



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My Sisters in Christ,

Following the traditional Pancake Suppers on Shrove Tuesday, many of us attend an Ash Wednesday service – to recognize the first day of the LENTEN season of 40 days of self-examination and penitence. To symbolize this, the priest placed ashes (in the form of a cross) on our forehead and reminded us "For dust you are and to dust you will return" (Genesis 3:19). Each of us approaches this time of preparation for EASTER in a different way but with similar underlying reasons – some will pursue study groups; self-reflection; self-denial; giving more of oneself to others – and the list goes on! Some of my recent readings on the subject, that have given me considerable food for thought, have included those of Rachel Held Evans, an American author, speaker and blogger who poses 10 questions to ask yourself during your Lenten reflections:

1. *When I wake up on Resurrection Sunday morning, how will I be different?*
2. *Is there a habit or sin in my life that repeatedly gets in the way of loving God with my whole heart or loving my neighbor as myself? How do I address that habit over the next 40 days?*
3. *Is there anyone in my life from whom I need to ask forgiveness or pursue reconciliation?*
4. *What practical steps can I take to carve out time for daily contemplation?*
5. *What spiritual discipline do I need to improve upon or want to try?*
6. *What are some things in my life that I tell myself I need but I don't?*
7. *Why am I giving this particular thing up? How does giving it up draw me closer to God and prepare me for Easter?*
8. *What am I going to tell myself when self-denial gets hard?*
9. *Is it necessary/helpful for me to share the nature my fast with others or should I keep it private?*

10. *What do the ashes mean to me this year?*

There were a couple of other comments from Ms. Evans that also impacted my thinking:

- a) *Choose a saint or a Christian you deeply admire to "guide" you through the Lenten period ...*

particularly appropriate this year given our national theme of "Leaders of Courage, Serving by Faith"- and suggests that *in addition to studying 'her' work and meditating on 'her' prayers, (take time to) learn about 'her' life.*

- b) *Incorporate the color purple into your home, office, and church. A simple purple candle or orchid or note card with a verse can remind you of the season and help keep you focused.*



And, lastly – but certainly MOST applicable to us and our Mission of Outreach (my emphasis added!):

- c) *Do a 40-day purge of all your excess stuff (**clothing and household linens**) and donate the best of it to Goodwill (**ACW**) or a local thrift store that benefits your neighbors.*

Hopefully you will find one of these thought that resonates with you as well!

President's Message continued...

Before I sign off, I want to remind you of our upcoming Annual General Meeting on April 23rd at St. John's Shaughnessy! PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS and take note of the information elsewhere in this newsletter! In particular I draw your attention to the request for your early responses to the enclosed "questionnaire/ballot". As everyone is aware, we have been supporting our Northern Bales program since about 1948 AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO as long as our support is needed. I do so appreciate the many dedicated hours our volunteers spend putting them together! However, the Board now feels it is appropriate, and we are in a financial position, to proceed with an Expanded Outreach Program. To this end, earlier this year we asked for your comments and/or suggestions as to types of projects you would like us to consider along with an indication of the particular agencies/organizations you would like to see benefit. Given the wide variety of responses received, we have put together a listing of the opportunities suggested and would ask that you provide us with your responses (based on Branch discussions/ consensus OR as individuals) by no later than April 12 so that we can put forward appropriate resolutions for you to vote on at the AGM. *(As a reminder, in order to vote a "member" must be in good standing [that is – \$12. membership dues paid - \$1 /month/year]).*

Looking forward to seeing you all in April and, in the meantime, wishing you and yours and revitalizing Lenten Season, followed by a Blessed and Joyous Easter.

*In Faith
Margaret Warwick
President, Diocesan Board
Anglican Church Women
Diocese of New Westminster*



He is not here for he has risen.....

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

In his address to General Synod, the Primate referred to the coming debate as follows:

"As we grapple with the question, we must acknowledge that members of our Church hold different views. We must seek, at this General Synod, to relate to each other frankly and honestly, knowing that our behaviour matters, and to do so without pulling moral rank. We must seek to avoid too easy generalizations about one approach being totally wrong and another totally right."

My experience has convinced me that many of those so involved take the position that they do because they are convinced it helps maintain peace.

... We must seek to respect one another as we work in diverse ways.....

But part of this working involves challenging and questioning each other so that we can seek deeper insights into God's will."

Strangely this is not from a current Synod, although the words ring true today. This is from General Synod 1983, and the speaker was Most. Rev. Edward W. Scott, the then Primate. The subject then under discussion was peace and disarmament, and the quote is from "Living Message", the National Magazine of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Our beloved church has always had diverse views, and our strength is that we are prepared to work together in spite of these differences, to work to find common ground, and to go forward respecting each other's opinions.

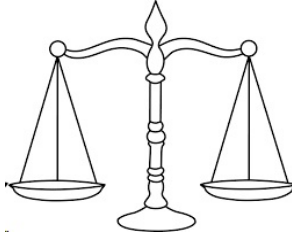
I seem to recall similar discussions about ordination of women, Eucharist for children, moving an altar away from the wall.....

So for those going to General Synod, you go with our prayers that your discussions with be respectful, and that God's will may prevail.

*Sheila Puls
Editor*

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Moderation/Simplicity + Reflection = BALANCE



Lent is a special time as a Christian. It is our opportunity for *conversatio morum* or our attempts to change our habits or lifestyle. A huge daily challenge as a Westerner in North America is to be able to find the time and energy to practice simplicity and to grapple with consumerism. Plus how to make our attempts for turnaround – that are through small realizable things. It will be the micro changes that will stay with us versus some macro change that we may not be able to sustain over time. This does not in any way suggest that our habits are bad – but that some of them may just be no more than a waste of time. Ash Wednesday has reminded us again – that our time on this earth is short for our being able to share our love, our gifts and our talents.

We all can name some of the traps we run into for time every day that we later wish was better spent and for some the list may be longer than others. What are yours? Is it TV 130+ channel hopping, wishing to see every movie that will be in the Academy Awards, watching a newscast more than once a day, surfing the Internet for hours, or endless meetings etc.? How about using some of that time for 20 minutes of art, music, walking, sitting in the garden to hear or see the birds, reading, talking to your spouse/partner or next door neighbour or Facetime/Skype with a grandchild.

Then there are the other two traps. First the adage that if you want to get something done – ask a busy person. But what about that busy person who wants to keep their balance? Should they get up 30 minutes earlier every day to have time for their own preferred lifestyle or should they remove the door knocker from their door or learn how to say no in order to protect their own boundaries of their preferred lifestyle? The other trap is for the "heart" person. The person who feels obliged to almost personally and individually care for everyone in the world. How can that person and all close to them

assist them in their boundaries for their own needs for balance so that they can go on as caring but balanced heart persons?

Also have we ever taken the time to reflect on whether or not or to what degrees – our moderation and simplicity is interior and exterior? Try making a list for each and put it away a few days and then look at it again. Does the exterior reflect our interior self? Does our interior radiate out to our exterior self? As well how do we cope with our interior and exterior selves when challenged by the imbalances between the haves and the have nots in our own extended families and friends, in our neighbourhoods, our community and large and as far out as our global world?

Our world is in need of our commitment to moderation and simplicity. In a world rife with imbalances between the haves and the have nots, simplicity of style speaks to our inner desires to do our own small part to right the imbalance.

As we sit with the word of God during Lent – is all of the weeks ahead – and as we pray in community and at home – we can reflect on this desire – and have our contemplation turn our inner and external selves towards new and renewed ways of modest and simple actions. Not only will they be life-giving for ourselves and those closest to us – but to so many others and the world at-large.

Sue

The Rev. Sue Foley-Currie

JOY IN THE LITTLE THINGS

Have you ever travelled with people who were so intent on their destination that they missed all the pleasures of the journey?

It is like walking to a flower show and not seeing the violets along the roadwise.

When you have learned to see the violets, your life has become one of rejoicing. After all, big celebrations are rare in most lives while dozens of tiny causes of joy can happen every day.

TAKHINI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: WHITEHORSE, YUKON



Takhini Elementary School is a K-7 school located in one of Whitehorse's oldest neighborhoods. Takhini currently enrolls 180 students, and this number stays somewhat stable throughout the school year, though the numbers are somewhat deceiving, as will be explained below. Takhini is the designated "overflow" school in Whitehorse, which means the school enrolls students who are not able to enrol in the schools in their catchment areas. Takhini is also in the Yukon College catchment area, which means that adult learners who move into Yukon College family housing with their school aged children will enrol their children at Takhini.

Takhini currently has a diverse student body from diverse economic, social, and cultural backgrounds. Approximately 53% of our students are self-identified First Nation students. Of those who indicate First Nation affiliation upon enrolment, we have over twenty-four different First Nations represented. This is a unique situation in Yukon and adds a very rich diversity to our school. However, because we have no First Nation that is a real numerical majority at Takhini, thus we have no First Nation specific support person as a presence in our school.

Takhini has frequency of student mobility. Students may arrive after school begins and sometimes leave before the school year ends. Some of these students transfer in and out of Takhini more than once in a year. As we approach the end of the 2014-2015 school year, at least fifty transactions of students either enrolling or leaving Takhini have occurred. This creates challenges associated with building relationships, transitioning to the school, assessment and supporting student learning. Regardless of the "overflow" status of Takhini, the

staff and school community function well together. Takhini staff make a concentrated effort to make students and their families feel welcome from the moment they arrive. Parent engagement and participation at school events is evident. Parent-teacher conferences are well attended (90% or higher for every class this year) and parent attendance at events such as Family Fun night, and Literacy night is very high.

Nutrition Needs:

- * Teachers estimate, based on daily needs of children, that about 80% of students require breakfast, snacks or lunches
- * Currently we have had support from the Breakfast for Learning program. We have an annual budget of \$4000 and we have about \$1400 remaining for the year. This amount does not provide sufficient funds to supply the students with fruit and vegetables, which is what they require the most.
- * 8 of 10 classroom teachers are currently spending at least \$40 monthly out of their own pockets to provide breakfast or snacks
- * One teacher prepares snacks and lunches for an average of 30 students each day who indicate a need. This is done on her own time. She purchases the food also.
- * Currently we are spending less than \$1.00 per day per child to meet our needs and stay within the annual budget
- * We have a great need to have some additional support for the preparation of food in the morning. We currently have been unsuccessful to find community volunteers. Ideally, we would like to offer a small daily honorarium to someone from the community to help shop for, prepare and serve the food.

We need the ongoing commitment of a funding body to provide some long-term sustainability for a nutrition program

\$3600 Nutrition worker yearly honorarium to purchase, prepare, deliver food

\$16200 (based on \$3/child/day)

Food required for breakfast, healthy snack, and lunch

Total \$19 800 annually

**Editors Note: This covers several criteria - First Nations support, outreach to Yukon, feeding the hungry and helping children!*

This poem was carved on the walls of an old English tavern more than 200 years ago.

AN ANCIENT PRAYER

O Lord, give us a bit of sun,
A bit of work and a bit of fun;
Give to us in this struggle and sputter
Our daily bread with a bit of butter.
Give us health, our keep to make,
With a bit to spare for poor folks' sake.
Give us sense for we're some of us duffers
And give us a heart for al who suffers.
Give us, O Lord, a bit of a song,
And a book and poem to help us along.
Give us our share of sorrow's lessons
That we may learn that grief is a blessing.
Give us, O Lord, a chance to be
Our goodly best, rave, wise and free -
Out goodly best for ourselves and others
Until all men learn to live like brothers.

Poet unknown

NATIONAL ACW

PRESIDENTS' CONFERENCE

SPRINGBROOKE RETREAT CENTRE, OCTOBER 26 - 29

Plans continue to evolve and a first letter of invitation has gone out across the country - many of the ACW Presidents have responded to say they are looking forward to coming.

The theme is "I am the Vine, you are the Branches" and Rev. Sue Foley Currie and Tasha Carruthers, our guest speaker for the event, are working together on plans for the programme.

It is confirmed that Eucharist with the Primate will be held at St George's, Fort Langley, on the Thursday evening, with a reception to follow.

Many of our branches have indicated that they have plans for favours for those attending - if your branch has not yet made a decision, I would appreciate you letting me know as soon as a choice is made.

We will keep you advised as our plans progress.

Sheila Puls, Co-ordinator

SOCIAL ACTION

The bales are completed for this shipment - 22 for Whitehorse and 3 for Punky Lake - and should be shipped up on March 1st.

Our supplies for layettes are now critically low!

What we are in most urgent need of:

Baby sleepers in all sizes!
Girls & boys 2 piece outfits all sizes under size 2
Girls dresses all sizes under size 2

And for the bales:

Gloves, any gender
Men's clothes any type, (large or extra-large)
Youth boy's clothes, any size, any item.
Cosmetic bags to put samples of shampoo, soap, conditioner, etc.

Special thank you to Krista Fry who comes out regularly from St. Michael's, Surrey.

I'd like to thank all the ladies who donate their time, goods and talents to help the bales be made!

Beth Fortin

Social Action Co-ordinator



The bales are ready for shipping (and a couple of layettes are ready for packing in the next shipment)

Photo credit: Margaret Warwick

Dear Lord, give us the strength to accept with serenity those things that cannot be changed, the courage to change those things that can and should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.

FUTURE OUTREACH

Last year, your Board asked for ideas of criteria for future outreach, to give us guidance for the spending of our funds. We have tabulated all the comments received, some related to general criteria and some to specific organizations, and are now asking for your voting preferences - please complete the form below and either send it in to ACW Place by April 12th or bring it to the AGM on April 23rd.

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN DIOCESE OF NEW WESTMINSTER

OUTREACH VOTING PREFERENCES

Branch:

General Comments:	1 st choice	2 nd choice	3 rd choice	4 th choice	5 th choice	Total
Locally focused youth oriented programs						
Feeding Children						
Seniors support						
Educational Assistance Generally						

The Board has recommended \$20,000.00 be budgeted for the fiscal year ending Feb.2017.

**Please allocate your choices by percentage
and bring the completed form to the AGM.**

Specified Organization	1 st choice	2 nd choice	3 rd choice	4 th choice	5 th choice	Totals
Care & Share						0
Primates World Relief and Development Fund						0
Missions to Seafarers						0
Covenant House						0
Camp Artiban						0
Yukon School Food Program						0
Aunt Leah's						0
St. Jude's						0
The Bloom Group						0
VGH Chaplaincy						0
Atira						0
L'Arche						0
Urban Native Youth - Elder Mentor Program						0
Diocesan Refugee Unit						0
Salal and Cedar Watershed Discipleship						0
Totals	0	0	0	0	0	

CARE & SHARE

An Initiative of the Bishop's Fund for Local Mission - this year supporting The St. Paul's Homeless Outreach Program and The Community Support Ministry Collaboration project at St. Augustine's and St. Faith's.

PWRDF

The Canadian Anglican response for emergency relief, refugees, development and justice. As of February 3, 2016, PWRDF has received \$526,190 that is eligible for the government matching funds program.

MISSION TO SEAFARERS

Caring for seafarers around the world. Two local "Flying Angels" clubs, in Vancouver and Deltaport, and Deltaport alone served 13,000 seafarers and 1500 ships.

COVENANT HOUSE

Homeless, lost and afraid, more than 1,400 street-involved youth come to Covenant House Vancouver each year to find sanctuary and a brighter future.

CAMP ARTABAN

Camp Artaban has been providing Christian Camping rooted in the Anglican tradition on it's Gambier Island site since 1923, making it one of the oldest camps in British Columbia. With a new business plan in the works, two camps are planned for this summer.

YUKON SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAM

An outreach to a school in the Yukon with a largely transitional population of First Nations youth - see article on page

AUNT LEAH'S PLACE

Aunt Leah's Place is a registered charity that has been helping kids in foster care and teen moms achieve a better future for over twenty years. We have seen how support at this critical time can help these young people realize their possibilities and potential and become resilient, independent adults.

ST JUDE'S HOME

A 55 bed complex care home nestled in a west-side residential neighborhood of Vancouver, British Columbia.

THE BLOOM GROUP

Responds to the most urgent needs of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

VGH CHAPLAINCY

Providing chaplaincy service for patients, their families and the staff in BC's referral hospital.

ATIRA

Atira Women's Resource Society is a not-for-profit organization committed to the work of ending violence against women through providing direct service, as well as working to increase awareness of and education around the scope and impact on our communities of men's violence against women and children.

L'ARCHE

L'Arche Greater Vancouver is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating homes and day programs in which people with and without developmental disabilities live, work and discover faith together. We live together as an intentional community. With over 40 years of experience in fostering inclusion, understanding and belonging,

COMING HOME SOCIETY

The Coming Home Society is providing the means to offer this innovative program that brings together a core group of Aboriginal Elders with at-risk inner city youth to share their cultural and spiritual teachings. The Elders will hold group sessions and also spend one-to-one time with the many vulnerable youth who are isolated from their grandparents, aunties, and uncles who are the traditional sources of wisdom and support.

DIOCESAN REFUGEE UNIT

The purpose of this fund is to cover a range of expenses above and beyond the monies raised by parishes or other groups to satisfy the requirements of their sponsorship applications. Examples of the kinds of expenses the Bishop's Fund for Refugee Resettlement could cover include: the repayment of travel loans, extraordinary medical expenses, "month 13" expenses (expenses during the time of transition from sponsor support to self-sufficiency), and any other unforeseen gaps between a refugee family's projected expenses and what it actually costs to live in this part of Canada.

SALAL AND CEDAR WATERSHED DISCIPLESHIP

A church plant/watershed discipleship community for Christians in and around Vancouver who have a heart for creation, feel most connected to God in ocean, forest, river and field, are deeply concerned about global climate change, want to bring their faith to work for ecological justice, are environmental activists but keep their faith quiet and believe racial justice, economic justice and environmental justice are connected.

LIFE LESSONS LEARNED FROM MY DOG

When your loved ones come home,
run to greet them.

Eat everything offered, and enjoy it.

When it's hot, drink lots of water.

Never bite, just growl!

Give unconditional love.

Stay close to your loved ones
in times of trouble.

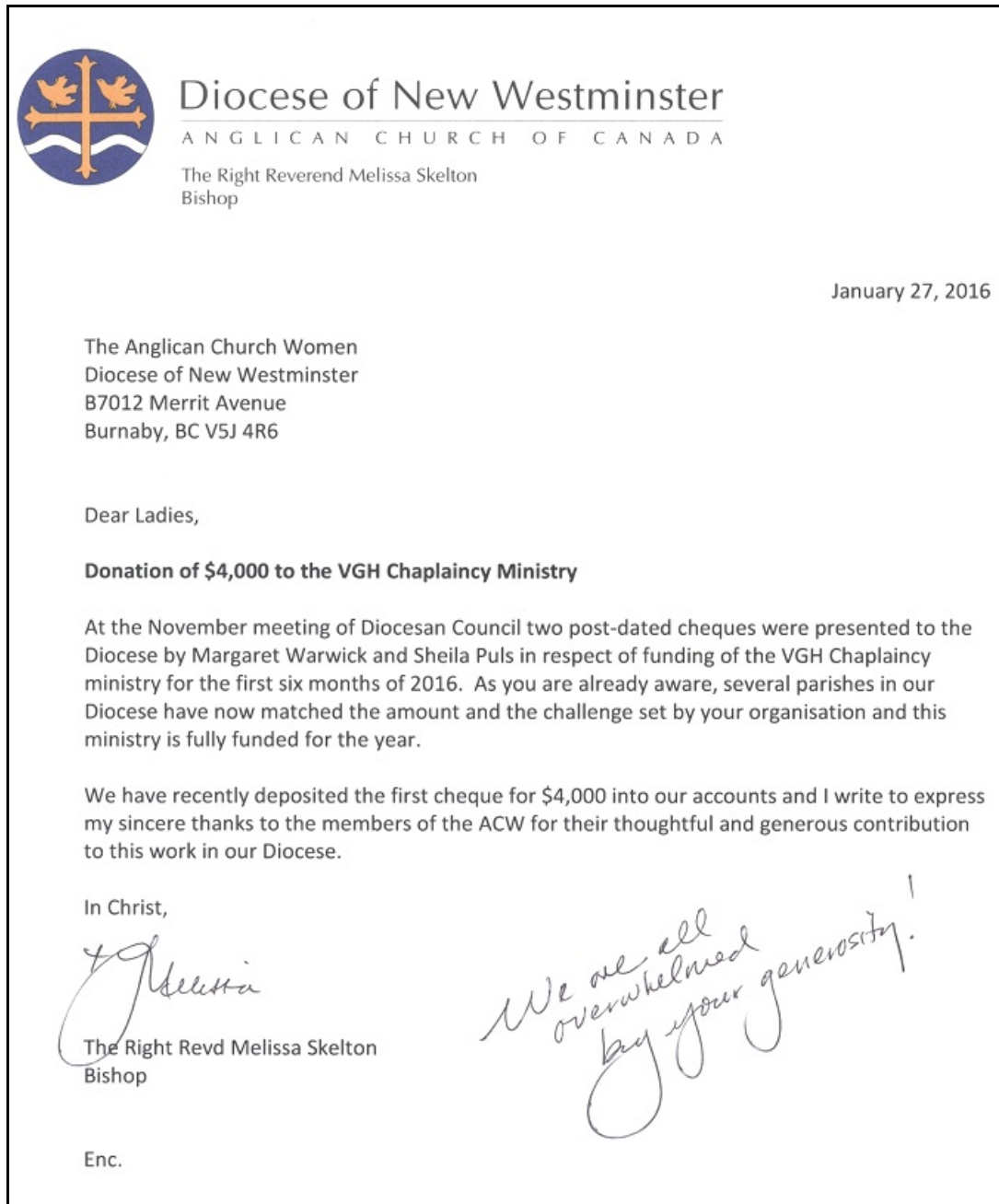
When you want something badly,
keep digging 'til you find it.



OUTREACH - CHAPLAINCY

As reported in the December News 'n' Views, we presented the Diocesan Council with two cheques to cover 50% of the costs of the VGH Chaplaincy for the 2016 year, challenging them to find the other 50% to ensure that the service continued. Several of the parishes in the Deanery met our challenge and the Chaplaincy is safe for this year. In addition, a task force has been established to work out a way to continue this very visible sign of the Anglican church in a place where there is an obvious need for the heart and hands of God.

The following is a letter received from Bishop Melissa in appreciation of our donation, and we look forward with interest to hear how this ministry can be funded in the long term.





OPEN HOUSE

Saturday - June 18

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

7012B Merritt Avenue, Burnaby

Come and see what is done at A.C.W. Place
(the warehouse with the heart of a house!)

Come get a tour, see what we do, and who
we help!

Bring the children, and grandchildren!
Face painting and activities for children.

Hotdogs and refreshments by donation.



Christ Church National Historic Site Hope, BC

Saturday August 13th 2016

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Tea from 1 pm - 3 pm

*celebrating
155 years of service.*

EVENING OF CLASSICAL MUSIC

Sunday August 14th 2016

7 pm



St John the Apostle Port Moody

SPRING TEA

Saturday May 7th

2 pm to - 4 pm.

Pie and Ice Cream Tea,

Plants, Crafts,

Baking and Preserves.



St George's Fort Langley

SPRING FAYRE

Saturday May 14th

10 am - 2 pm



Barbecue Lunch
Pie and ice cream
Baking
Children's activities
Market place
Plants



There are many things in life
that will catch your eye,
But the important ones are the ones
that catch your heart.

Christ Church Hope

RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday April 2nd

9 am to noon

ACW

Diocese of New Westminster

Annual General Meeting

Date:
Saturday
April 23rd 2016

Place:
Synod Office &
St John's Church
1490 Nanton Avenue
Vancouver, BC
604-731-4966



Time:
09:30 am Registration
morning coffee
10:00 am AGM
11:00 am Guest Speaker
12.30 pm Lunch
2:00 pm Eucharist

REGISTRATION FEE \$5.00

LUNCH (by pre-order only) \$10.00

Please cut below and return lower portion
with your registration fee by April 12th 2016
to ACW Place, 7012B Merritt Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5J 4R6

Please register early

of Branch members attending _____ Cheque # _____ for \$ _____ sent _____



**Anglican Church Women,
Diocese of New Westminster**

**Annual General Meeting
Saturday April 23rd 2016**

Registration Form
(Registration receipt and lunch tickets will be at the door)

Branch Name:			
Address:			
Number of Members attending (\$5.00/person)		Lunches required (additional \$10.00/person)	
Cheque enclosed	\$		

ACW Place, 7012B Merritt Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5J 4R6
e-mail ACW@vancouver.anglican.ca

Please return by April 12th 2016