awareness that "suppression of death as a serious discussion" is an impediment to our development. He asked, "Why do we use so many euphemisms? What's wrong with die, dying or death?" And he affirmed that the Christian church has always been a place where public discussion about personal choice when it comes to end of life issues is welcomed and nurtured.

Dr. Kuhl said that this is a *dialogue*, and dialogues are not arguments nor are they discussions. Dialogue is about understanding, and we need to be aware that what is about to happen will change the country forever. PAD is not "going to happen, it is happening now." He continued to share some personal experiences from his career in palliative medicine. He said that people when they're dying "want to hear the truth and want to speak the truth." Dying is narrative, it is nearing the end of the story and we want to honour the requests that people may have. When faced with decisions about end of life we need to have investigated the questions: What is suffering? What is anguish? What is pain? Near the conclusion of his opening address he looked out at the audience and said that although this has been a good chunk of his life's work "everyone in the room could share an experience of being with someone who is dying."

Dean Peter Elliott began by offering the disclaimer that he is "not an expert" but he wanted to reinforce that we "talk about these things in the church." He focused on the two things that Dr. Kuhl's opening words had raised for him which were:

1. What goes on in the media coverage of the government's decisions and debates allows us to have this discussion.
2. Why all this attention on the last 15 minutes of life when ALL of the death and dying process is important?

Dean Elliott spoke about the discussion led by four clergy and six physicians at Christ Church Cathedral that resulted in the publication of the 2014 document, *The End of Life and the Right to Die—A Conversation Starter*, available online at www.thecathedral.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/COMBINED-DOCUMENT-TEXT-AND-COMMENTS-2.pdf



The Rev. Dr. John Bailey offers opening remarks. PHOTO Randy Murray



Dr. David Kuhl. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Very Rev. Dr. Peter Elliott. PHOTO Randy Murray



Dr. Marv Westwood addresses the panel. PHOTO Randy Murray

Dean Elliott's principal messages had to do with preparation. He urged everyone to contact a lawyer and arrange for a Will and a Representation Agreement as soon as possible. He gave compelling examples of the importance of reaching out to those with whom you have had disagreements or where things have been left unsaid or unaccomplished. It is so important to get these things done now because "death is hard work for the dying and for everyone else involved in that death experience." But we must remember that death is a spiritual experience and like other human events that transcend the day to day, like birth, "death takes on its own time, it has its own rhythm."

University of British Columbia (UBC) Psychology professor, Dr. Marv Westwood is an expert on Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD) in part through studies of its effects on Canadian Armed Forces personnel. He stood up during the first open mic segment and affirmed the appropriateness of having this discussion in the nave of a church surrounded by stained glass windows depicting gospel events. For Dr. Westwood this is a deeply spiritual discussion, which has great consequences. He voiced his concern for the physicians tasked with administering medically assisted death. He asked, "What about the souls of my fellow Canadians, the physicians?" As someone who studies PTSD there could very well be a secondary consequence of PAD, the build-up of trauma from repeatedly administering terminal sedation.

There were those present who offered the opinion that medically assisted death is still suicide and that if death has its own time, its own rhythm, its own kind of peace then that should be allowed to happen in a natural way. Suicide is still suicide and shouldn't be condoned.

The Ven. Dr. John Bailey responded to these points saying that the role of the church is to help people through

life's traumatic situations and the death by suicide of a loved one is a most traumatic event. The church is not here to be judgmental but to offer hope that there is something beyond the pain and suffering.

Toward the end of the dialogue Dr. Kuhl informally presented a summation. He said, "Assisted dying is here to stay. This law will happen, it's happening now... What will the options be? We must keep asking the questions... How can we all participate in the discussion so it doesn't divide us?"

Before adjourning to another room for refreshments and further discussion, the Ven. Dr. John Bailey offered the following prayer by George Herbert.

Thou hast given so much to me,
Give one thing more, — a grateful heart;
Not thankful when it pleaseth me,
as if Thy blessings had spare days,
but such a heart whose pulse may be Thy praise.

UPDATE

The Canadian Press reported on June 17 that Bill C-14 was given royal assent less than two hours after senators voted 44–28 to accept the controversial legislation, which limits the right to assisted dying to those whose natural death is "reasonably foreseeable."

The Senate had amended the bill to include those who aren't terminally ill, but on June 16 the Commons voted to reject the change.

Rather than kill the bill outright or insist on the amendment and bounce it back to the Commons once again, a majority of senators gave up on June 17 and accepted the government's version of the bill.

PAD and pastoral care will be the principal topics of the Clergy Day scheduled for November 15, 2016.✦



The Rev. Liz Ruder-Celiz and the Rev. Christine Rowe quietly react to the applause as their new ministry is officially welcomed by the SMK congregation. PHOTO Randy Murray

Those Who are Right Beside Us

A Celebration of New Ministry at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Approximately 100 lay and clergy gathered at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale (SMK), Tuesday, June 14, 2016 for *A Celebration of New Ministry*, the official installation by Bishop Melissa Skelton of the Reverends Christine Rowe and Elizabeth (Liz) Ruder-Celiz as Assistants to the Rector (the Rev. Jeremy Clark-King) at SMK. Bishop Skelton preached and presided at the Eucharist. Prior to the priests signing the Oath and being officially welcomed by the community, Bishop Skelton led all those present in the Renewal

of Baptismal Vows followed by the two newly (officially) installed assistant priests asperging all those gathered in the nave. It was a very moving and significant reinforcement of baptismal commitment.

The Rev. Christine Rowe was received into the diocese of New Westminster 15 years ago from the Church of England, concluded nine years as rector of St. Catherine's, Capilano last fall and will be specializing in pastoral ministry at SMK.

The Rev. Liz Ruder-Celiz, originally from Wisconsin but moved to the diocese of New Westminster at an early age was raised in the area. Liz recently completed eight months as interim priest-in-charge at St. John's, Shaughnessy. Liz will be specializing in Christian Formation.

Both Christine and Liz have spouses who are priests with current appointments in the diocese of New Westminster. The Ven. Stephen Rowe is rector of the Anglican Parish of the Church of the Epiphany, Surrey and Archdeacon of Fraser; and the Rev. Robin Ruder-Celiz is vicar of St. Martin's, North Vancouver and chair of the Ecumenical Multifaith Unit of the diocese.

In her homily, Bishop Skelton took the Gospel *Luke 10: 1-11* for her text. She made reference to the tragic events that had taken place earlier in the week in Orlando (the Pulse nightclub shootings) and in the Philippines (the murder of Robert Hall by terrorists). In her analysis of Jesus' sending out of the 70, two by two, the Bishop focused on the goodness that people can do when they focus on those who are *right beside us*...

"And so tonight we are here to do many important things that have to do with those right beside us. We are here to celebrate the gift of two priests to this parish, two priests that we all know and love, and we are here to celebrate the gift this parish will be to both of them. We are here to affirm the importance of their leadership not only in the responsibilities each has been given but also in the presence each brings to her work. We are here to affirm that at its core, both of their roles will be to work with Jeremy and other staff members here at St. Mary's to collaborate with and uphold the ministry of the baptized in this place. We are here to draw near to the Holy Table on which the gifts of bread and wine will become for us the gifts of Christ's body broken and his blood spilled, the sign of God's own identification with all of human life, even the grimmest parts. And, finally, we are here to affirm that all of these things and all of what happens here at St. Mary's on a daily basis are not only important but are critical in this world of ours today..."

Tonight the nearness of the realm of God and the human lives that are shaped by this nearness — shaped to love, shaped to seek peace, shaped to pursue justice — these are the abundant fruits of the work that Liz and Christine and Jeremy and the people of St. Mary's and you and I do every day. This work with and among *those right next to us* are what we can do as we stand feeling helpless in the face of random and senseless death. This work with and among those right next to us are what we can do to create our own little patch of goodness in the world...

And so tonight as we celebrate these two women who have become fellow cultivators of this particular patch of goodness that is St. Mary's, we are here to celebrate that this patch of goodness

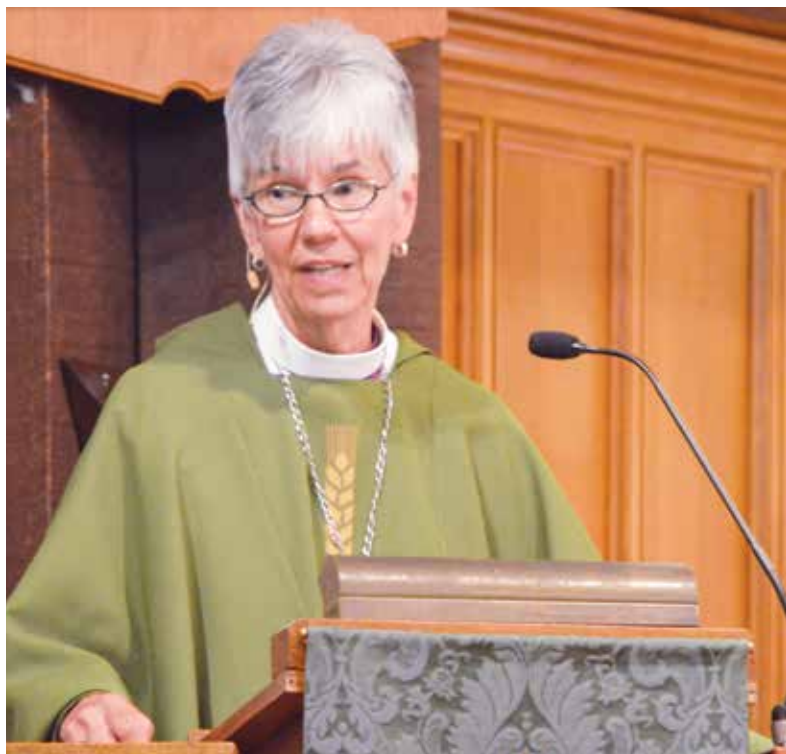
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The Cantoris side of the chancel with the SMK Choir and the Archdeacon of Vancouver, the Ven. John Stephens leading the Opening Hymn, *Will You Come and Follow Me*. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Bishop Skelton reads the announcement of the two appointments. RIGHT The Rev. Christine Rowe's eldest child Hannah reads *Jeremiah 1: 4-9*. PHOTOS Randy Murray



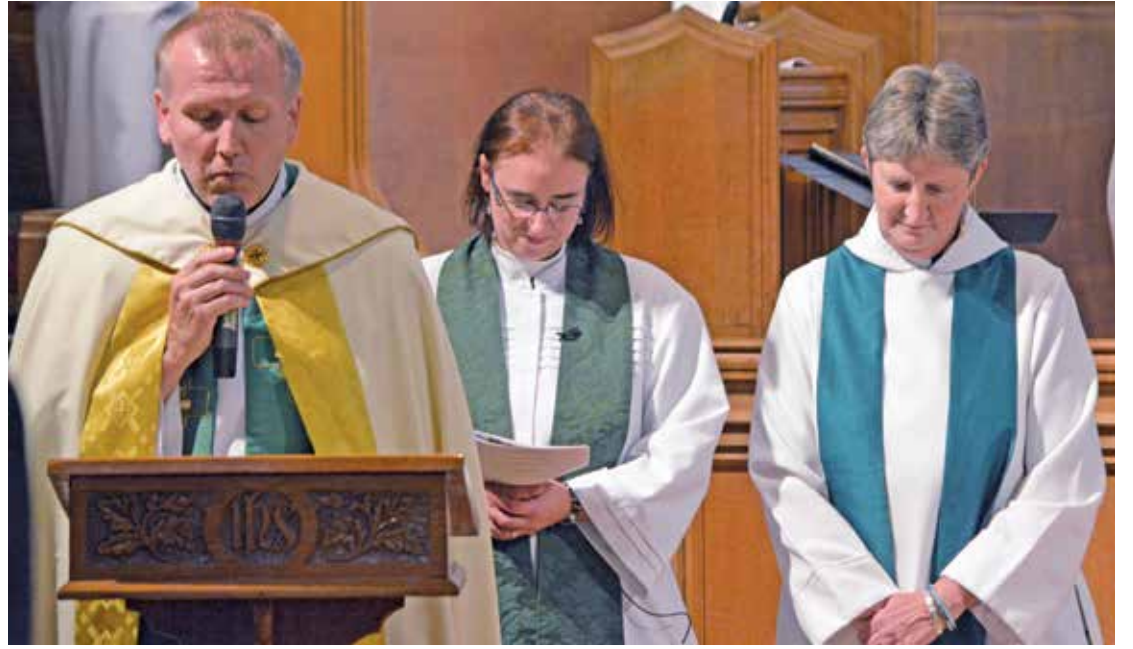
Bishop Skelton preaching. PHOTO Randy Murray



SMK rector, the Rev. Jeremy Clark-King pours in the water for the renewal of baptismal vows. PHOTO Randy Murray



Asperges. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Ven. John Stephens, Archdeacon of Vancouver reads the licenses. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT The Rev. Liz Ruder-Celiz reads the Oath with the Ven. Douglas Fenton looking on. RIGHT The rector presents the new Assistant to the Rector for Pastoral Ministry, the Rev. Christine Rowe, some symbols of her ministry. PHOTOS Randy Murray



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

is not alone but is organically connected to its brother and sister parish churches that, as they work, all send out their shoots to knit together one great field of goodness, one great field that is the solid ground on which the realm of God will grow. For the realm of God cannot be stamped out but stands around us and before us like one vast abundant wheat field that the wind blows over and through. The realm of God stands around and before us like one vast abundant wheat field bursting with grain, ripe with a harvest of light and love, peace and justice, forgiveness and renewal, generosity and welcome."

This liturgy was all about *those right beside us*. Liz's young daughters were being watched and cared for in the congregation by Christine's adult daughters. Christine's eldest daughter Hannah read the lesson from the Hebrew Bible, *Jeremiah 1: 4–9*. Robin and Stephen both administered the wine of Holy Communion beside their spouses during the Eucharist. And the rector, the Rev. Jeremy Clark-King was there as a ministry partner, supportive and present.

Please keep the clergy and lay of SMK in your prayers as they embrace this new chapter in ministry working "with and among those right beside us." ✠

*"The realm of God
stands around
and before us
like one vast abundant
wheat field
bursting with grain,
ripe with a harvest
of light and love,
peace and justice,
forgiveness and renewal,
generosity and welcome."*



Eucharistic Prayer. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT The Eucharist. PHOTO Randy Murray RIGHT The Reverends Christine Rowe and Liz Ruder-Celiz prepare to cut the celebratory cake at the reception following worship. PHOTO Carol Williams



Garden Party in Honour of Queen Elizabeth’s 90th Birthday

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The weather in early and mid-June 2016 for the Greater Vancouver Area had been pretty awful. Cold, windy, rainy, overcast and damp, not good weather for outdoor events. But luckily for the organizers of Holy Trinity, Vancouver’s Garden Party and Tea in honour of Queen Elizabeth’s 90th birthday the sun came out and shone brightly and warmly from 1 pm to 3 pm on June 12.

The green space and terrace sidewalk situated to the west between the church building and Chalmers Care Home was attractively appointed with red, white and blue balloons, and the tables covered with bright red tablecloths.

A number of parishioners were in attendance, having remained on the site following the main Sunday service of Holy Communion and the coffee hour that followed. Many parishioners were involved in the preparation of the event, putting the tables and decorations in place, plating the finger sandwiches, tarts and other sweet delicacies and of course making the tea, both hot and iced.

With a good crowd already in place by 1:15 pm, Holy Trinity’s rector, the Rev. Karl Przywala, resplendent in formal clericals welcomed everyone to the event. He said that Queen Elizabeth actually “gets three birthdays,” her day of birth in April, Victoria Day and the official royal birthday

celebration appointed for June in order to take advantage of drier weather. He asked the group if they were aware of the milestone event that was celebrated on June 10, the first day of the official weekend of the Queen’s 90th birthday celebrations, and many of the assembled called out that June 10, 2016 was Prince Philip’s 95th birthday. He then took a short walk out onto the green apologizing that Queen Elizabeth couldn’t be in attendance but that they did have an almost life-sized cardboard image of her placed beside a portable pavilion.

The tea cart was the first item to be brought out from the Holy Trinity kitchen which signaled the rector to lead the singing of grace:

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”

The singing of grace was followed by the singing of *The Maple Leaf Forever* (readers under the age of 40 will likely need to ask a parent or grandparent about this song), which was thoroughly enjoyed by those in attendance. Small paper flags of the Province of British Columbia were also distributed.

The sandwiches, cakes and tarts were soon brought out and placed on buffet

style tables. The food and drink were much enjoyed by all.

Although sponsored by the Parish of Holy Trinity, this was very much an event presented for the neighbourhood and for the community. There was no charge and all were made welcome. There was a piper, a soprano soloist and a pianist all contributing to the festive atmosphere. The entertainment portions of the event received enthusiastic applause.

The Rev. Karl Przywala forwarded the sermon (taking *1 Peter 2: 4–17* and *Luke 20: 20–26* for his texts) he had preached that day to diocesan communications to help give some context to the celebrations taking place that afternoon and also to provide a biblical foundation to our roles as both Christians and citizens. A PDF download of the sermon is available at <http://bit.ly/2aGIVoY> on the web. ☙



LEFT The Rev. Karl Przywala with “Her Majesty.” RIGHT Nova Leaf models the perfect look for the Queen’s Birthday Tea. PHOTOS Randy Murray

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LEFT The arrival of the teapots, milk, sugar and lemon. RIGHT Putting out the finger sandwiches. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Flags, cakes and tarts are ready to serve. PHOTO Randy Murray



Tea on the Green in South Granville. PHOTO Randy Murray

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REQUIESCAT IN PACE

The Reverend Celia Howard

March 14, 1951 – July 8, 2016

It was with sadness that Bishop Skelton circulated to the clergy of the diocese of New Westminster a pastoral letter announcing the death of the Rev. Celia Howard.

Celia was raised a Roman Catholic in pre-Vatican II times.

She was ordained in the diocese of Huron in 1990 and served in a three-point charge there.

Celia was very active singing and performing in amateur theatre while she was kept busy raising her three children. Celia continued her love of theatre, music and dance throughout her life.

She moved to Vancouver in 1996 with her husband the Rev. Bob Korth who had been appointed Priest Associate at Christ Church Cathedral. During the decade that followed, Celia served at St. Monica's, Horseshoe Bay and St. Catherine's, Port Coquitlam.

In 2006, Celia and Bob moved to the Sunshine Coast and served at St. Andrew's, Pender Harbour. For three years they shared the only clergy-couple-ministry in the history of the diocese.

During her time in ministry at St. Andrew's, Celia completed her Masters Degree from the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology in San Francisco and wrote an Application/Integration Paper titled, *The Dancing Fool's*



LEFT The Rev. Bob Korth's favourite photo of his beloved wife, Celia. PHOTO Courtesy of Bob Korth RIGHT The Rev. Celia Howard with the choir of St. Monica's, Horseshoe Bay in 1997. Celia is in the front row second from right. PHOTO Courtesy the Archives of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon



Journey about dancing as a spiritual practice.

In the last few years, Celia learned to play the harp, continued with ballet classes, took up both Pilates and yoga, studied and practiced Positive Psychology, and delighted in her three grandchildren.

The Funeral Eucharist took place Friday, July 15 at All Saints' Anglican Church in Vernon, BC.

Bishop Melissa Skelton presided and the rector of All Saints', the Rev. Canon Chris Harwood-Jones was the preacher. ✠

David R. L. Rolfe, ODNW

June 12, 1932 – July 4, 2016

On July 4th, 2016, David Richard Lyttelton Rolfe, ODNW one of the most committed and active members of the diocese of New Westminster died at home surrounded by his family.

In recent years many of us in the diocese knew David as that energetic person from St. Stephen's, West Vancouver, (a Chartered Accountant by profession) who would appear early on the second day of Diocesan Synod usually accompanied by members of his family to oversee the election of diocesan officers. As the returning officer, he took his role seriously but was always quick with a smile and a joke when he took his place on the dais after lunch on the second day of Synod to announce the results. He would chuckle and shake his head upon announcing a list of candidates who had been acclaimed without opposition.

The company he founded in 1958 Rolfe, Benson LLP has for decades been the auditors for the diocese of New Westminster and will continue in that role for 2016.

David was a man who was passionate about life and lived it to the fullest: a world traveler, a yachtsman (he was a member of the Vancouver Yacht Club for 69 years and served as Commodore), a tireless leader and patron in and of a number of organizations he remained steadfast and supportive of the Church. His lifelong connection to the Anglican Church included receiving his early education at St. George's School, his involvement in the diocesan chapter of the Anglican Young People's Association (AYPA) and leadership at the parish and diocesan levels throughout his life. Leadership which was officially recognized in 2012, when David was invested into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW) in recognition of his decades of service.

David is survived by his wife loving wife Margaret; his sister Elizabeth Rolfe-Thomas (Reverend Mother Elizabeth Rolfe-Thomas was installed May 2015 as Reverend Mother of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine); his much loved children and grandchildren.

A memorial service was held for David on Tuesday, July 26, 2016 at Christ Church Cathedral.

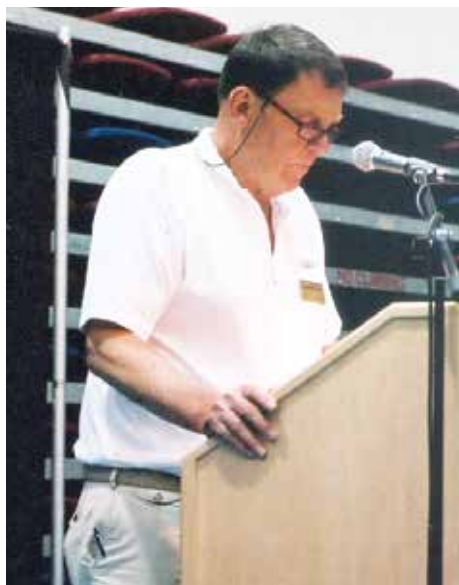
A generous contributor of time, talent and treasure

David asked people to consider a donation in his memory to the Order of St. John Palliative Care Foundation (Suite 2200, Four Bentall Centre, 1055 Dunsmuir Street, PO Box 49214, Vancouver, V7X 1K8) or the Lions Gate Hospital Foundation, Palliative Care (231 East 15th Street, North Vancouver, V7L 2L7).

To view David's Obituary in the Vancouver Province online, please visit <http://bit.ly/2aE5M7s>✠



David Rolfe reading the Gospel, August 2014. On the left is the Rev. Trevor Fisher. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT David Rolfe — Returning Officer, 2001. PHOTO Courtesy of the Archives of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon MIDDLE The returning officer and the team, Synod 2008. PHOTO Julie Ferguson RIGHT David receiving the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW) from the 8th Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster, the Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham, November 2012. PHOTO Wayne Chose

Diverse People on a Spiritual Journey

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

June 19, 2016, the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost was the day of Bishop Melissa Skelton's scheduled Episcopal Visitation to The Church of the Holy Spirit, Whonnock. As of this visit to Holy Spirit, a milestone was achieved, for Bishop Skelton had now visited every parish in the diocese at least once during the 28 months of her episcopacy.

Holy Spirit, Whonnock experienced a name change in 2008 (formerly St. John) and a new outlook on ministry during the time the Rev. David Price was priest-in-charge. This country parish has continued to be a small but committed faith community that supports each other and strives to define itself by its mission statement, "*Open Minds, Inquiring Hearts, Diverse People on a Spiritual Journey.*"

Recently, the parish has been served by two Sunday Supply priests: the Rev. Howie Adan who left our diocese to become the senior chaplain at Heathrow Airport in London on March 1, 2016; and currently, the Rev. Gordon Shields who recently completed an interim ministry as priest-in-charge of nearby St. George, Maple Ridge.

The lay leadership is to be congratulated for their ministry over the recent years: Mary Blackstock, Deborah Sproule, Thomas Kerr and Bob MacMillan, ODNW who with the support of the parish keep the buildings and grounds pristine.

Upon arrival at the church driveway, grounds and parking area, the first thing visible was a professionally produced sign featuring the words **Bishop Melissa Skelton** in one of the many Old English print fonts.

The worship began with the procession at 10:05 am leading into the Celebration of the Eucharist. Bishop Skelton was assisted by: deacon, the Rev. Connie Wilks; Sunday Supply priest, the Rev. Gordon Shields; People's Warden and Bishop's Chaplain, Tom Kerr; and Bishop's Warden, Bob MacMillan. Bob led the music in worship and the intercession.

For her sermon text, Bishop Skelton selected both the Hebrew Bible reading, *1 Kings 19: 1–15a* and the Gospel appointed for the day, *Luke 8: 26–39*. In making reference to these two stories from Scripture, both extremely rich and colourful narratives (she referred to the readings for the day as "an embarrassment of riches in our scriptural stories"), Bishop Skelton early in her address said, "Scripture holds up a mirror to our lives, but also reflects the presence of a hidden, patient and loving God who pursues, who confronts, who embraces and who redeems."

She said that this is the God we need in our lives particularly in these times when terrible things happen in the world (the Orlando shootings had taken place seven days previously). Based on the theme of "drivenness" in the two narratives, Bishop Skelton asked questions, "Where in your life is there a kind of drivenness at work; something that separates you from others on account of its unrelenting claim on you? Drivenness, like addiction; drivenness, like obsession (that would be mine)... Where is this drivenness even in the service of something good, seemingly out of control, leading you into a sense of dangerous self-isolation or a sense of self-righteousness." We become obsessed; we become "vessels of energy" that lash out.

God answers this by bringing to us the "sound of sheer silence." That complete quiet that follows the noise and tumult experienced by Elijah in Kings and the "authority and profound calmness" that Jesus brings to Legion the man possessed by demons.

What both these stories seem to be suggesting is that where we might look for God's presence in the midst of destructive drivenness is not in an equal but opposite driving force, that is, God's presence is not in the whirlwind, not in the earthquake, not in the fire, not in some loud argument that Jesus might've initiated with the demons possessing the man in Luke's gospel story; although we might wish that was the response. Rather, God's presence wells up in the form of a silent authority and probing energy, an energy that asks questions of us; questions that banish our drivenness and returns us to ourselves.

Bishop Skelton then described the experience that she'd had the week before at a vigil held at the Vancouver Art Gallery for the victims, families and friends of the Orlando shooting. She looked to her left and saw a group of people quietly holding up four individual, and differently coloured placards on sticks that read, "LOVE–WILL–ALWAYS–WIN." "Present with us that night, God, patient, hidden to some, authoritative, (that statement is authoritative as well as loving), God, in the face of any drivenness that would destroy creation, reminds us that love can be our answer to the question of what we are doing here. Love can be our response to the most terrible of situations. Love can be what returns us all... to ourselves."



Bishop Melissa Skelton, the Rev. Connie Wilks and the people of the Parish of Holy Spirit, Whonnock on the stairs leading up to the parish hall entrance. PHOTO Randy Murray



It helps when a member of the parish works for a sign company. Thank you Tom for the best ever "Reserved for the Bishop" parking sign. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Bob MacMillan, ODNW accompanies the Offertory Hymn, the Rev. Connie Wilks in the background. RIGHT At 10:05 am the procession began. PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT People's Warden, Deborah Sproule read *1 Kings 19: 1–15a*. MIDDLE Treasurer, Mary Blackstock read the Epistle, *Galatians 3: 23–29*. RIGHT The Deacon of the Word and Table for the liturgy was the Rev. Connie Wilks here reading the Gospel passage, *Luke 8: 26–39*. PHOTOS Randy Murray

Following the Eucharist, Bishop Skelton dedicated the new sign for the *Garden of Memories*. The donation, dedication and production of this sign are of special significance

to the Holy Spirit community. The sign was donated to the church by the Hjørleifson family, in memory of "Bud."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



The Eucharist. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Bishop Skelton blesses the new sign for the memorial garden, held by People's Warden/Bishop's Chaplain, Thomas Kerr. RIGHT The Eucharistic Prayer. PHOTOS Randy Murray



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Bud's eldest daughter, Moraine shared the following story:

"Bjorn (Bud) Hjorleifson and Dorina became members of the parish in the early 90s when they moved to Maple Ridge from Coquitlam (they had started their married life in Maple Ridge and then moved back after 25 years, once they'd retired). They became heavily involved with the church and Bud served as a rector's warden/people's warden for years. Dorina was honoured with the award for service (2015 Investiture into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster) late last year for all of her time on various committees as well.

Bud passed away unexpectedly in September 2014, and we asked for donations in his name to go to the church's memorial fund. David Locke, a very close family friend and Maple Ridge resident donated his time and talent to create the *Garden of Memories* sign for the memorial garden at the church, in honour of Bud as both Bud and Dorina dedicated a great deal of time and love to the parish."

Closing out the worship, the Rev. Gordon Shields asked if there were any birthdays and/or anniversaries in the parish and a good number of people came up to the chancel entrance for birthday and anniversary blessings.

Before heading into the parish hall for lunch and the customary visitation conference with Bishop Skelton, the entire community represented that morning posed for a photo on the parish hall steps.

Then it was time for lunch and a Q&A session, with Bishop Skelton leading parish members through a dis-

cussion of goals, needs and resources. This was greatly enhanced by the fact that members of the parish had written a letter to Bishop Skelton that she had received earlier with her order of service binder. The parishioners had written to share what they like about Holy Spirit, what worries them and what their hopes are for the parish. They were direct messages, nobody but Bishop Skelton saw them.

As part of the after worship events and in recognition of this being the closest Sunday to Aboriginal Day, June 21, Bob MacMillan representing the parish presented Bishop

Skelton with a piece of First Nation's art donated by local artist Bill Parry.

May the members of the Parish of Holy Spirit, Whonock continue to be *Diverse People on a Spiritual Journey*, and while on that journey may they realize that *Love Will Always Win*. ✠



LEFT Blessings received by a couple on their anniversary. PHOTO Randy Murray RIGHT Bishop Skelton with Bob MacMillan and her gift from the parish. PHOTO Stan Jackson



LEFT Bishop Skelton, Thomas Kerr and the Rev. Gordon Shields. PHOTO Randy Murray RIGHT The Rev. Marnie Peterson in the foreground at the Candlelight Vigil for the Victims, Families and Friends of the Orlando nightclub murders on June 12, 2016. To Marnie's left are the placard signs that Bishop Skelton referred to in her homily. PHOTO Bishop Melissa Skelton





LEFT The Rev. Louie Engnan, rector of St. Michael's welcomes the congregation and gives some information about the format of the outdoor worship. MIDDLE The first thing that happened following the opening hymn was the commissioning of Krista Fry and the Rev. Laurel Dykstra.

Third Annual Tri-Parish Eucharist & Picnic in Surrey

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On June 26, 2016, for the third consecutive year, Bishop Skelton was the preacher and presider at the Surrey Tri-Parish Eucharist and Picnic held at Bear Creek Park in Surrey. It was a beautiful early summer day that saw 280+ members of: the Anglican Church of the Epiphany ('Epiphany'), St. Michael's and St. Helen's gather for worship and a sumptuous buffet lunch. The St. Mary's Chaldean congregation that worships at 'Epiphany,' donated much of the food provided for the luncheon. There were, of course, a good number of folks from St. Mary's present as well.

By 9:30 am the portable covered pavilions were assembled to offer protection from the sun for the Sanctuary Party and for the equipment and operators of the audio gear. Bishop Skelton arrived from Seattle between 9 and 9:30 am with her best friend Teddy the West Highland Terrier. At 10 am many lawn chairs had been assembled in the area directly in front of the worship area and the three parish banners were put in place behind the altar. When worship began just after 10:30 am, the central area had filled up and numerous shaded areas within easy listening distance of the loudspeakers had groups of people gathered together to keep out of the mid-morning sunshine.

All three parishes were active in organizing the event. The three rectors: the Ven. Stephen Rowe of 'Epiphany,' the Rev. Louis Engnan of St. Michaels, and the Rev. Stephen Laskey of St. Helen's worked together with lay volunteers Christa Groves of 'Epiphany,' and Natasha Kaweski, Jeddy James and Ed Pilarski of St. Michael's to put on the event. The three readers were each from one of the Surrey parishes. The Deacon of the Word and Table was the retired deacon from 'Epiphany,' the Rev. Len Dyer. The Prayers of the People were led by three younger members of the three parishes and the music in worship for the 2016 Tri-Parish Eucharist was led by folks from St. Helen's; accompanist Chris Rychert and choir leader Lynn Turner, supported by members of the choirs from each of the three parishes. During the Eucharistic Prayer, the Rev. Stephen Laskey

led the congregation with a call and response sung version of the Lord's Prayer. The eight Eucharistic administrators were also sourced from each of the three parishes.

The liturgy began with Bishop Skelton commissioning the Rev. Laurel Dykstra, priest-in-charge of Salal + Cedar Watershed Discipleship and Krista Fry of St. Michael's who would be participating in the Surrey Pride Day parade and activities later that afternoon.

Bishop Skelton took the Epistle reading for her sermon text, *Galatians 5: 1, 13-25*. During the children's talk she asked the younger members of the diocese what they would do if "they could do anything" they wanted to do. There were a variety of answers ranging from, "I would play with my cars" to "read my books" to "jumping on a trampoline" and then Bishop Skelton offered a suggestion that was met with much enthusiasm, "eat all the ice cream you want." Bishop Skelton was introducing to the youngsters the concept of freedom and the responsibility of freedom. Bishop Skelton paraphrased for the children (and for everyone else gathered) what St. Paul says in the reading selected for the day, "Jesus wants us to take our freedom, and to use it to love other people."

A video and text of Bishop Skelton's sermon is available online at <http://bit.ly/2aAIKk7>.

There were a number of Communion stations set up around the worshipping area for the Eucharist and things went very smoothly.

After worship, Bishop Skelton offered "Grace" before the meal and a line formed north to south from where the buffet tables were set up.

When everyone had eaten their fill of food largely donated by the Chaldean community, which included pizzas and a variety of savoury Middle Eastern specialities, the Chaldean congregation organized a line dance in the area that had earlier been the venue for worship and invited people to participate. ✠



The three parish banners are suspended in the "chancel" area of the outdoor worship space. PHOTO



LEFT The Peace. RIGHT The Eucharist. LEFT The Chaldean community that worships at the Anglican Parish of the Church of the Epiphany provided a large amount of food including many pizzas and savoury Middle Eastern specialities. The remainder of the food was brought by the



RIGHT The Children's Talk. Bishop Skelton took the Epistle for her Children's Talk and sermon text. PHOTOS Randy Murray



The three intercessors: Jack (Epiphany), Miriam (St. Helen's), and Natasha (St. Michael's). PHOTO Randy Murray



Randy Murray



The Rev. Stephen Laskey, rector of St. Helen's led a call and response sung version of *The Lord's Prayer*. PHOTO Randy Murray



Members of the three parishes, potluck style. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Bishop Skelton and Teddy pose for a selfie headed for *Instagram*. PHOTO Randy Murray



The newly baptized Jesus and Valentina with the Rev. Emilie Smith. PHOTO Randy Murray



Clergy, acolytes, and crucifer share some smiles before processing in. PHOTO Randy Murray

Connecting People to the Nearness of God

The Feast of St. Barnabas

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On the weekend of June 11 and 12, 2016, “Juneuary” came in like a lion, with gusting winds and copious precipitation reported across the Lower Mainland. But this inclement weather did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the organizers of, and participants in, the Feast of St. Barnabas, 125th Anniversary Celebration at the Parish of St. Barnabas in New Westminster.

Saturday, June 11 there was a St. Barnabas Day Celebration on the church grounds and in the hall with a special invitation going out to those friends who live nearby in the historic *Brow of the Hill* neighbourhood. There was music, decorations, special guests (including members of the Loyal Order of Water Buffalos of *Flintstones* fame) and of course St. Barnabas’s, trademark, delicious food. The kitchen team included a couple of New Westminster Firefighters. The fabulous aroma of simmering Central American cuisine filled the parish hall and beyond.

The first bout of entertainment got started early, as the skies were very threatening. First up on the portable covered stage situated on the parish grounds between the church and the hall was *The Syndicate*. *The Syndicate* played a mix of covers and original tunes, light rock, blues, rock with a jazzy edge and a latin tinge. With the rains threatening and the Saturday morning yoga class still taking place in the parish hall it was great that the band began their set earlier than planned.

Although it was necessary to move much of the celebration indoors, a great time was had by all.

On Sunday, June 12, Bishop Melissa Skelton joined the faith community of St. Barnabas including: their rector, the Rev. Emilie Smith; the Rev. Shannon Tennant of Shiloh 6th Avenue United Church (now worshipping at St. Barnabas’); and three former priests of the parish, the Rev. Elizabeth Beale, the Rev. Kay Schmitt and the Ven. Mavis Brownlee for Eucharist with Baptisms.

At approximately 10:10 am (“St. Barnabas time” according to the rector) the rector, the Rev. Emilie Smith—supported by crutches—came forward to the front of the nave at the chancel entrance and welcomed the congregations. Emilie had fallen while out walking with her best friend and suffered a broken foot. She was happy to inform all who had gathered that, “We have run out of bulletins... YAY! ...so please share.” She was quick to make the Shiloh 6th Avenue United Church community welcome saying that the entire service was printed in the bulletin “but please don’t worry if you get lost... it’ll all work out.” The Opening Hymn, *Holy, Holy, Holy* was a most appropriate choice for ecumenical worship.

Bishop Skelton’s conversation with the children of the parish was followed by her sermon and both were based on the Gospel for the day, *Matthew 10: 7–16*. Sitting on the chancel steps with the children gathered around, Bishop Skelton brought forward a good-sized cardboard box. The bishop produced a packsack and then went through the box that contained items that she would like to have with her, or would need to have with her on a hike: coffee mug, cookbook, umbrella, keys, etc... and involved the youngsters by encouraging them to instruct her on which of the items she should pack. The end result was a very heavy packsack, difficult to lift and unwieldy to carry, which didn’t stop one youngster with almost superhuman strength (he couldn’t have weighed more than 24 kilos) from doing a clean and jerk, hoisting the packsack on his

back in one motion. Regardless of the action taking place, Bishop Skelton had illustrated the central message of the passage, which is that Jesus sent the disciples out to connect people to the nearness of God. When we bring things with us to distract us we close ourselves to the possibilities

of making new relationships. In the passage, Jesus says don’t bring anything with you, don’t take anything, as far as possessions or trappings are concerned, “let them go.”

Video and text of Bishop Skelton’s sermon are available

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LEFT The Syndicate, with special guest, rock the plaza prior to the rain. RIGHT A surprise visit by members of the Loyal Order of Water Buffalo. PHOTOS Randy Murray



The kitchen smelled amazing! PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT The Rev. Emilie Smith welcomes the congregation. RIGHT Members of Shiloh United and St. Barnabas sing together before the Scripture readings. PHOTOS Randy Murray



The Epistle is read in Spanish. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Gospel procession. PHOTO Randy Murray



Getting ready to fill the backpack during the Children's Talk. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Rev. Steve Bailey, Deacon of the Word and Table fills the Font. PHOTO Randy Murray



The congregation during the Sacrament of Baptism. PHOTO Randy Murray

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*"...Jesus sent the disciples out
to connect people
to the nearness of God.
When we bring things with us
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In the passage,
Jesus says
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'let them go.'"*

online at <http://bit.ly/2arVJ22>.

The Sacrament of Baptism followed the sermon, as Valentina and Jesus were welcomed as members of the Body of Christ. The happiness and joy in the old wooden church as the two young people made their vows, were baptized with Holy Water, anointed with Chrism and marked with the sign of the Cross by Bishop Skelton was a testimony to the presence of the Holy Spirit.

For the Rev. Stephen Bailey who was Deacon of the Word and Table, this service was particularly moving. As he poured the water of Holy Baptism into the Font he was aware of the deep connection that St. Barnabas has with his family. His grandparents were married there in 1906 and up until recently he has had the privilege to serve and be part of the St. Barnabas Friday Food Cupboard compassionate service ministry.

Following the Eucharist, Rev. Shannon Tennant of Shiloh 6th Avenue United Church, and Rev. Emilie Smith spoke a bit about the partnership involving the two worshipping communities. The Shiloh 6th Avenue building has been sold and the congregation of about 60 began sharing the space Easter Day. Emilie said that so far the partnership has been "nothing but blessings" and she made a humorous reference to potential opportunities for sharing sermons if by chance one of the clergy involved had not had time to prepare a suitable homily.

Shannon announced that the Shiloh United Vacation

Bible Camp would be going ahead as planned and volunteers from both communities were needed because there were already 36 registered for the July program.

Then Emilie introduced the former St. Barnabas clergy who had processed, vested and been part of the Sanctuary Party, the Rev. Kay Schmitt and the Ven. Mavis Brownlee. And then she called up former rector, the Rev. Elizabeth Beale who was in the congregation that morning to be greeted by the community.

Warden, Richard Tomkinson had a few words to say before picking up his trumpet and leading the Closing Hymn, *Let Streams of Living Justice Flow*. Richard shared with those gathered, that for him, the third verse of this hymn puts into words the mission, ministry, attitude, history and heritage of the Parish of St. Barnabas' Anglican Church:

Your city's built for music: we are the stones you seek.
Your harmony is language. We are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service, our hope in other's dreams.
Our love in hand of neighbour. Our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice, your way — the path untried:
Your truth — the heart of stranger, your life — the Crucified.

Following worship the parish met with Bishop Skelton in the parish hall for a Q&A while the Shiloh United folks held a business meeting in the sanctuary and then both faith communities gathered in the hall for a seafood banquet. ✠



LEFT Bishop Skelton presents Jesus with the baptismal candle, "the Light of Christ." MIDDLE Shannon and Emilie. RIGHT Richard Tomkinson. PHOTOS Randy Murray

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Dragon Ladies Night to Remember •

SUBMISSION Paula Jones
AUTHOR Marion Dolphin

At their annual May dinner, the Dragon Ladies of St. George (a women's group that meets for social dinners once a month), were treated to a presentation by aboriginal artist Una-Ann Moyer.

Una-Ann is a mother of three, an educator and a multi-talented Tahltan-Tlingit artist. She is also a drummer, dancer and singer.

Una-Ann is generous in the sharing of her time and talents with the youth and elders of various aboriginal communities and more recently has become involved in Truth and Reconciliation projects and events. Since 1995, Una-Ann has worked for the Langley School District as a Cultural Presenter and in the last eight years also as an Aboriginal Support Worker.

Una-Ann was formerly a very active member of St. George's during the time her family resided in Fort Langley. She was greeted with open arms and much joy by many of her "old" friends.

Paula Jones, co-ordinator of the Dragon Ladies, welcomed all those gathered. Her message of welcome was followed by grace offered by St. George's, Fort Langley's rector, the Rev. Kelly Duncan. Prior to enjoying the meal, the guests stood while Una-Ann drummed and sang a dinner song. Una-Ann explained that the dinner song is a protocol that takes place at feasts. Throughout the evening Una-Ann would stop to explain a protocol that related to the subject she was discussing and the importance of respecting these cultural traditions.

Following a sumptuous, gluten-free, salmon meal, catered by the Watershed Café of Langley (the owner happens to be a parishioner at St. Georges), the Dragon Ladies were treated to a dynamic, often humorous presentation by Una-Ann of her creative journey. Her zest for life and the many examples of how she has embraced change and faced challenges was an inspiration indeed. In relating the tale of a daunting Howe Sound canoe trip from West Vancouver's, Ambleside Beach to Gibson's Landing on the Sunshine Coast, Una-Ann spoke of how fear can hold us back, but by facing and embracing challenging situations one is empowered.

Underscoring her presentation was Una-Ann's devotion to her family, her love of sharing her artistic talents and openness



Una-Ann models some regalia. PHOTO Roy Cline



A detailed look at one of Una-Ann Moyer's blankets. PHOTO Roy Cline

to the presence of the Creator in her life.

Una-Ann brought examples of her fibre art, donned the various garments and explained the meaning of the images and the protocol related to the wearing of the regalia.

A variety of Una-Ann's creations were available for purchase.

The offering that was taken up was donated to the Anglican Church of Canada's Indigenous Ministries' Program for Suicide Prevention. ✚

• Happy 50th Birthday! •

In the photo we see the Ven. John Stephens, Archdeacon of Vancouver, and rector of St. John's, Shaughnessy enjoying a surprise rendition of *Happy Birthday* played by organist Michael Dirk and sung by the congregation

attending the Wednesday, June 1 Celebration of Holy Communion at 9:30 am. A coffee and *Cake Pops* reception followed the worship. ✚



PHOTO Randy Murray

• An Evening of Song •

SUBMISSION Elina Singh



Vancouver Korean Choir. PHOTO Courtesy of Audrey Watson



Blue Ocean group. PHOTO Courtesy of Audrey Watson



Dancers. PHOTO Courtesy of Audrey Watson

St. Stephen the Martyr in Burnaby is the venue for a number of user groups who make building use donations for the space, many of whom are Korean. In May, all of the various groups got together for an evening of music, dance and fellowship. The language spoken during the event was Korean which did not deter some non-Korean speaking members of St. Stephen's from joining the fun.

Vancouver Korean Choir performed a wonderful program of both choral and solo pieces.

Blue Ocean's young adult fellowship group brought their energy into the evening.

There were special performances from Korean dancers and drummers, as well as from a ballroom dance group that practices at the church.

After the program it was time to enjoy Korean snacks and tea. Everyone had a wonderful time, and the groups expressed their desire to do this again! ✚



Drummers (some familiar faces!). PHOTO Courtesy of Audrey Watson

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Stronger Together in North Vancouver •

SUBMISSION Stephen Muir

For the past seven years the Lutheran and Anglican churches of North Vancouver have met together for a combined Sunday liturgy. They met for the eighth consecutive year on Sunday, June 5 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

Over 300 people filled the beautiful contemporary church, which features modern stained glass windows and a traditional tracker-action pipe organ. Gloria Dei Pastor, Rev. Jennifer Marlor was the celebrant, and the homilist was the Ven. Lynne McNaughton, rector St. Clement's, Lynn Valley and Archdeacon of Capilano.

The service featured a children's time led by Pastor Carolina Glauster of Mount Olivet Lutheran Church. The music in worship was led by the music ministries of several of the churches involved, and of note, was a moving solo sung by Giselle Clark-Trenaman of St. Agnes'.

Shannon Muir, also of St. Agnes provided an update on the work of the Regional Ecumenical Support Team (REST), which is supporting a Syrian refugee family currently living in North Vancouver. A new Parish Health Ministry Program was

inaugurated at the service, with the commissioning of the Steering Committee members under the direction of the Rev. Robin Ruder-Celiz, vicar of St. Martin's.

The gathering concluded with a festive reception lunch featuring a variety of menu items provided by members of the two Lutheran and five Anglican Churches.

The churches continue to work together throughout the year through the Regional Program Group, which offers a wide variety of shared programs and educational opportunities in North Vancouver and beyond. ✠

• Jazz at St. Christopher's •

SUBMISSION Hilary Clark

For end of the week relaxation, nothing can beat an evening of piano music accompanied by a glass of wine and good company. On Friday, June 3, 2016, the pianist, Douglas Lau, who also sings in St. Christopher's choir, provided the first, Lyn Cartwright poured the second, and the congregation of St. Christopher's was the good company.

Douglas Lau is a multi-talented musician who was first introduced to the congregation as a guest singer in the choir. He provided solos for anthems and leadership in the psalms. With the teaching and encouragement of choir director Dr. Annabelle Paetsch, Lau began to work on his piano skills, leaning from the classical orientation of his Royal Conservatory of Music accreditation (ARCT) toward the embrace of jazz improvisation learned in his studies at Capilano University.

As Dr. Paetsch commented, "I'm delighted that my idea of a relatively informal gathering around Douglas' playing was so well received. It was a win-win situation. Douglas got a gig and some exposure, the congregation had a chance to connect with Douglas and to further appreciate his talent, and at the same time, to enjoy an inexpensive mellow Friday evening out without having to leave the North Shore. The wider community got to see St. Christopher's as a welcoming, classy and accessible place."

Lau began the evening with two standards, *Round Midnight* and *Indian Summer*. He then introduced Sentinel High School student, saxophonist, Scott Brooks, who played Dave Brubeck's *Take Five*, and Oscar Peterson's *Laurentine Waltz*. The set ended with Annika Telenius singing, *Wishing You Were Here Again* from *The Phantom of the Opera*. Later, Lau teamed up with Annabelle Paetsch to play a duet of *Autumn Leaves*, humorously changing treble and bass positions on the piano bench. Paetsch then soloed a breathtaking improvisation on Gershwin's *Summertime*.

Douglas Lau admitted to being forced by his parents to learn classical piano, until being offered a new perspective by Lars Kaario and Geordie Roberts of the Music Department at Capilano University, when he began to discover jazz. He was introduced to new concepts in the music of the much-recorded jazz pianists Barry Harris and Bill Evans.

Douglas Lau finished off the evening by singing, *All of Me* with Dr. Paetsch accompanying him on the piano, and received the heartfelt appreciation of the audience of St. Christopher's. ✠



LEFT Pastor Jennifer Marlor (left) and the Rev. Robin Ruder-Celiz (right) commission the Parish Health Ministry Program Steering Committee. RIGHT Pastor Jennifer Marlor of Gloria Dei. PHOTOS Stephen Muir



Children's Time. PHOTO Stephen Muir



Shannon Muir. PHOTO Stephen Muir



The Ven. Lynne McNaughton. PHOTO Stephen Muir



The Choir. PHOTO Stephen Muir



Children's Time. PHOTO Stephen Muir



The Eucharist. PHOTO Stephen Muir



Bountiful Banquet Buffet. PHOTO Stephen Muir

• St. Catherine's, Capilano Celebrates the Queen's 90th •

SUBMISSION Heather Luccock

Members of St. Catherine's Church celebrated the Queen's 90th Birthday on June 21 with "Morning Tea and Scones."

Some people brought royal memorabilia for a display and dressed for the occasion.

Elizabeth Barratt had her Union Jack apron, Penny Zuk her fancy hat, and Tony Dodd looked dapper in military uniform. There was considerable interest in the various items on display.

Present were a set of royal mugs and other royal china. Among the items on display was a set of royal photos with Justin Trudeau as a young boy, taken by Penny Zuk's husband John, and photos taken of

the Queen and Prince Philip during their visit to Nanaimo in 1964 by Janet Morris. It was a very happy occasion and ended with the singing of *God Save the Queen*. ✠



AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Evensong for HM QE II • 90th Birthday •

In his first paragraph of the Music Notes found in the Order of Service for *A service to honour Queen Elizabeth II and her Ninetieth Birthday* Christ Church Cathedral (CCC) chorister, Stephen Wright penned the following:

"This weekend (June 11 and 12, 2016) marks the official celebration of the Queen's ninetieth birthday as we acknowledge with gratitude a lifetime of ongoing service as Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, Canada and Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith."

We sometimes forget that Queen Elizabeth is "Defender of the Faith," a dedicated servant of God and someone very committed to her faith and to the Church.

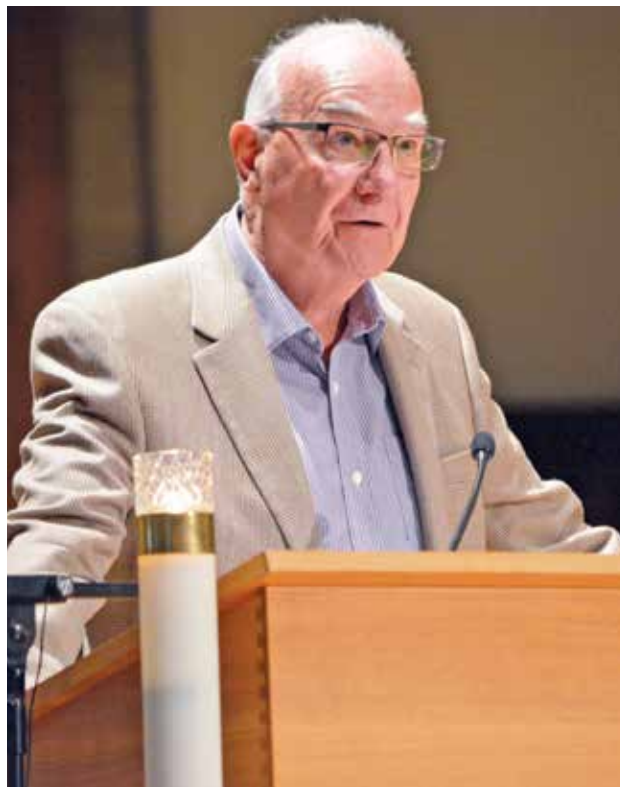
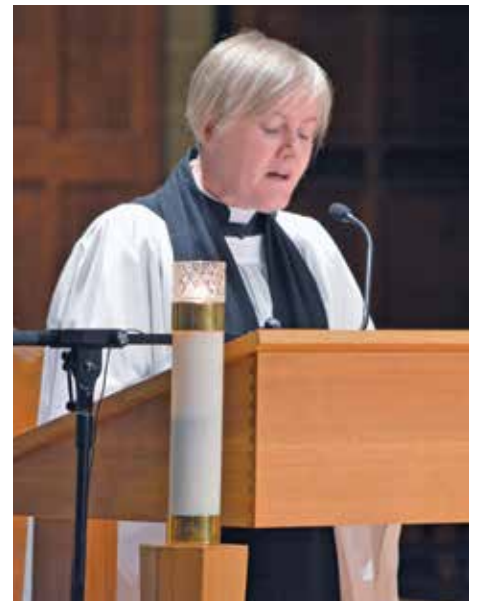
This traditional Evensong Service was celebrated at 3 pm on June 12 at Christ Church Cathedral. The music in worship was led by Cathedral Choir; the Cathedral's organist and director of music, Rupert Lang; and conducted by guest conductor, Bruce Pullan. In the Order of Service "Welcome" section, the congregation was reminded that, "Much of this service is sung by the choir, and as the choir offers its music, we are released from the need to form our own words and phrases. As music and words come together and enrich each other, our senses and intellects, our hearts and minds are drawn closer to God, who is above all and in all and through all."

The service began with the Introit, *We wait for thy loving kindness, O God...* composed for the marriage of the then-princess Elizabeth and Lt. Philip Mountbatten in Westminster Abbey on November 20, 1947, and then there was a stirring singing of the first (and best known) verse of *O Canada*.

The Bidding Prayer, thanking God for the reign of the Queen, was offered by the Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark-King. The Old Testament, *1 Kings 1: 32–40* was read magnificently by long time Vancouver actor Shirley Broderick, and likewise the Epistle, *Ephesians 1: 15–23* by Bernard Cuffling. Both Cuffling and Broderick left their native England for careers in Canada and have been in this country for most—if not all—of the Queen's reign. The choir, with cantor Troy Topnick, led the Responses and Collects and Cathedral clergy, the Reverend's Philippa Segrave-Pride and Alisdair



LEFT CCC Choir under the direction of guest conductor, Bruce Pullan with the Cathedral's organist and director of music, Rupert Lang. RIGHT The Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark-King offers the Bidding Prayer. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Bernard Cuffling reads the Epistle, *Ephesians 1: 15–23*. PHOTO Randy Murray



Alex Galloway begins the procession out. PHOTO Randy Murray

Smith offered a Thanksgiving Prayer. The service ended with a blessing from Dean Peter Elliott, an exit procession featuring piper Alex Galloway, and the singing of *God Save the Queen*.

Considering that the afternoon of June 12 contained the only few hours that weekend of decent weather, the turnout was excellent. Approximately 150 gathered to honour the Queen and be inspired and

uplifted by the music of: McKie, Smith, Davies, Stanford, Howells and Wood beautifully sung by Cathedral Choir. ✦

• Country Commuters •



Many thanks to the Rev. Al Carson for this early summer view of the St. John's, Sardis parking lot and church entrance just prior to the mid-week Eucharist.

• 30 Years of Inspiring Ministry •



Shirley cuts the cake. PHOTO Randy Murray

Saturday, July 23, the Parish of All Saints', Burnaby held a retirement party for the Rev. Shirley Stockdill in honour of her 30 years of inspirational ministry. Shirley retired July 31 when her interim priest-in-charge ministry posting at All Saints' concluded. During

her career in ministry Shirley was priest and pastor at 12 diocesan parishes including a stint on Synod Staff as the Stewardship and Planned Giving Director. The October issue of *Topic* will contain full coverage of this joyful and memorable event. ✦

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Summer Serenade at St. Stephen's West Vancouver •

SUBMISSION Hilary Clark

With the inspiration of the Rev. Roberta Fraser, interim priest-in-charge at St. Stephens, and the musical and organizational skills of Dr. Annabelle Paetsch, St. Stephen's fundraiser for Syrian refugees took place on Sunday, June 19. The theme, *Summer Serenade*, focused the musicians on their choices of music. The program began with a brightly cheerful *Concert Sonata* by Philip Telemann, performed on the piccolo trumpet by Kyle Axford, who was accompanied by Edgar Bridwell (violin), Anne Durancéau (double bass) and Annabelle Paetsch (organ). Paetsch is the music director at St. Christopher's, West Vancouver, and has a history of performances behind her with these musicians.

The theme changed with the next offering of the opening duet from *The Marriage of Figaro* by baritone Jason Cook and soprano Robin Eder-Warren. The humour of this interchange was obvious even though the duet was sung in Italian. Both performers possess enviable acting skills as well as resonant and well-articulated vocal talents. They were accompanied by the instrumental trio.

The third number presented a complete shift of mood with two very dark and heavily rhythmical tangos by Piazzolla featuring

Bridwell on violin and Paetsch on piano, with Durancéau providing the pulse on double bass.

The season itself was honoured by Eder-Warren singing Gershwin's *Summertime*, and Paetsch performing a piano composition by Liszt that described water: *Legende No. 2: St. Francis walking on the water*. Kyle Axford finished with Goedicke's *Concert Etude* on trumpet, accompanied by Paetsch.

Jason Cook enraptured the audience with two popular numbers, *My Way* and *The Impossible Dream*, and then drew the entire group together to perform with Eder-Warren *All I Ask of You* from *The Phantom of the Opera*.

The concert was sponsored by Ian Whitelaw in memory of his wife, Ruth Whitelaw, and all proceeds went to support St. Stephen's refugee sponsorship fund.

A similar line-up is scheduled to perform a concert on September 11, 2016 at 7 pm at St. Christopher's in West Vancouver. The concert title is *An Evening to Remember*. Tickets may be purchased in advance from the church office, 604.922.5323 or at the door. Net proceeds will be directed to renovating the wooden exterior of St. Christopher's parish hall. ✦



The Rev. Roberta Fraser, Kyle Axford (trumpet), Robin Eder-Warren (soprano), Anne Durancéau (bass), Annabelle Paetsch (organ and piano), Edgar Bridwell (violin), and Jason Cook (baritone). PHOTO Courtesy of Jason Cook

• Blessing the Oils & Charging the Phone •

On the afternoon of June 22, 2016, the Rev. Laurel Dykstra of Salal + Cedar Watershed Discipleship Community brought Metro News reporter/photographer, David Ball to the shared green space between St. John's, Shaughnessy at 1490 Nanton Avenue and the Synod Offices at 1410 Nanton Avenue for an unique photo and interview opportunity.

Laurel had arranged for Bishop Skelton to bless the oils that would be used to bless bicycles and cyclists the next day. The sacramental oil for blessing the disciples was a cottonwood derivative and the oil for the bikes was bicycle chain oil. Salal + Cedar have created a tradition of anointing disciples with oil (sign of the Cross on the forehead) prior to them taking action into the world.

The other photo op was Bishop Skelton pedaling a bike made stationary by a portable stand, hooked up to a mini-generator that has a USB "out" port from which a USB cable can be connected to a mobile communications device and charged by the action of pedaling the bike. The inspiration for this came from the realization that this past summer Salal + Cedar sponsored the first Sacred Earth Camp and the participants who will all be youth and young adults did not want to leave their phones at home.

Bishop Skelton was happy to participate.

The next day, June 23, Salal and Cedar folks met at Devonian Harbour Park where in the downpour they oiled the chains and anointed the cyclists praying for safety in riding, love in community and courage in faithful action.

Salal + Cedar also participated in bike month by promoting cycling among people of faith. A series of *Bike to Worship* interviews with Buddhist, Jewish and Christian bicycle commuters who cycle regularly to their places of worship looked at cycling as a spiritual practice. The hope is that in 2017 through collaboration with *Bike to Work BC*,

more faith communities will participate in *Bike to Worship* sharing their stories and organizing rides and bike blessings.

We at *Topic* plan to publish coverage of the first Sacred Earth Camp in the October issue along with coverage of Camp Artaban's return and some 2016 summer activities at Sorrento Centre. ✦



Bishop Skelton blesses the oils being held by the Rev. Laurel Dykstra. PHOTO Randy Murray



Powering the iPhone with the stationary bike. PHOTO Randy Murray



Jan Constantinescu, Ben Hutchings, Margo Hutchings, Lini Hutchings, Patricia McSherry and Anne Kesslerat at the rainy June 23 Bike Cyclists Blessing. PHOTO Courtesy of Laurel Dykstra

• First Annual Tri Cities & North Burnaby Deanery Picnic •

SUBMISSION Sharon Taylor

After a few weeks of unsettled weather, the sun came out on Sunday, June 26 for the Tri-Cities and North Burnaby Deanery Picnic. Members of all ages from the five parishes in the deanery met at Blue Mountain Park in Coquitlam for an afternoon of food and socializing. From all accounts, this is the first time the deanery has gathered for a social event.

The parishes of St. Catherine's, St. John's, St. Laurence, St. Stephen's and St. Timothy met at the park after their respective Sunday services to share an informal picnic where members were asked to bring their own lunch plus food to share. The ice cream was well received!

It was a beautiful, warm sunny day for the 90 people who attended; perfect for relaxing in lawn chairs and enjoying each other's company. Many thanks to the Parish of St. Timothy for coordinating the event. ✦

RIGHT A few of the younger members of the St. Timothy's faith community. PHOTO Sharon Taylor



Mildred of St. Timothy's on the right is challenged to a game of Ladder Golf. PHOTO Sharon Taylor



Mary of St. Laurence brings her dogs to the picnic delighting those in attendance. PHOTO Sharon Taylor

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Clergy News & Other Comings & Goings •

Bishop Melissa Skelton has appointed the Rev. Deacon Gordon Barrett as the next Regional Dean of Royal City/South Burnaby. Currently licensed to All Saints', Burnaby, Gordon is the first deacon to serve as a regional dean. He succeeds the Rev. Faun Harriman who began as Vicar of St. David & St. Paul, Powell River on September 1st.

On the recommendation of the Ministry Discernment Conference for the Vocational Diaconate, Ron Berezan (St. David & St. Paul, Powell River) and Jeffrey Preiss (Christ Church Cathedral) have been made Postulants.

Sandra Stevenson, Administrative Assistant at the Synod Office, following six years of dedicated service, decided to take a job closer to home, thereby making her commute from northwest West Vancouver much less onerous. Sandra's last day at the Synod Office was Tuesday, July 12.

As this installment of *Around the Diocese* was completed July 21 and went into layout at the end of July it is possible that a search for Sandra's successor is already well underway by the time this issue of *Topic* is online and in homes. However, until there is a new person selected to step into the various tasks that Sandra managed please contact: Diocesan Controller, Shailene Caparas, 604.684.6306, ext. 214 for matters concerning Pre-Authorized Donations (PAD) and diocesan charitable receipts; or Business Administrator, Rob Dickson, 604.684.6306, ext. 215 for most other matters.

There will be three Inductions/Celebrations of New Ministry taking place in the diocese this late summer/early fall: the Rev. Eric Mason as rector of St. Laurence, Coquitlam on Holy Cross Day, September 14 at 7 pm; the Rev. Peter Smyth as Senior Port Chaplain at the Mission to Seafarers on St. Matthew's Day (anticipated), September 20 at 7 pm; and the Rev. Canon Jonathan Lloyd as rector of St. Stephen, West Vancouver on October 17 (Commemoration of Ignatius, Bishop and Martyr) at 7 pm. All are welcome and encouraged to attend these liturgies.

David Swan has served as Chair of the Mission and Ministry Development Committee (MMD), one of the two standing committees that are important components of our diocesan governance since the reorganization of committee structures following Synod 2014. David assisted in MMD's transition to a new model of working with new responsibilities and areas of work. David, a parishioner at St. Mary's, Kerisdale will continue serving as a member of the diocesan Consultant's Group. We are grateful for David's leadership. Kim Hodge of St. George, Fort Langley has been appointed by Bishop Skelton to be the next Chair. Kim has been a member of the Committee and brings her expertise to this work.

The Rev. Ruth Monette, Director for Mission and Ministry Development at the diocese of New Westminster is currently on parental leave. Mother Ruth, and her partner welcomed a new member of their

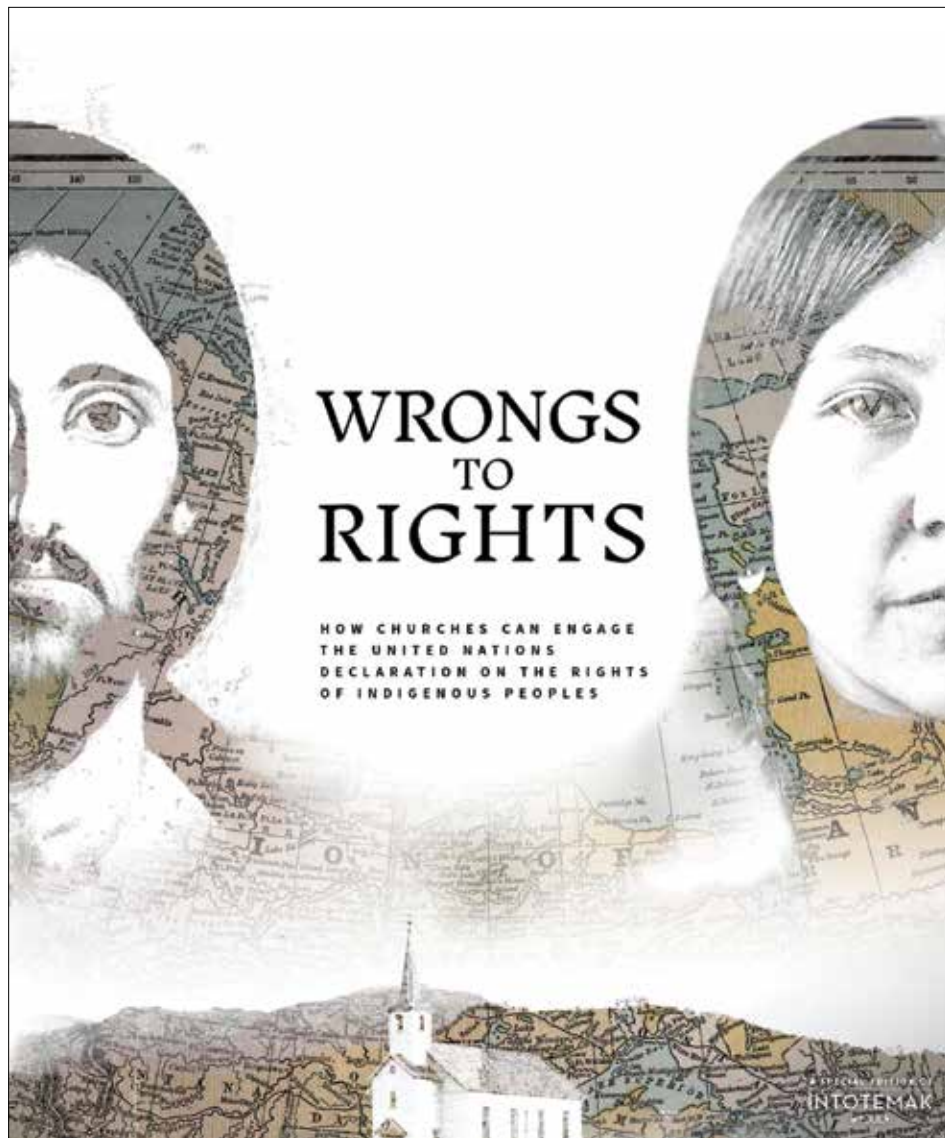
"If we don't understand our history we are bound to repeat our mistakes." Those who would like to delve deeper are invited to join us at All Saints, Agassiz as we take part in *Journeying from Wrongs to Rights—A Study with the book Wrongs to Rights: How*

• Wrongs to Rights Study Takes Place in September at All Saints, Agassiz •

SUBMISSION Monica Gibson-Pugsley

Churches can engage the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as our guide—a jumping off point to our future here on northern Turtle Island.

More than 40 contributors from varied



backgrounds, Indigenous and non-Indigenous (referred to as "Settlers"), Christian and Traditional, have delved into what the Declaration means to the Church. *Wrongs to Rights* editor Steve Heinrichs wrote, "They (the contributors) are all deeply committed to the task of undoing the colonial patterns and practices that keep Indigenous and Settler people apart. They're all committed to the hope and real potential of a renewed, respectful relationship." Many avenues are explored:

- Why do Indigenous peoples believe the Declaration is necessary?
- Why might Settler Christians object to it?
- How can Scripture and theology be both an asset and a challenge?
- How can the Declaration help both Settlers and Indigenous peoples live side by side?
- Are we looking for reconciliation or decolonization, or both?

These and many more questions will be addressed as we study this book together.

Over five months we shall meet on the first and third Wednesdays (only once in December and January) starting Wednesday, September 21, 2016 to Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at All Saints Anglican (6904 Lougheed Highway, Agassiz).

The Study is free, however it is necessary for participants to purchase the book *Wrongs to Right*. Those living locally can obtain it, along with the pocket UNDRIP booklet, for \$16 from All Saints', Agassiz. Both books can also be ordered through Common Word in Winnipeg at 1.877.846.1593 or info@commonword.ca.

The Study forms a part of the parish's 120th Anniversary celebrations and is co-sponsored by All Saints' Parish and the Agassiz-Harrison Ministerial Association. To register, please contact Monica Gibson-Pugsley at mgp2000@shaw.ca. ☙

• A Sunday of Call •

SUBMISSION Bruce Morris

The diocese of New Westminster is taking steps to actively promote vocations to diaconal and priestly ministry (ordained vocation).

This active promotion aligns with our desire as Christian people to be faithful servants of the Lord and to ensure an ongoing supply of clergy for Christ's church. The culmination of the Diocesan promotion for 2016 will be *Exploring God's Call* (see poster on page 4) on October 22.

We will also be undertaking prior promotion and information sharing about vocations in the church to encourage widespread conversations about vocations.

The main promotional event is *A Sunday of Call*, being held on September 25, 2016.

The Bishop is asking all parish clergy to focus the worship on this day on the topic of *Divine Call*. She has authorized alternate propers and prayers for this day. ☙

• Evensong in Celebration of 30 Years of Ministry • Rupert Lang •

There will be a special celebration of Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral, Sunday, September 25 at 3 pm in recognition of the

Cathedral's organist and director of music, Rupert Lang's 30 years of outstanding music ministry. ☙



The Rev. Deacon Gordon Barrett.
PHOTO Randy Murray



Sandra Stevenson. PHOTO Wayne Chose



David Swan. PHOTO Randy Murray



Kim Hodge. PHOTO Randy Murray



PHOTO Courtesy of Christ Church Cathedral Communications

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• MVA • Leadership Institute Training •

• November 7 & 8 •

SUBMISSION Margaret Marquardt

The Rev. Margaret Marquardt, Chair of the diocesan Eco-Justice Unit and Chair of Metro Vancouver Alliance (MVA) Leadership Institute Committee is pleased to announce that Bishop Skelton will be attending the two day training for those who share an interest in strengthening civil society and working together for the common good. Part of the



Metro Vancouver Alliance is a broad based alliance of community groups, labour, faith and educational institutions. MVA organizations gather to hear what issues are important to their diverse memberships, find common ground on those issues, and then work together for the common good. PHOTO Courtesy Metro Vancouver Alliance

training experience will be working with other community leaders from diverse institutions on the universals of broad based community organizing.

The Institute provides content based on the philosophy and practices developed by the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) in over 60 years of organizing experience.

THE TOPICS INCLUDE

- **Why organize?**
Examining the history and traditions of our labour, faith, community and educational organizations
- **The fundamental organizing skills**
Individual relational meetings, listening sessions, research, negotiations and action
- **Strengthening our institutions**
Systematically engaging people in a culture that is relational, action-oriented and reflective
- **Problems vs. Issues**
Moving from general problems to concrete, winnable issues
- **Using relational power in the public arena**
to negotiate for the common good

COST

- Participants from MVA member organizations: FREE

- Participants NOT from MVA member organizations: \$50 for the weekend (to be applied to future membership dues)
- Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

IMPORTANT INFO FOR THE DIOCESAN PARTICIPATION

- Diocesan participants need to register directly with MVA.
- Those coming from parishes that are members of MVA: St. Catherine, Capilano; St. Clement; St. James; St. Laurence; St. Thomas, Vancouver; and those directly attached to the diocese or the Eco-Justice Unit attend for free.
- Those coming from non-member parishes would be asked to pay \$50 for the two days, which covers material, refreshments and lunch on both days.
- If you need clarification about registration or any further information about MVA Leadership Institute Training please contact the Rev. Margaret Marquardt by email at mmarquardt@telus.net

REGISTRATION

For further information and to register online please visit www.metvanalliance.org or send an email to info@metvanalliance.org or phone at 604.441.8136. ✚

The Labyrinth at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale

ALL ARE WELCOME!

SUBMISSION Roma Palmer

This past spring at St. Mary's we expanded the hours our labyrinth is open to invite more participation. Along with that invitation, we would like to provide you with some information about the labyrinth. We will also include details about the hours the labyrinth is open and our upcoming Fall Equinox Celebration. Please come and join us on our journey!

The idea of the labyrinth began in ancient times and has become established as a metaphor for life's journey. The symbolic journey, with roots in Eastern and Western religions, takes the spiritual traveler into the depths of the self and then back out into the world. The labyrinth becomes a mirror for where we are in our lives.

A labyrinth, unlike a maze, offers only one path to take. In spite of its twists and turns there are no choices, only a path that leads to the center and then back out again. The path is in full view, which allows a person to be quiet and focus internally. There is no right way or wrong way to walk a labyrinth. Labyrinths are currently being used worldwide as a way to quiet the mind, find balance, and encourage meditation, insight and celebration.

The labyrinth walker can relax their mind as far as making decisions regarding their path. Attention is necessary because of the twists and turns. This state of awareness, combined with a relaxed mind, is typical of meditation.

Generally there are three stages:

- **Releasing** details of everyday life on the way in.
- **Receiving or Illumination** in the center: the place of meditation and prayer.
- **Returning or Union:** taking back out into the world that which you have received/joining God and being strengthened for our work in the world

You are invited to use the labyrinth in any way that meets your need.

Walking labyrinths helps you get out of your "thinking mind" and get in touch with your deeper self. Insights sometimes occur when walking the labyrinth; drawing on an inner wisdom you may not tend to access in your day-to-day life.

The ongoing hours for the St. Mary's labyrinth are:

Tuesday & Thursday 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Friday 11 am – 1 pm
Sunday 11:30 am – 3 pm

On September 21 we are excited to present a Fall Equinox Celebration from 5 pm to 6:30 pm (with the labyrinth open until 9 pm). The celebration will include a simple supper, written ideas for contemplation while walking the labyrinth, liturgical elements, and live music. With the equinox as the focus, we will explore ideas of light and dark, yin and yang, and equality. Please join us for this community event!

For any updates or changes to the labyrinth hours or upcoming events, please call the office at 604.261.4228 or check the website at www.stmaryskerrisdale.ca/main/about-us/labyrinth. ✚

You Are My Witnesses • A Brief General Synod 2016 Report

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

MELANIE DELVA
Anglican Archivist for the diocese of New Westminster & the Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon, Member of Council of General Synod

On Thursday July 14, Bishop Melissa Skelton and Lay Delegate to General Synod, Business Administrator Rob Dickson were back in their offices at 1410 Nanton Avenue after attending General Synod 2016 from July 6 to 12 in Richmond Hill, Ontario. Other Synod Staff members of the diocese of New Westminster's delegation, the Ven. Douglas Fenton and Melanie Delva remained in Eastern Canada for some well-earned rest and relaxation as did clergy delegate, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott.

The diocese of New Westminster was very fortunate to have postulant for ordination from St. Mary's, Kerrisdale, Cameron Gutjahr as a lay delegate, and Abby Cline of St. George, Fort Langley as diocesan youth delegate. Abby spoke eloquently during the debates about the Marriage Canon.

Youth and Children's Ministries Coordinator for the diocese, Caitlin Reilley Beck also participated in General Synod 2016 as a volunteer, leading the music in worship.

Reports, coordinated by Melanie Delva in (close to) real time from the diocese of New Westminster's delegation are available on the diocesan website blogsite www.vancouver.anglican.ca/blog and your editor would be happy to send electronically a PDF copy of the blog postings. Please contact by email, rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca or phone 604.684.6306, ext. 223.

There will be additional General Synod reporting in the fall issues of *Topic* particularly coverage of the Marriage Canon Discussion sessions scheduled for this month:

- September 15 • Clergy Day to share what we've come up with in terms of a way to proceed as well as sharing some other items coming out of General Synod.
 - Attendance is limited to clergy of the diocese.
- September 20 • First Open Meeting for anyone in the diocese held at St. John's, Sardis (10 am – noon).
 - Clarifying what happened at General Synod particularly in regards to the vote on the Marriage Canon results, and what we will be doing in the interim period.
- September 21 • Second Open Meeting held at the Synod Office, 7 pm – 9 pm, the same purpose as the first meeting.

The principal purpose of this brief article is to share information about General Synod elections/appointments as they relate to folks from the diocese of New Westminster. The Very Rev. Peter Elliott, Dean of the Diocese, Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Clergy Delegate to General Synod was the Chair of the Nominations Committee for General Synod 2016 with Melanie Delva also serving on the Committee. In what turned out to be quite a unique event, the Report of the Nominations Committee was passed on its first presentation without a single comment or question, eliminating the need for the committee to meet again to prepare an alternate slate of nominations for presentation the next day.

Rob Dickson was elected to the Pensions Committee; Glen Mitchell, Director of Stewardship and Planned Giving, Alternate Delegate to General Synod was appointed to Resources for Mission; Melanie Delva, Anglican Archivist, Lay Delegate to Synod was elected a member of the Council of General Synod (CoGS) representing the Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon; and the Ven. Lynne McNaughton, Archdeacon of Capilano, Rector of St. Clements, Lynn Valley, Clergy Delegate to General Synod was elected Deputy Prolocutor of General Synod.

This represents the first time in the Anglican Church of Canada's history that the General Synod has had women in both the Prolocutor (Cynthia Haines-Turner) and Deputy Prolocutor positions. As Deputy Prolocutor, the Ven. Lynne McNuaghton is expected to aid the Prolocutor in her functions of assisting the Primate in all General Synod functions and acting ex officio on all committees, councils, boards and commissions of General Synod. She must also be prepared to step in should the Prolocutor be absent or unable to perform her duties.

At the inaugural meeting of the newly-elected Council of General Synod on July 11, Melanie Delva was further elected to two positions: the Anglican Award of Merit Committee, and the position of Partner to The Episcopal Church. In the latter role, Melanie will act as representative of the Anglican Church of Canada at the Episcopal Church Executive Council meetings and General Convention.

Please support these members of our diocese with your prayers as they move into these various ministries in our national church. ✙

A Sampler of Melanie Delva's Android Phone Photos from You Are My Witnesses • General Synod 2016

As the layout deadline for this issue of *Topic* loomed closer and closer it was apparent that getting high-resolution photos of General Synod 2016 from the *Anglican Journal* and the General Synod Communications folks was going to be quite tricky. But fear not, as Anglican Archivist, General Synod Delegate and now Member of Council of General Synod for the Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon, Melanie Delva came to the rescue with an assortment of photos to enhance our brief report.

I will let Melanie describe what's going on in the following 17 snaps. • Editor



Bishop Melissa and others at her "mixed table group" familiarize themselves with the General Synod app.



Youth Delegate Abby Cline holds up the jug of water she will use to fill the font at opening worship, together with other youth delegates.



The dignitaries, ecumenical and inter-faith guests and partners to General Synod.



Primate Fred Hiltz's Charge to Synod.



I bumped into Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the hall!



"Epic Selfie 2016" of the Provincial Caucus of British Columbia and Yukon after our election of individuals to the Council of General Synod (CoGS).



The procession gathers for the Indigenous Sunday opening service.



National Indigenous Anglican Bishop Mark MacDonald presides over the Eucharist.



Elder Amy Charlie and me. I helped her with her residential school attendance records years ago. It was so amazing to meet her in person and spend some time with her.



Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous clergy were invited to offer prayers of healing to individuals at the end of the Gospel Jamboree.



Dean Peter Elliott listens intently during one of the presentations.



TOP LEFT Dean Peter Elliott speaks to his resolution regarding changes to the wording of the motion to change the Marriage Canon. BOTTOM LEFT Lynne McNaughton speaks in favour of the motion to amend the Marriage Canon and implores those who are not fundamentally against the change but do not feel they can support it for other reasons to abstain. RIGHT Youth Delegate, Abby Cline speaks in favour of the motion to amend the Marriage Canon.



LEFT I (Melanie) "stress knitted" over two-dozen dishcloths over the course of General Synod. Each of our delegation took one home. Here, the Ven. Douglas Fenton displays his. MIDDLE Showing off my new CoGS (Council of General Synod) ball cap. RIGHT Rob Dickson shows off his new dishcloth.



LEFT The Eucharistic Prayer 2015. PHOTO Wayne Chose RIGHT Posing for the official photo after receiving the medallion and ribbon, 2015. PHOTO Randy Murray



58 New Members to Be Invested into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster

At the May 11, 2016 meeting of Diocesan Council, the governing body of the diocese, Bishop Melissa Skelton distributed a list containing the names of 49 Parish Nominees and 9 Bishop's Nominees to be invested into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW) on Saturday, November 5 at 10:30 am at The Massey Theatre in New Westminster.

Bishop Skelton reminded Council that under Regula-

tion 22 (the canonical regulation that created the ODNW in 2009) she had appointed in 2015, three members of the Cathedral Chapter: Mrs. Ginger Shaw, Ms. Margaret Briscall and Ms. Valerie Hobson for a two year term as her advisory committee on the parish nominees to the ODNW. The met on May 9, 2016 and the following nominees were accepted. Subsequently all nominees accepted their nominations.

Parish Nominees

- Ms. Priscilla Archer • Holy Trinity, White Rock
- Mr. John Binns • St. John the Apostle, Port Moody
- Mrs. Jenny Birtwell • Christ Church Cathedral
- Ms. Colleen Butterley • St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby
- Mrs. Betty Carlson • St. James, Vancouver
- Ms. Brigitte Castro • St. Michael, Vancouver
- Mr. Ray Duff • All Saints, South Burnaby
- Mrs. June Exworthy • St. Alban the Martyr, Burnaby
- Mrs. Laurelle Findler • St. Hilda, Sechelt
- Mrs. Johanna Finlay • St. Mary, Kerrisdale
- Mr. Alan Finnie • St. Stephen, West Vancouver
- Mrs. Donnie Foerster • St. Timothy, Burnaby
- Ms. Sara Hanney • St. Clement, Lynn Valley
- Mrs. Linda Harrison • St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver
- Ms. Kim Hodge • St. George, Fort Langley
- Mr. Stan Horton • St. Catherine of Alexandria, Port Coquitlam
- Mrs. Lynne Hurd • St. Mark, Ocean Park
- Mr. Jim Hylands • St. Christopher, West Vancouver

- Mr. Neville Kim Sing • St. Anne, Steveston
- Mrs. Molly Koning • St. Catherine, Capilano
- Mrs. Nancy Konsmo • St. Laurence, Coquitlam
- Mrs. Bev Kreller • Christ Church, Hope
- Mrs. Liz MacDonald • All Saints, Ladner
- Mrs. Audrey McAuley • St. Dunstan, Aldergrove
- Ms. Peggy McMillan • St. Agnes, North Vancouver
- Mr. Ed Meredith • Holy Spirit, Whonnock
- Dr. Jock Munro • St. Philip, Dunbar
- Ms. Helen Nebbeling • St. Barnabas, New Westminster
- Mr. Don Neilson • Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster
- Mrs. Mary Newman • St. Francis-in-the-Wood, West Vancouver
- Ms. Wendy Nilsen • St. Faith, Vancouver
- Mrs. Monica O'Brien • St. Helen, West Point Grey
- Mr. Tony Picher • St. Michael, Surrey
- Ms. Elsie Preedy • St. Oswald, Port Kells
- Ms. Heather Rhodes • St. Martin, North Vancouver
- Mrs. Helen Riel • St. Cuthbert, Delta



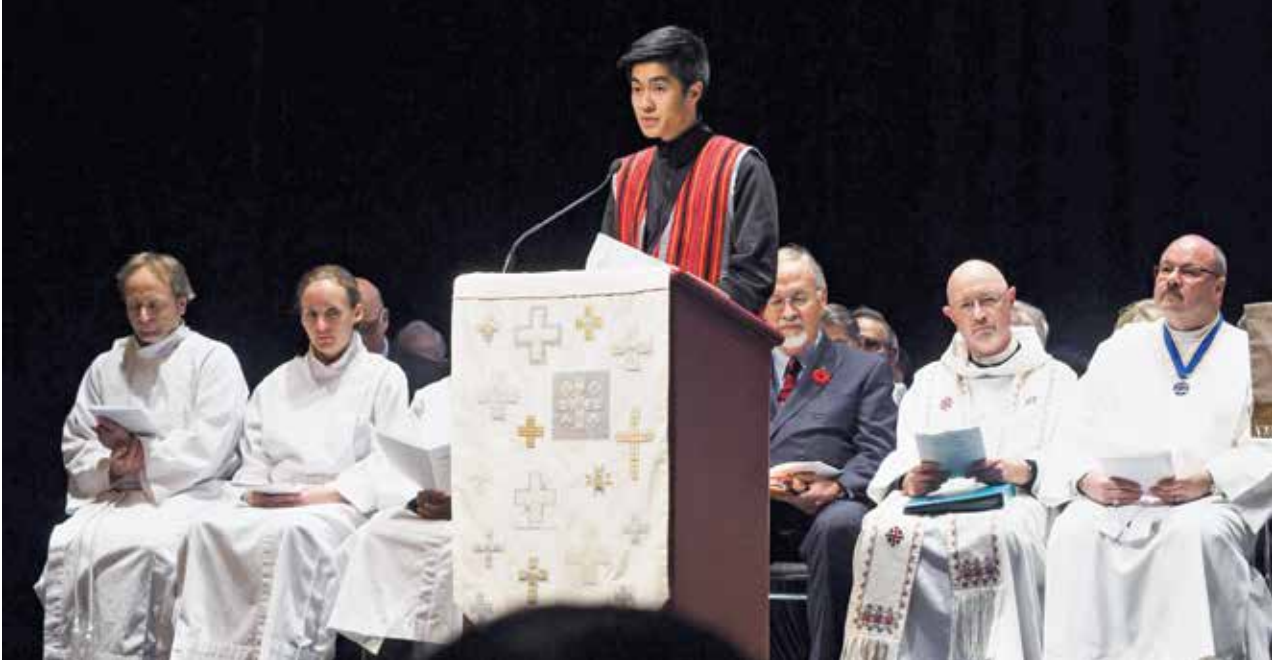
The Warden of the Order, Rob Watt, ODNW reads the Citations during the presentation in 2015. PHOTO Randy Murray

- Mr. Don Rodger • St. Thomas, Chilliwack
- Mrs. Anne Schaffar • St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge
- Ms. Margaret Stroccl • St. Matthew, Abbotsford
- Mrs. Joy Stuart • St. Thomas, Vancouver
- Ms. Kathy Stubley • St. George, Maple Ridge
- Ms. Gail Tamagi • Holy Cross, Vancouver
- Mrs. Grace Tanaka • Holy Trinity, Vancouver
- Mr. Digby Turney • St. Mary the Virgin, Sapperton
- Mr. Fred Watson • All Saints, Agassiz
- Mrs. Carol Williams • Church of the Epiphany, Surrey
- Mr. Jim Wilson • All Saints, Mission
- Mr. Jack Wood • St. Paul, Vancouver
- Dr. Robyn Woodward • St. John, Shaughnessy

Also in her report to Diocesan Council, Bishop Skelton informed Council that potential Bishop's Nominees were considered at a meeting with Archdeacons and the Dean on April 28. The following nominees have accepted the nominations and will go forward for investiture in the ODNW for 2016.

Bishop's Nominees

- Dr. Starr Allaby
- Mr. Christopher Barr
- Mrs. Joan Cope
- Ms. Sylvia Enga
- Mr. Simon Johnston
- Mrs. Margaret Jonsson
- Mr. Thomas Roach
- Mrs. Ginger Shaw
- Mr. Alex Starr ☩



During the 2015 ODNW Investiture Eucharist Justice Bentayen of St. Michael's Multicultural Church, Vancouver offers the first reading. PHOTO Wayne Chose

This Isn't Quite the Summer Camp I Had in Mind

MICHAEL MCGEE

Rector, St. Christopher; Chaplain to the British Columbia Regiment, Duke of Connaught's Own

It was 10 am on a beautiful sunny day in Farnham, Quebec. I was lying on my stomach waiting for the command to go, while staring at the metre-long mud puddle inches away from my face. I would have to crawl through this puddle while not touching the wires stretched across 20 metres of pea gravel.

This was just one of nine obstacles set up to test us at the end of a four week training course for Primary Reserve and Regular Force Chaplains. We also climbed through windows, charged up and over hills, vaulted over and ducked under logs, scaled vertical and horizontal rope ladders, and ran across moving planks. I gave a short prayer of thanks that I did not have to do this while carrying a rifle or with the added pressure of beating somebody's record for time. All I needed to do was complete the course, hopefully not breaking any bones in the process.

Prior to going on the course in St. Jean, Quebec, I had to complete a 10-day distance-learning module. Together, they are known as the Combined Health Services and Chaplains Condensed Basic Military Officers Qualification Course (BMOQ). This course prepares doctors and chaplains to serve full time as Regular Force or part time as members of the reserve forces. BMOQ trains us to be officers while introducing us to military culture. The training also gives us a window into what other soldiers experience. All regular force members of the Canadian Armed Forces go to St. Jean for a 12 week long course as non-commissioned members or a 14 week long course as officers. If you're in the reserves you would take this training through your home unit either in a series of weekends or in a 12 week stretch in the summer. Chaplains need to understand what other soldiers experience and so we experience most of this training. As clergy are considered non-combatants: we did not carry weapons or learn to fire them, but we were given instructions in weapon safety. My training as an officer will be followed by a 4 week Basic Occupational Qualification (BOQ), otherwise known as Padre School to be held in Camp Borden which I hope to complete next month, October 2016.

There were 17 of us on the course in St. Jean: four were officer cadets still in seminary, and others included ordained ministers, a canon law professor and one nun. We ranged in age from 26 to 51. Some of us had previous military experience: one was a cadet officer, one had been in the infantry, one person had served as a clerk — this was our *Radar O'Reilly*, the seemingly clairvoyant corporal played by Gary Burghoff in the 1970 film and long running TV sitcom *M*A*S*H*. I had served in the 1980s as a Master Corporal both with a regimental band in Montreal and I participated for four summers in Ottawa with the Changing of the Guards on Parliament Hill. We also had two chaplains who had served as police officers in former careers and we also had some people who until they came to St. Jean had never marched before and had no previous military experience. For all of us, this was a steep learning curve but we supported each other through the challenges.

So how did I decide to take on this ministry? Well, God moves in a mysterious way.

In the spring of 2011, Forest Lawn Funeral Home called me to take a service for them. At the viewing and prayer service the night before the funeral I met the deceased's grandson who flew in that day from Montreal. I learned that he was in the Air Force and that he had flown home the day before, having finished his tour in Afghanistan. He arrived for the funeral with



Captain the Rev. Michael McGee. PHOTO Christian Jacques

"Chaplains minister to the needs of all members of the Canadian Armed Forces and their families, whether they attend church or are of the same religion, whether they have any spiritual beliefs at all."

his baby daughter, who had been born while he was deployed. I watched as he passed his daughter to different family members noting that every time his daughter started to cry while held by someone else, she would immediately stop crying as soon as her father took her back. When the time was right I approached this father and talked with him about my impressions: his daughter heard his voice while she was in the womb and even though he wasn't there at the birth, there was no doubt that a bond had been established. The next morning I used this in the funeral sermon as an illustration of St. Paul's statement: "For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

This experience stayed with me as I reflected later on the needs of service personnel and their families while serving overseas. Within a few months after a casual conversation with a chaplain who thought I should consider this ministry, I read about a recruiting call for chaplains in our diocesan newsletter. These three events triggered a discernment process for me.

This discernment process seemed simultaneously to be a natural fit but also an inner conflict. I wondered how I could wear a

uniform and follow Jesus as the Prince of Peace. After a lot of prayerful reflection and reading about military chaplaincy, I had a significant conversation with a friend who works for the International Red Cross. My friend shared that she knew the Red Cross often could not do their job without the army doing its job in certain parts of the world. She also understood the impact on soldiers who had to follow Rules of Engagement even when it conflicted with personal values. There are times when soldiers cannot intervene and that results in inner conflict. There are also times when soldiers have to use lethal force and that can come at a personal cost. Society asks our soldiers to sometimes do those things which exact a personal cost and they need to be supported and cared for. Chaplains sometimes take on that role of support and care.

Chaplains are responsible for fostering the religious and pastoral care of Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members and their families, regardless of religious affiliation. Chaplains in the Royal Canadian Chaplain Service contribute to the operational effectiveness of the CAF by supporting the moral and spiritual well-being of military personnel and their families in all aspects of their lives. Chaplains minister to the needs of all members of the CAF and their families, whether they attend church or are of the same religion, whether they have any

spiritual beliefs at all.

CAF chaplains are accountable to both their ecclesiastical and military authorities. As faith group leaders, chaplains come under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of their denominations and faith groups. As commissioned officers we are subject to the code of service discipline and we are responsible to our military superiors. A chaplain has privileged access to all Forces members of all ranks, has no commanding authority, and is prohibited from bearing arms under the Geneva Conventions. As a chaplain I have said grace at a number of mess dinners, officiated at weddings and a memorial service and a Remembrance Day service. I advise my Commanding Officer regarding religious accommodations issues, ethical dilemmas, as well as spiritual and morale issues in our regiment. As chaplain I will also refer members to other care providers such as social workers, psychologists, or medical personnel. A chaplain may be called upon to provide directed care after significant life incidents and may be called upon to give notifications to a member's next-of-kin when directed. I am trained to assist members in maintaining their mental health and how to monitor and support each other through a program called *The Road to Mental Readiness*.

Currently I serve as the Chaplain to the British Columbia Regiment, Duke of Connaught's Own. Many of the members of my regiment are university and college students, but some are still in High School. Other members are in the early years of their careers and some have been in their careers both military and civilian for a couple of decades. Our regiment includes police officers, paramedics, firefighters, lawyers, mechanics, teachers, bankers, and realtors. They are all juggling family and work commitments in order to make their service possible. Many members are of other faiths, and this allows for some very interesting conversations and wonderful interfaith ministry. I provide a ministry of presence and I help members work through relationship and career issues in addition to supporting them in their training. I also enjoy the team approach that is fostered in the military ethos.

My parish of St. Christopher's has been very supportive of this ministry. Typically, I parade on Wednesday evenings although weekend training exercises and pastoral needs from members can change that schedule somewhat. Many parishioners, and indeed many Anglicans throughout the diocese, have served in the military and continue to support the work of the Canadian Armed Forces. They understand that members of the CAF are individuals who need support in their service. When I was on the training course in Quebec, I sent regular email updates to the parish, and was supported by them in prayer throughout the course. When I returned, many people commented on my weight loss and have tried to fatten me up. Some parishioners still ask me when I'll let my hair grow back, but I've decided I like the new look!

I ask your continued prayers for the members of Canada's Navy, Army and Air Force.

From the BAS:

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day-by-day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils, which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ✠

Diocesan Chancellor Proposes \$100,000 Challenge to Diocese in Support of Cathedral Campaign

Dear Friends and members of the diocese:

Over the last 18 months, our Cathedral has been featured in local and national media covering the significant restoration project *Raise the Roof, Ring the Bells, Feed the Hungry*. It is a “good news” story both because of the Cathedral’s prominent location in the heart of downtown Vancouver, and because it is a story of a community — our community — stewarding a heritage resource and engaging the wider city in partnership.

As Chancellor, I know well the role the Cathedral plays in our diocese. Like all Cathedrals, it is where we come together for broader Diocesan worship. The Cathedral also carries the responsibility of sustaining the choral tradition, an integral part of Anglican worship, with amateur and professional, adult and child choristers. And the Cathedral is one of the diocese’s most important heritage assets, preserving historical records in the structure and stained glass.

As a member of the business community, I also know that the Cathedral is truly “The Soul of the City,” visited by tourists and residents, many of whom view it as the face of the Anglican Church and its most recognized building. The “Open Doors” approach, alive at the Cathedral, has made the building accessible to the public and as a result, it is where the City has come together in times of tragedy to reflect and remember what is truly important. These opportunities to welcome the public into an Anglican space are vital for our continued relevance and leadership in today’s society.

Raise the Roof, Ring the Bells, Feed the Hungry is the final major restoration project for the Cathedral for the coming decades. The roof and seismic upgrade are critical to preserve the worship space for the next 125 years. The bell spire, the largest religious art installation in Vancouver will signal daily the Anglican presence in downtown Vancouver. And the completed kitchen supports the much needed food outreach ministry.

The capital campaign has currently raised \$7.4 million toward the \$9 million goal. The business community has shown its support, as has the Province, many major donors and the Cathedral community. There is room now for all of us as members of the wider diocesan family to show our support.

For these reasons, I invite you to join me in supporting this once-in-a-generation legacy project. Personally, I have made a gift of over \$2500. I encourage you, as fellow members of the diocese to join me in making your own gift if you have not already done so. Give as you are able, either as a single donation or 3-year pledge, ideally in the minimum amount of \$750. We have until the end of October to raise \$100,000 when the bells will ring. I believe this goal is achievable.

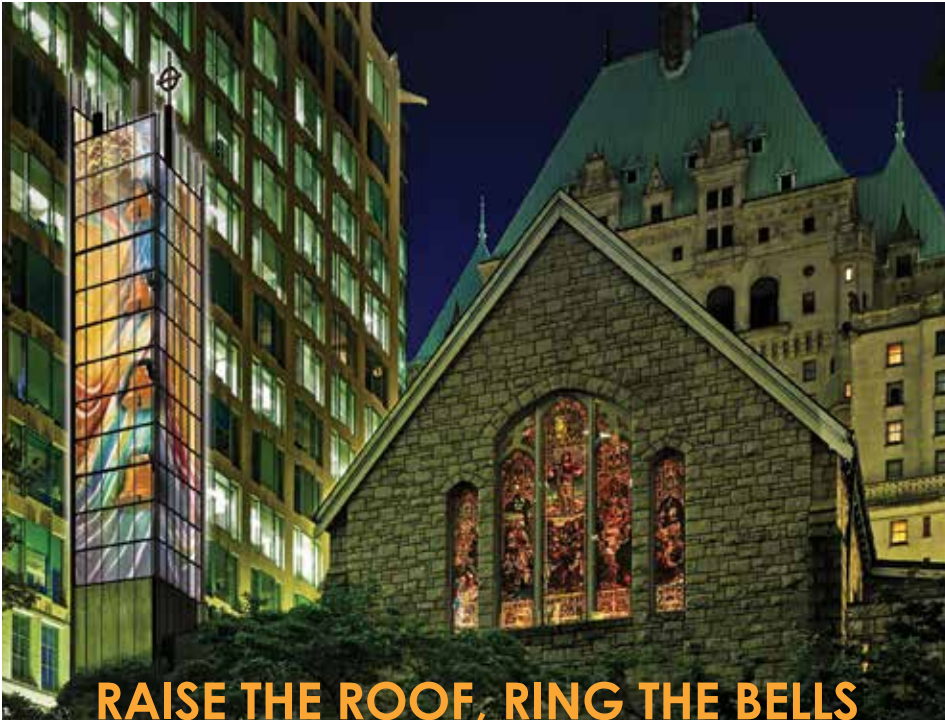
Yours sincerely,



George Cadman
Chancellor, diocese of New Westminster ✠



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
Vancouver, BC · Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds



RAISE THE ROOF, RING THE BELLS FEED THE HUNGRY

Join Chancellor George Cadman and Diocesan leaders in a fundraising challenge to raise \$100,000 by October 31, 2016.

Pledges and one-time gifts are welcomed. Give now at www.raisetheroof.thecathedral.ca or contact Emily Pritchard at 604-682-3848 ext. 21 or emily@thecathedral.ca.

OPINION

Moving Forward After General Synod

KERRY BAISLEY, ODNW*
Christ Church Cathedral



Kerry Baisley, ODNW* as Bishop's Chaplain on June 18, 2016. PHOTO Bayne Stanley

Irving’s biography of Michelangelo is entitled, *The Agony and the Ecstasy* and it feels like similar emotions were felt at different times by both “sides” in the marriage canon vote of General Synod 2016.

The questions now are: “What do we do?” And, “How do we do it?”

Two images may assist in this journey. The first from Henri Nouwen, and the second from the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus (SFGMC).

Henri Nouwen wrote *The Wounded Healer* as a model for ministry. This can provide us with a model of service to others. Nouwen wrote how our ability to minister is affected by how many bandages we unwind. When our bandages and those of others are changed in manageable amounts, we can assist each other. Removing our bandages all at one time renders us helpless and vulnerable. Being aware of our own woundedness AND the wounds and vulnerabilities of others will enable us to grow together.

The San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus’s CD *Naked Man* included the song *There is No Map* and the lyrics can be a guide to us just as they were to the LGBTQ2S** community in 1996:

There is no map for where we go
We’re not lost, we’re here
There is so much that we don’t know
We’re not lost, we’re here
Faint the trails and few the footprints
Few and faint, they disappear
They have disappeared behind us
We’re not lost, we’re here.

There are opportunities here to listen and grow together. One example is the area of at risk youth. We can share our sorrows and our hopes related to at risk youth in our Indigenous and isolated communities with the same concerns we have for at risk youth of our cities, a high percentage of whom are LGBTQ2S** people. We have an opportunity, not a problem.

Canadian Anglicans can show we have more that binds us than divides us and let the whole world see and know that things which were being cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by Him through whom all things were made. ✠

* Order of the diocese of New Westminster
** Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Questioning, 2 Spirits

OPINION

Talking About God

LESLIE BUCK
St. Paul's

If we are going to talk about God, let's first define our terms. What do we mean when we use the word "God?" We can't have a rational discussion about God unless we first do that. We will only talk at cross purposes. How can we say that God exists if we don't know what the word means?

That all sounds very reasonable, but the eminent philosopher, Karl Popper, said that it is quite wrong. Defining terms, he said, does nothing to increase knowledge. Knowledge comes from our experiences. We can give names to those experiences but the name is no more than a label. Labelling is very convenient and useful but it tells us nothing more than we already know.

Consider, for example, what Isaac Newton did when he observed the apple fall from the tree. He took that and other observations and developed a concise way of describing them. The apple falls from the tree, he concluded, because two bodies (in this case the apple and the Earth) mutually attract, and move towards each other in a manner dependent upon their relative masses and the inverse square of the distance between them. To this result he gave the label "gravity." We now say that Newton discovered the law of gravity, but that is not strictly true. He first discovered the relationship. The naming came after

and the name is, relatively speaking, of less importance.

In the same way our knowledge of God comes, in the first place, from our experiences — our experiences of life, of other people, of the world around us. We don't have to define our terms in order to talk about those experiences. What the Scriptures have brought together are the collective experiences of the Christian community, not a number of definitions. In recounting the experiences of our forerunners in the search for God and in particular with their experiences of Jesus, those Scriptures take God for granted. They do not seek first to define God or, for that matter, to prove that God exists.

The gospel-writers record how Jesus asked the disciples to tell him who people thought that he was. He then asked them: "Who do you say that I am?" He was asking them of their own experience, not the opinions of others, and they replied from that experience: "You are the Messiah" (a Messiah who, incidentally, did not quite fit the definition offered by the opinionated).

To take another example, we all look for meaning in our lives. When we find meaning in our life we know that we have found it. We do not have to define beforehand that for which we are looking. In fact, we do not

really look for the meaning of life — a term that has to be first defined — but we look to live our lives with meaning, that is, to experience eternal life.

All of this has implications for the way in which we preach the Gospel, the way in which we set forth God for those who seek God and who seek meaning for their lives (or, to use current terminology, the way in which we aim for parish growth and development). We should aim first to offer an experience of God in the distinctive shape of our Anglican inheritance. This experience is grounded above all in the Eucharist where we engage with the Scriptures (our experience of the past), with the Bread and Wine (our experience of Christ in the present), and with each other (our experience of the world around us and what will be the future). In doing this we need not worry unduly about defining our terms. What we are talking about becomes evident in our actions.

In the past some theologians have spent immense amounts of energy in defining God and in proving that God, as thus defined, exists. My conjecture is that they have persuaded no one. Those who have believed in God have done so as a result of their own experiences while those who have not believed have remained unpersuaded by



Leslie Buck.

the argument.

When we talk about God, the basic question, I suggest, is why there is something rather than nothing (or why does the Universe exist). This question is, I believe, important for many reasons, but it is time for us all to find a more profitable way of addressing it than by defining God and attempting to prove that God exists. However, in offering that suggestion about where the basic question lies I am getting close to proposing a definition, so perhaps I should now end. ✠

General Synod 2016 • Resolution A051

There have been hundreds of thousands of words written online and probably just as many in print regarding the July 11 vote on Resolution A051 at General Synod 2016 in Richmond Hill, Ontario, a resolution that seemingly went down to defeat by one clergy vote.

Following the July 11 vote there were a flurry of statements released, social media posts and coverage by local, national and international news agencies. The proposed change to the marriage canon, which appeared to have been thrown out, would allow that all persons who are eligible to be legally married in Canada may be married in the Anglican Church of Canada (there is still a conscience clause).

However, it was discovered on July 12 that the vote that was taken electronically was incorrect. Before General Synod was adjourned it was determined that Resolution A051 had in fact, passed.

The principal glitch was that the General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Ven. Michael Thompson who has a vote, was designated as a member of the laity not clergy. In order for a canonical change to pass, the resolution must receive a 2/3rds majority in all three levels: Bishops, Clergy and Lay at two successive General Synods (2016 and 2019). Archdeacon Thompson's affirmative vote was tabulated in the wrong house. In the tabulation of votes, July 11 there were 51 Yes votes out of 77 clergy, one vote short of a 2/3rds majority, but there were in fact 52 votes out of 78 which is a 2/3rds majority.

Therefore, Resolution A051 has passed on first reading and will be presented for second reading to General Synod in 2019 when the governing body of the Anglican Church of Canada will meet here in the diocese of New Westminster.

In the aftermath it appears that there were a few other voting glitches due to how the electronic voting system was initially configured and how it functioned, however none of those glitches would (or could) affect the outcome.

On July 18 after everyone had had a few days to pray, reflect, celebrate or mourn; Bishop Melissa Skelton released the following statement to the diocese about her plans for a broad but expeditious process of consultation:

By now many of you have heard the news that the resolution to change the marriage canon to allow same-sex couples to marry in the Anglican Church of Canada did, indeed, pass in all three houses of the General Synod (bishops, clergy and laity). As you can imagine, this reversal has left many in our diocese and in the broader church feeling relieved and elated. Others feel stunned and sad.

In that the resolution is a canonical change, it must be passed again by the General Synod in 2019, and, should it pass, would only come into effect on January 1, 2020.

The question many have asked is what we, as a diocese, will do in the three-plus-year period prior to the potential enactment of the resolution. Here is what others and I have thought through so far.

In a word, my approach is going to be collaborative in discerning what we, as a diocese, will do in this interim time. This comes from my strong belief that we are gifts one to another and that, while certain decisions have been given to me as your bishop, I do my best work when I hear others' perspectives before making decisions. This is nothing new. I've made it clear to all the Archdeacons that their roles (and the perspectives they bring) share in the Episcopal ministry of oversight. Likewise, I've made it clear to the Regional Deans that their roles (and the perspectives they bring) share in the Episcopal ministry of pastoral care. I'm also reminded of the words I say to each new incumbent at that incumbent's induction: that the incumbent's ministry is one that I as bishop share in. We collaborate in that parish ministry.

What this means, then, is that I will engage in an expeditious process of consultation within the diocese and with selected others

outside the diocese to explore what we might do to move toward greater equity among all couples who wish to make baptismally-grounded, community-supported, lifelong, monogamous commitments to each other within the Anglican Church of Canada here in this diocese. At the same time I will be having conversations with those clergy in our diocese who might be feeling uncertain or find themselves in disagreement with the outcome of General Synod. I want to hear and address not only their concerns about their options in officiating at marriages but also about their relationships with others in the diocese.

Some (only some) of those I will be consulting are: Archbishop John Privett and the Provincial Chancellor, our own Chancellor, the lay and clergy delegates to General Synod 2016 to include Peter Elliott (the Dean of the Diocese), the Archdeacons, the Regional Deans and the clergy of the diocese. This process of consultation will then be followed by sessions open to anyone in the diocese to share where we are in the process, hear questions and comments, and talk about what to expect going forward. Information about these open sessions will come your way as soon as we finalize our plans.

I want to thank all of you who sent the other delegates and me messages of your support for us in this process. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us in these conversations and may the Holy Spirit continue to inspire and strengthen us for the mission entrusted to us here in this part of the Anglican Church of Canada.

In Christ,
+ Melissa

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There will be two opportunities to attend Open Meetings to hear from Bishop Skelton and from other members of the diocese of New Westminster's delegation to General Synod. At these sessions the primary focus will be the consultation outlined in Bishop Skelton's statement but there will also be some other reporting back about the decisions made at the triennial meeting of the national church.	First Open Meeting	Second Open Meeting
	for anyone in the diocese	for anyone in the diocese
	DATE September 20	DATE September 21
	TIME 10 am – noon	TIME 7 pm – 9 pm
	LOCATION St. John's, Sardis	LOCATION Synod Office,
	46098 Higginson Road,	1410 Nanton Avenue,
	Sardis BC	Vancouver BC
Both Open Meetings have the same purpose: clarifying what happened at General Synod with particular focus on the marriage canon vote and what we will be doing in the interim period. ✠		
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University Chaplaincy • A Vital Ministry

KIMBERLY BLAIR

St. Laurence; Member of Diocesan Council



Diocesan Youth Movement

YOUTH CONNECTIONS

News & Events for Youth in the Diocese of New Westminster

youth groups •

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

contact • Caitlin Reilley Beck

Diocesan Coordinator for Children & Youth Ministry

cbeck@vancouver.anglican.ca

604.684.6306 ext. 225

*“Encouraging and supporting
the open practice
of religions and ‘spiritualities’ equally
is central to today’s
college and university chaplaincy.”*

Calling All Youth Across BC From Grade 8 to 25 Years Old!

The British Columbia and Yukon Anglican Youth Movement (BCYAYM) will be having their annual Fall Conference in Victoria at St. George the Martyr in Cadboro Bay. This year’s theme is **Being a Christian in Today’s World**. Different leaders from the community will be leading theme sessions over the course of the weekend.

The weekend will be full of fun, friendship and faith!

EVENT DATES • Friday, October 7 – Monday, October 10
(Thanksgiving long weekend)

TRANSPORTATION • Available from many places
across the province
• The transportation cost is included
in the registration fee

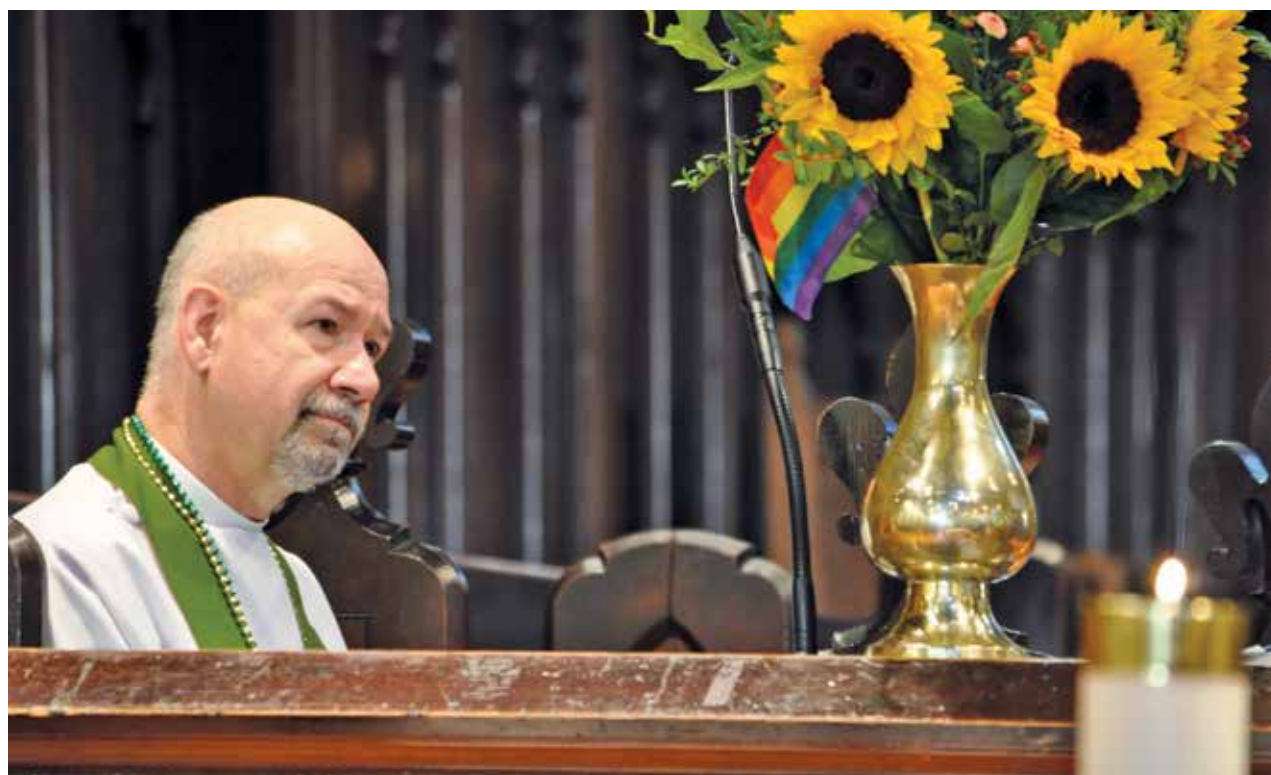
COST • Before the early bird deadline
(September 18) the cost is \$150
• After the early bird deadline
the cost is \$180

The cost includes accommodation, transportation, meals,
theme sessions, activities, and much more! Bursaries are
available through BCYAYM before September 25.

If you have any questions about the weekend, want more
information or want to download the registration form
check out our website at www.bcyaym.com or contact one
of our registrars at bcyaym@gmail.com. ☙



BC YUKON ANGLICAN YOUTH MOVEMENT



The Rev. Dr. Alain-Michel Rocheleau in his seat in the chancel of St. Paul's on Pride Sunday, August 2, 2015. PHOTO Randy Murray

The Rev. Dr. Alain-Michel Rocheleau knows how essential and influential university can be. It is the time and place where we begin to build our lives.

Known as both professor and priest, Alain-Michel is currently Anglican chaplain at the University of British Columbia (UBC). He is hoping to expand the current university ministry to involve a variety of weekly activities including a weekly Anglican Eucharist.

Alain-Michel has been teaching cinema at UBC for many years. His ministry began organically, with students approaching him during office hours wishing to speak about a multitude of issues.

I recently had the chance to speak with Alain-Michel over the phone, and I found his open mind and heart to be infectious. During our conversation he expressed his passion for this ministry and his desire to expand it. He would love a budget, a place for regular group gatherings, and hopes to be obtaining both very soon.

Alain-Michel believes that the support and perspective chaplains provide to our academic communities has never been as important as they are right now. “Encouraging and supporting the open practice of religions and ‘spiritualities’ equally is central to today’s college and university chaplaincy.”

Alain-Michel says, “I have the privilege of working with faculty, staff, and especially with young adults making some of the most important decisions of their lives as university students, from determining their future career to discerning their deepest values. Supporting those young adults at this moment of personal and spiritual development is just one of the ways I’m trying to serve the UBC community as a chaplain.” He also has the opportunity to meet periodically with other UBC chaplains of other traditions and participate in liturgical and ecumenical services on campus.

“Campus ministry is very important. Many [young people] don’t show up at church on Sunday mornings, but are very spiritual and are questioning.” For these students, Alain-Michel is a supportive neutral observer who can help them tackle an array of challenging topics. “Nothing is taboo,” he says, “I am open to talking about everything.”

He finds that students often want to discuss the importance of social justice, respect, and self-respect, as well as a variety of other personal concerns, including depression. The topic of social justice in particular strikes a cord with him because as he explains “Anglicans are keen on social justice, and as a church we do our best to be open-minded.”

I asked Alain-Michel about his take on our recent General Synod. He expressed his joy at the passing of the first reading of the amendment to the Marriage Canon to allow same-sex marriage in our Church and his anticipation for the 2019 General Synod. As a member of the LGBTQ2S* community himself, students can find him relatable and compassionate. He is supportive and welcoming of all students from all walks of life.

Spiritual and religious tolerance amongst all faculty, staff, and students is central to his chaplaincy at UBC. Alain-Michel believes that his role as Anglican Chaplain must play a key role in representing the needs of a wide range of religious and spiritual traditions to the University.



The Rev. Dr. Alain-Michel Rocheleau. PHOTO Courtesy of Alain-Michel Rocheleau

It helps ensure that individuals and groups are able to practice their faith while respecting other faiths.

This September at UBC, Alain-Michel will be hosting a table with pamphlets and handouts, spreading Anglican ministry on campus. He will also be launching a Facebook page to accompany this ministry. Alain-Michel can be found on campus doing ministry four days a week throughout the school semesters.

University ministry can be challenging with students coming and going as they graduate from their various academic programs. But Alain-Michel remains committed and excited, saying, “This ministry is an ongoing process... [in the future] I hope to be doing more.”

I agree with Alain-Michel in that university ministry is a crucial ministry. It is one I believe our Church should be putting more time, money, and effort into. It is often a neglected and under-invested ministry. If we are to usher our Church into the future, we need to be investing in our young people today because they are the Church of the now, not solely the Church of the future.

When Alain-Michel is not at UBC, he can also be found at St. Paul’s in Vancouver’s West End where he is the Honorary Assistant Priest to the Rector. He describes St. Paul’s as being an open-minded congregation where all are welcomed.

His favorite pastimes include immersing himself in cinema, music, or walks in the great outdoors. If you are interested in getting in touch with Alain-Michel you can contact him at rev.amrocheleau@gmail.com or 604.512.8474. ☙

* Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Questioning, 2 Spirits