



IN THIS ISSUE



Indian Residential Schools Panel Discussion, April 18th, 2015

PAGE 6



St. Barnabas, New Westminster turns up the heat on St. Valentine's Day

PAGE 7



Ash Wednesday on the Road

PAGE 20



Archives Move

February 23rd to 27th, 2015, was a busy week for the Archives of the Diocese of New Westminster and Provincial Synod of BC and Yukon. The archives' space at the Vancouver School of Theology (VST) transferred to the University of British Columbia (UBC) at the end of March and the new archives space in Shaughnessy is still under construction. As a result, the archival records as well as the archives' furnishings had to be put in temporary storage.

Over the course of 3 days, the 3,000+ boxes of records were transferred into storage at the Library and Archives Canada federal records centre in Burnaby, and the parish of St. Mary's, Kerrisdale generously made room to temporarily store the archives' furnishings.

While archives volunteers the Ven. Ronald and Sandra Harrison kept an eye on the loading of the records and furnishings at VST, Archivist Melanie Delva oversaw the offloading and shelving at the federal records centre. The records and furnishings will remain in storage until the new Diocesan Offices and Archives space in the refurbished accommodations at St. John's, Shaughnessy are completed. Until that time, Melanie will have not have access to the records and will therefore be unable to field research requests (with the exception of some vital parish records which have been digitized). However, she can be reached in her temporary home at the Synod Office at archives@vancouver.anglican.ca or 604.684.6306 ext. 230. ✚

Bishop Melissa Skelton's 2015 Easter Message

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Mark 16: 1 – 8

I have never enjoyed the experience of someone finishing my sentences. Don't get me wrong, as a person who has done this to others, I can certainly understand the impulse. But when it happens to me, I feel a little miffed. Not because I believe that I, and I alone, have the perfect final word for my thought — far from it. It's because I want the satisfaction that comes with finishing something.

Mark's Easter Gospel, the one we hear this year in our lectionary, is like one long, rushed unfinished sentence. While most of us find additional verses added to this ending in the Bibles we have, scholarly consensus tells us that these verses do in fact mark the end of Mark's Gospel.

In this ending, three women come to Jesus' tomb to

anoint his body and are said to be wondering who will roll the stone at the mouth of the cave-like tomb away for them. When they arrive at the tomb, however, they encounter a number of things they had not expected. The stone is rolled away; Jesus' body is gone; a young man dressed in white is sitting where the body should have been.

The women are alarmed. The young man tries to calm the women's fears but does not succeed in doing so. He tells them that Jesus is risen and that they should go and tell Peter and the disciples that he is going ahead of them to Galilee. At this, the women flee, full of terror and amazement, saying nothing to anyone.

How can this be the ending of any Easter Gospel? How

*"How can Mark leave us
with such a
seemingly unfinished story..."*

can Mark leave us with such a seemingly unfinished story: with the news that Jesus is going ahead of them to Galilee instead of stories of the resurrected Jesus appearing to his disciples, with women too terrified to speak a word about the resurrection instead of women ready and eager to tell the world?

Some commentators believe that Mark intends his resurrection story to feel unfinished, with listeners like you and me, being invited to "finish his sentence," so to speak. But this time, we will not do this in one or two pithy, well-chosen and satisfying words or even sentences. Instead, we will try to finish it by living out all of our lives in the light

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

The Membership Growth Practitioners Group

Why do you want your parish to grow?

TASHA CARROTHERS

Ministry Resources Associate, Diocese of New Westminster

Ask yourself:

- Why are you interested in growing your parish?
- Why would anyone want to return to your church?

These were among the questions that 27 priests of the diocese considered at the first gathering of the Membership Growth Practitioners' Group held at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale (SMK) January 15th, 2015. The clergy involved in this project have responded to an invitation from Bishop Melissa to commit every third Thursday for the next year to focusing on growing the churches that they serve.

The facilitators of the group, Bishop Melissa and I are hoping to create a learning community, a safe space for people to learn and experiment. It will take time, and the plan is to develop trust through small group discussions. The format is largely plenary presentations followed by small groups, where participants get a chance to reflect on what they have just learned and apply it to their own parish. In between sessions, participants will read and reflect, with a view to working with lay leaders to make changes in parish life.

Over the year, the content will focus on strengthening Sunday morning worship and on gathering people into the parish. Beginning with session number 2 held in February, each participant preached a sermon to two of their colleagues and received feedback. This required some bravery! Some of the feedback questions included:

- What might the preacher do to strengthen what he or she said or did?
- What is the one sentence that expresses the central idea or proclamation of the sermon?
- When did you as a listener think or feel "that's me!" when listening to the sermon?

A focus of the January 15th initial session was a survey on liturgy. Participants were asked to rate themselves and the liturgical practice of their parish. Topics included: the role of the presider, the liturgical space, the flow of liturgy, the participation of lay people, and more. Some sample questions were:

- I feel comfortable and competent to lead appropriate liturgical change in my parish.
- In our liturgical space, the central foci of action in the liturgy (font, altar, ambo, assembly) are central and prominent.
- Deacons, lay servers, readers and intercessors are appropriately trained for their roles and function with confidence and competence in our liturgies.
- Our liturgy appropriately engages the culture/ethnicity/age/diversity of those I would like to attract to the parish.

Participants completed the survey on large flipchart pages that were positioned around the SMK hall, which allowed them to immediately see and interpret the results.

This is just one example of the ways in which participants will work on growing their congregations. Learning together and from each other, they will develop ways of deepening and enriching Sunday mornings and becoming more intentional about gathering new people into the parish.

Plenty of support and a respectful atmosphere for learning is key to Bishop Melissa Skelton's vision of a diocese where Parish Development is a principal focus of mission and ministry. Stay tuned for more reports about this exciting initiative in future web reports and articles in upcoming issues of *Topic*. ✦

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Tasha with the SEND flipchart. PHOTO Randy Murray



Bishop Skelton with the GATHER flipchart. PHOTO Randy Murray



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



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Editor Randy Murray
rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca

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The Bishop of New Westminster

The Rt. Rev. Melissa M. Skelton

Address

Diocese of New Westminster
#580 – 401 West Georgia Street
Vancouver BC V6B 5A1

Phone 604.684.6306 ext. 223

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

Contributors & Helpers for this issue

Neale Adams, Anne Anchor, Caitlin Reilley Beck, Linda Burton, Tasha Carrothers, Wayne Chose, Phil Colvin, Erin Davis, Melanie Delva, Danna Engnan, Louie Engnan, Jennifer Friesen, Monica Gibson-Pugsley, Lyndon Grove, Valerie Hampton, Kent Kallberg, Mark Kirksey, Anthea Lewis, Brander McDonald, Pamela McElheran, Lynne McNaughton, Bill Main, Margaret Marquardt, Pam Martin, Ruth Monette, Stephen Muir, Gail Newell, Marnie Peterson, Hope Sealy, Jade Martin Seedhouse, Vivian Seegers, Bishop Melissa Skelton, Emilie Smith, Sarah Sovereign Photography, Alex Starr, Andrew Stephens-Rennie, Sharon Taylor, Vancouver School of Theology Communications, Sandra Vander Schaaf, Alison Watt & Andy Whitmore.

Thank you!

Bishop Melissa Skelton's 2015 Easter Message

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

of Jesus Christ raised from the dead.
And so, for me, Mark's Gospel is just the right one for us in the Diocese of New Westminster to hear this year. For we, you and I, have started many sentences together since we came together a year ago, and we have a great deal more to do as we take even more steps together in living out the presence of the risen Lord among us. Let me say more about some of these things:

We have already done much toward creating the bond of friendship and love among us all that is central to life together in Christ. Through parish visitations and through the meetings that many of you have initiated with me, I've come to know most of the parishes, clergy and parish leaders. Along with this I believe that different groups and parts of the diocese have come to know each other better as well in the past year. This has happened as Council has moved to a new meeting design that allows for conversation, as clergy days have facilitated deeper conversation about liturgy among the clergy, as deacons have engaged in a conversational assessment of their life, as the interim and membership growth practitioner groups have engaged in conversation about the areas they are working on, as Metro Vancouver Alliance has worked with numerous Anglican parishes on community conversational engagement and as Synod has continued to explore conversational segments in its agenda.
But as always, relationship building is an unfinished story. What lies ahead for us all is deeper engagement with each other and even more honest conversation together around the issues that really matter to us as we delve further in the work we are to do together

We have also made important strides in the building up of parishes and parish leaders who are dedicated to "growing communities of faith in Jesus Christ to serve God's mission in the world." This, of course, is what parish development is all about. While we have done many, many things in this area over our last year together, I want to highlight three items. First, we are consistently seeing record numbers sign up for training and resourcing in areas related to parish development. Whether it's last year's stewardship day on Rule of Life or the day we introduced Godly Play to parish leaders, we are a diocese experiencing a strong openness and commitment to training and support in parish development. Secondly, Diocesan Council's creation of a new parish development grants program marks the beginning of making modest financial grants to parishes who have good ideas and leadership ready to develop their parishes. This program adds one more way that our diocese is saying that parish development matters. Thirdly, with the agreement of Council we have added a fulltime staff person, Caitlin Reilly Beck, to support us all in the engagement of youth and children in our parishes. This decision says that we envision parishes that are rich in terms of the ages and life experience represented there and that we believe.

But, of course, our work on parish development will always be an unfinished sentence. We have much to do in training parish leaders, resourcing parishes to do parish development work, focusing diocesan resources on parish development, revising policies, processes and practices to better support parish development and simply learning more about how better to develop parishes in this rich and diverse region and applying this learning as we go.
Finally, we have made a beginning; we have started a sentence together, in terms of continuing to work toward indigenous justice. Among the Synod Office staff is our new Indigenous Justice Ministries Coordinator, Brander McDonald, whose role is to help us all learn more about

indigenous peoples and at the appropriate time take additional steps down the path to truth and reconciliation in this diocese. Brander is really just beginning his work, but I for one could not be more thrilled to have a companion and guide for us in this important dimension of our life together.

Bishop Melissa Skelton. PHOTO Sarah Sovereign Photography



And more, much more needs to be done in the area of indigenous justice. All of us need to continue down the path of openness and learning in that we are really at the very beginning of this work. In his commentary on the Gospel of Mark, Donald Juel tells the story of a student of his who (like one of our own clergy here in the diocese) memorized the entirety of the Gospel in order to present it to a live audience. After careful study the student decided to go with the "unfinished" ending we hear in this year's lectionary. However, at his first reading, when he found himself at the end of the story, he could not tolerate the open-ended feel of it. And so after a time of awkward silence, he simply said, "Amen!" in a loud voice. The next time he offered the live reading, however, he knew what to do. Instead of awkwardly remaining on stage, he simply uttered the last line and walked off stage. The audience was shocked. As they left the theatre they could not stop talking about the unfinished ending: What might it mean? Why did the author end the Gospel in this way? What was it saying to them?
People of God in the Diocese of New Westminster, Jesus is risen. He goes before us and will meet us in the work we are doing together for the sake of Christ at this moment and in this part of Canada. Jesus is risen. He goes before us into the many Galilees we live in. Jesus is risen. And we are the ones who complete the story his resurrection begins. ✠

In Christ,
+ Melissa

The Membership Growth Practitioners Group

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

LEFT Small group discussions are an essential part of developing trust among the participants. RIGHT Clergy filling out the Survey on Liturgy. PHOTOS Randy Murray



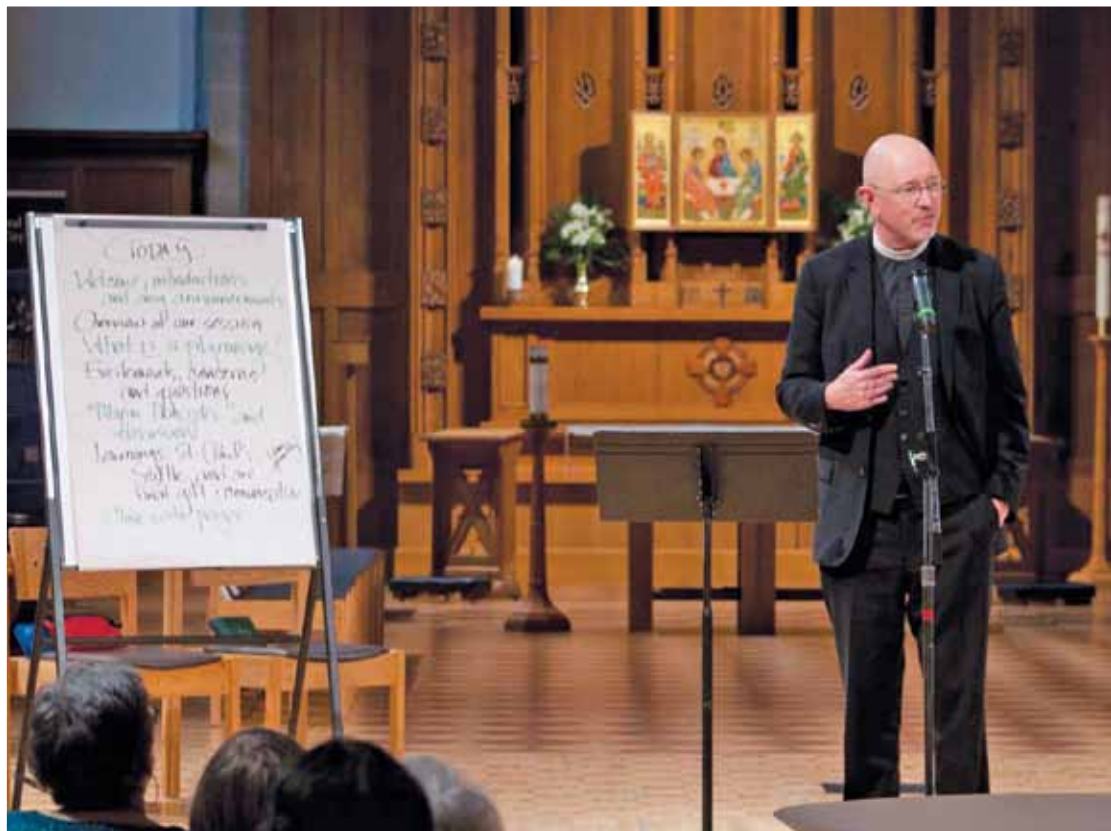
Fastened to the wall with tape are the goals for the yearlong program and the first session goal. PHOTO Randy Murray



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

compiled by Anglican Archivist Melanie Delva

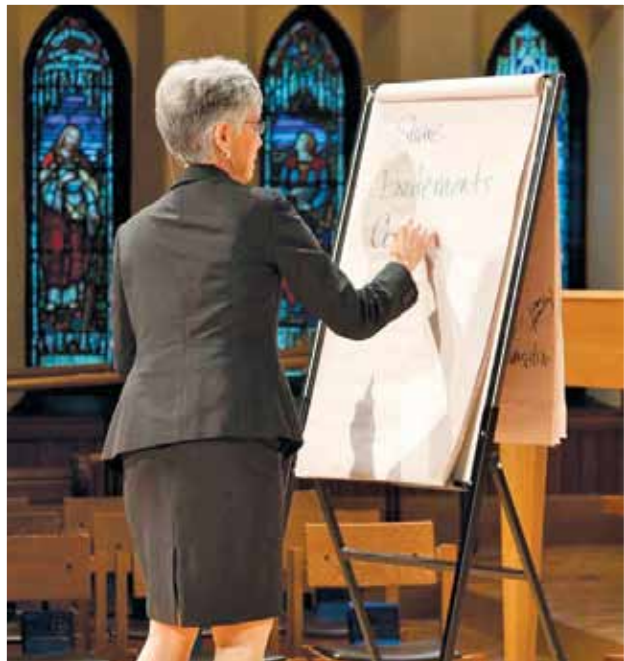
- 50 years • 1965** Diocesan Council sends a telegram of encouragement and support to the Rev. Martin Luther King in Selma, Alabama.
- 25 years • 1990** Simon Fraser University Chaplaincy and Ministry to the Aging positions fall victim to budget cuts in the 1990 – 1992 Stewards in Action (SIA) budget.
- 20 years • 1995** Anglicans in Chilliwack join with other local leaders to seek to stop the organization and settling of the Aryan Nations in the area.



LEFT Dean Peter Elliott presents an overview of the relocation discussion agenda. RIGHT Special Warden, Ian Birtwell indicates the many different components involved in the renovation, construction and relocation. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Bishop Skelton asks for definitions of "pilgrimage." PHOTO Randy Murray



Bishop Skelton listing the community's responses to how they are feeling about relocation. PHOTO Randy Murray

Pilgrimage 2015

RANDY MURRAY
Diocesan Communications Officer & Topic Editor

For many gathered in the nave at Christ Church Cathedral (CCC) between the hours of 12:30 and 2:30 pm on February 1st, 2015, it's quite likely that the words of the legendary New York Yankee's catcher, Yogi Berra entered their thoughts, "It's like déjà vu all over again." The purpose of this get together was to extend the conversation about the imminent, temporary relocation of all activities that take place in the upper level: narthex, nave, chancel and choir of the 120 year old church building at 690 Burrard to more members of the parish. Even those who joined the Cathedral community following the end of the 20th century remember the year that the parish relocated for worship to a meeting room at the Main Branch of the Vancouver Public Library, April 2003 to April 2004, while the heritage restoration and renewal of the church was underway. And now—forward to spring 2015—when again the Cathedral community will relocate for worship for up to six months while the new roof project is completed and a new kitchen is built on the north side of the lower level. This is part of the three-pronged *Raise the Roof, Ring the Bells, Feed the Hungry* project that will see the construction of a new bell spire, a replacement zinc roof, the completion of the seismic upgrade for the building and the construction of a new and larger kitchen primarily to support CCC's compassionate service food ministries.

February 1st, 2015, the Cathedral Parish celebrated the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple. Not only was this a major feast day but it also marked the first official pastoral visitation of Bishop Melissa Skelton to the Cathedral parish since her consecration March 1st, 2014. As many in our diocese know, Bishop Skelton celebrates and preaches at worship during her visitations, but after worship she wants to do more than eat sandwiches and cut a cake. For Bishop Skelton her presence with a parish community is an excellent opportunity to engage with the parish to do some work. And at hand for the CCC community is an examination of the many details that make up something as complex as relocation. Bishop Skelton was only too happy to help.

To begin the meeting, the Dean of CCC, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott introduced Ian Birtwell, Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW), the Associate Warden with the responsibility of oversight for renovations and building. Ian's leadership in this ministry has spanned the incumbency of the last four CCC rectors and his many gifts in project and building management have made him an integral part of all the significant construction projects involving the Cathedral during six decades. His involvement in this current project is pretty much a full-time job. He began by saying that the relocation involves "numerous constituencies." There is the parish use of the sanctuary for worship and also the use of the sanctuary by other groups for concerts (etc...) that will need to be suspended. Although there is not likely to be any work done on the site on Sundays, the space will be extremely dirty and dusty and generally unsafe. Therefore, the upper level will be unavailable, once the scaffolding of the building is completed—probably late April. The 10:30 am Eucharist

during this period will take place in a ballroom at the Century Plaza Hotel, located several blocks due south at 1015 Burrard Street. This will be the location for the main 10:30 am Sunday Celebration of the Eucharist until the project has progressed to a level where use of the upper level is safe and clean. CCC leadership have booked the Century Plaza location until the end of October but Ian suggested that the church could be ready for worship as early as the Sunday after Labour Day. The venue at the Century Plaza will be made available for CCC worship at 7:30 am on Sunday mornings to provide adequate time for set-up.

Other constituencies include those involved in CCC's compassionate service initiatives, which will need to conclude by the end of April. Also CCC staff will relocate to an office suite in Park Place located next door to the north of CCC for a 2–3 month period beginning in May. Cathedral Choir will hold their rehearsals at St. Andrew's Wesley United Church located next door to the Century Plaza and the CCC 8 am Book of Common Prayer congregation will worship there as well on Sundays. The new emerging St. Brigid's community (Sunday evening 5:30 Eucharist) will relocate, during this pilgrimage time to St. George's, Vancouver (2950 Laurel Street, near Vancouver General Hospital).

After Ian spoke, Bishop Skelton read the Collect for St. Brigid's Day and began the agenda. Bishop Skelton shared her experience of relocation. During her nine years as rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Seattle there was a major renovation of the sacred space, which resulted in the St. Paul's community worshipping in the parish hall located in the basement of the building. Although not at a different address, the community had certainly journeyed to a different space and had experienced all the accompanying turmoil, adjustments and joys of relocation. Based on her experience of relocation Bishop Skelton posed three questions:

1. What is your excitement about this journey?
2. What are your concerns?
3. What questions do you have?

She positioned these questions within the context of "pilgrimage." For the first small group discussion, Bishop Skelton asked everyone to turn to their neighbour and talk about the meaning of pilgrimage. There was a very enthusiastic reporting back about the meaning of pilgrimage:

- A journey with a spiritual component
- A journey to a holy place often with others
- A journey that brings about change
- A journey that can be hard work

Following the brief *pilgrimage* discussions, the 150 present formed groups of four or five and began the process of articulating their concerns and questions and of examining the excitement that they feel about this new chapter in CCC's history. When it was time to report back, the Rev. Marnie Peterson, who is the Synod staff person responsible for the Diocesan School for Parish Development and is



Halfway down the left side Joan Seidl shares her thoughts with Bishop Skelton during the reporting back process. PHOTO Randy Murray



Tasha Carrothers records Cathedral members, excitement, concerns and questions on stage left. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Rev. Marnie Peterson does the same on stage right. PHOTO Randy Murray

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

currently part of CCC's clergy team, staffed the flipchart on stage left and Tasha Carrothers, the Synod staff person responsible for Parish Mission Reviews and the developing Membership Growth Practitioners Group, and also a CCC parishioner took up her position on stage right. Both Tasha and Marnie are instructors at the Diocesan School for Parish Development, which uses methods developed by Bishop Skelton (who is Director of the School) during her years in ministry in the Episcopal Church. Bishop Skelton, Marnie and Tasha work together very well having been together in similar situations for several years.

There were numerous concerns about Coffee Hour and how a social component following worship could be implemented in a different location. Specific groups that use Sacred Space as part of their ministry were concerned about being displaced. There were practical concerns about: transportation, parking, the security of the Cathedral space while the community is absent, and a lack of community presence on CCC site (a well-known tourist destination) during the project. But there was also a great deal of excitement about the many positives that will be discovered during relocation. People reporting back suggested that: the services at the hotel be filmed and a finished piece produced to chronicle the adventure; the CCC community becomes a presence at the hotel witnessing to the message of the Gospels; the community will grow as it did during the 2003–2004 relocation; and one suggested that during the time at the hotel the children of the parish are invited to be present at the Altar during the Eucharistic Prayer.

The information shared by the plenary and recorded will be of significant value to CCC leadership as they prepare over the coming weeks for the relocation. Despite the concerns and questions, what Bishop Skelton heard most in the reports was excitement.

The final part of the workshop involved looking at *Pilgrim Principles: Journeying with Intention in Everyday Life* a book written by Lacy Clark Ellman a Spiritual Director and author who lives in Seattle and is well-known to Bishop Skelton. In the book Ms. Ellman suggests that the pilgrims:



The reporting back process as seen from the Cathedral's chancel. PHOTO Randy Murray

- Choose a theme for the journey
- Develop a new routine or new patterns of behavior
- Take time to reflect
- Share your journey with others
- Bring something back from the journey

Bishop Skelton also shared some of the ways the St. Paul's, Seattle community benefited from their "exile."

- They treated it like an adventure
- Embraced the "gift of it," the opportunity to grow
- Realized they would have to make adjustments on the fly and always brought a sense of humour
- Expected to grow spiritually and numerically
- Focused on rediscovering their purpose as Christians and as a Christian community

There was a great deal of enthusiasm in the nave of Christ Church Cathedral on the afternoon of February 1st, 2015, and many ideas shared. It was helpful to open up the discussion and welcome ideas and suggestions from a larger group. Greater involvement in planning almost always leads to greater participation. The reports recorded will show that the CCC parish is looking for more out of this experience than just a six month interruption that they have to *work through*, they are looking at this as part of a continuing pilgrimage, an opportunity to grow and thrive, deepening their commitment as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Please visit this website <http://thecathedral.ca/welcome/renovation-information/> to view all the up-to-date renovation and relocation information. ✦

Indian Residential Schools Panel Discussion

The Anglican Diocese of New Westminster in partnership with Langley Mennonite Fellowship is inviting all to participate in a conversation regarding reconciliation work as part of the ongoing follow up to the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) major event held in Vancouver the third week of September in 2013.

Indian Residential Schools Panel Discussion

DATE Saturday, April 18th, 2015

TIME 10 am – 12:30 pm

LOCATION Langley Mennonite Fellowship
20997 40 Avenue, Langley, BC

ADMISSION Free

The conversation will be led by three guest speakers/panelists who have been deeply involved in the TRC process in various ways:

ADJUDICATION

Larry Plenert

Larry is a member of the Mennonite Church of British Columbia and a retired lawyer. Currently, he conducts hearings involving claims of serious abuse suffered by former students of Indian Residential Schools. He is also Arbitrator for the BC Residential Tenancy Office conducting landlord/tenant hearings.

ARCHIVES

Melanie Delva

Melanie is the Archivist for the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster and the Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon. She is responsible for administering a Records Management program for the Diocesan Office and an archival program for Diocesan Synod. She is committed to encouraging and supporting the development of archival programs in parishes. Melanie is the Privacy Officer for the diocese. Her work includes archive documentation of both the Anglican history of residential schools and various stories of survivors of Anglican run Indian Residential Schools.

ADVOCACY

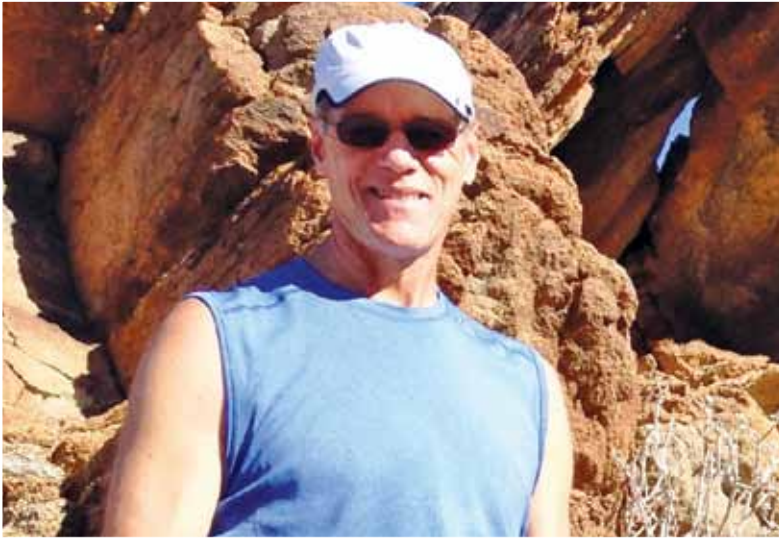
The Reverend Laurel Dykstra

The Rev. Laurel Dykstra is a long-time community based activist and a priest of the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster. As a member of the Ecumenical Advocates for

Reconciliation, and as the Anglican Church Representative on the planning team for the TRC's British Columbia National Event in September 2013, she worked to make the *Churches Listening to Survivors Area* a place of true respectful listening, local protocol and an important component of

the TRC's statement gathering process. With the Interfaith Institute she has secured funding for *Hidden Legacies*—a film about the children and grandchildren of Residential School Survivors. Laurel is a speaker and writer on issues of faith and justice. ✦

Larry Plenert. PHOTO Courtesy Larry Plenert



Melanie Delva. PHOTO Wayne Chose



The Rev. Laurel Dykstra.

PHOTO Sandra Vander Schaaf



The Rev. Michael Batten, St. Thomas, Vancouver with other members of the Nisga'a Dancers on September

21st, 2013. PHOTO Sandra Vander Schaaf



St. Brigid's Day at St. Brigids

Bishop Melissa Skelton spent a good long day at her Cathedral Church on February 1st, 2015, St. Brigid's Day. She arrived to preach and preside at 7:30 am for the 8 am Book of Common Prayer celebration of Holy Communion, preach and preside at the 10:30 am Choral Eucharist, greet Christ Church Cathedral (CCC) members at a luncheon, facilitate a two hour workshop regarding the imminent relocation of the parish during the roof replacement, celebrate Eucharist and enjoy dinner with the folks of St. Brigids, an emerging Christian community where faith is nurtured, discipleship pursued, and questions are honoured.

Although St. Brigids is a ministry of CCC, the majority of the people who now call St. Brigids home were not previous members of CCC. The St. Brigids community began worshipping together on Sunday, May 4th, 2014, meeting at 5:30 pm in the Park Room lounge/meeting room on CCC's lower level. The worship has now moved into the chancel where they continue to meet weekly and during CCC's time of *Pilgrimage* beginning in spring of 2015, the St. Brigids community will meet at St. George's, Vancouver (2950 Laurel Street) near Vancouver General Hospital.

When asked about the current St. Brigids community, Andrew Stephens-Rennie, Assistant to the Rector for Evangelism and Christian Formation at CCC with principal responsibility for development of St. Brigids said:

"Our average Sunday attendance is just over 20 people, and this has grown steadily from the 5 people with whom we initially started. Over time, we have been joined by those who have been de-churched (i.e. haven't been to church for a long time, and are now re-investigating Christian faith), as well as, those who find themselves on the fringes of other congregations, and are looking for a place to get to know one another and to be known.

Recently I had lunch with someone who visited St. Brigids for the first time on Sunday evening. He described the service as warm, inviting, beautiful and humble. Those were wonderful things to hear."

During visitations, Bishop Skelton regularly preaches and presides and the St. Brigids Eucharist was no exception. During her homily, Bishop Skelton called those gathered to pay attention to the seeds of hope and new life within us. She called attention to the budding promise we find within our lives, and the life of the St. Brigids community. At St.

Brigids the sermon is shared, the leader begins, presents the outline, the theme and those assembled are asked to respond. Andrew shared his thoughts about the communities response to Bishop Skelton's message:

"The community's reflections came from deep, honest, and sometimes vulnerable places. One member of the community voiced their appreciation for being able to participate in the shared homily—that this was a place where one voice was not privileged over all others. St. Brigids is becoming a place where we listen to the way in which God's spirit speaks in and through different members of the community. Another shared their gratitude that as a community, we are finding ways to see and be seen by one another. Through that, we create space to be our authentic selves. These were just two reflections, of many, that were shared."

With the imminent reality of exile from the upper level of CCC for up to six months while the roof project is in progress on the horizon, the St. Brigids community will also find itself in a period of pilgrimage as they make the temporary move to St. George's.

In response to questions about St. Brigids role in the Diocese of New Westminster and vision for the future

Andrew had this to say:

"Folks who are new to St. Brigids are being welcomed as members of the Diocese of New Westminster. St. Brigids is a congregation of the Cathedral, and is, as such, a ministry of our diocese. I should hope that this emerging community be seen as a resource in our diocese for connecting with those who are on the fringes of church, and who are seeking a particular way of connecting with God, one another, and the world God loves... From my perspective, I hope that St. Brigids can be a community that is welcoming of all, but especially of those who no longer feel at home in their evangelical church. I'm excited about the way in which this community is already becoming home for evangelicals on the Canterbury trail. I think that the St. Brigids community provides an accessible, compelling, and at the same time challenging way in to the liturgical and spiritual traditions of the Anglican church that makes particular sense for folks who find themselves on the fringes of other traditions. St. Brigids seems to be a community where new folks are welcomed whole-heartedly, and where it is easy to find ways to get involved. I hope that this becomes more true in the coming years, and that new ministry opportunities will grow and flourish out of our upcoming discernment gatherings." ✦

Bishop Melissa Skelton during the Eucharistic Prayer, February 1st, 2015. PHOTO Andrew Stephens-Rennie



Turn up the Heat on Valentine's Day

WRITTEN WITH FILES FROM BILL MAIN & EMILIE SMITH (RECTOR)
St. Barnabas, New Westminster

St. Barnabas' Valentine's Day event was a fundraiser to help pay down the \$17,000 debt incurred due to the replacement of their heating system. Cleverly titled, *Turn Up the Heat*, the successful Latin-themed event raised \$10,000, boosted by a lead gift from St. Francis-in-the-Wood Anglican Church in the Caufield district of West Vancouver. It wasn't just about the money as a "blast" was had by the 100+ participants, ages 1–93.

In preparation, a team from the parish, cleaned, decorated, cooked, and hustled around New Westminster getting everything organized. This parish group was enthusiastically supported by dozens of kids, parents, grandparents, neighbours, Spanish speakers, and English speakers.

On the night, a teenaged dance instructor from a local studio walked the *Turn Up the Heat* guests through the steps of the Samba and Merengue piece by piece and then there was much opportunity to try out the newly learned dance skills. There was also: a puppeteer, a marvelous lady DJ, an abundance of good food, a group of Dominican ladies who REALLY knew how to dance, four city councillors, and their spouses (who were bartenders, and MC) all joining in to make this a night to remember. Synod staff member, Tasha Carrothers attended with her family and said that she "had never had so much fun". A local coffee shop donated \$900, which was a month's income from the tip jar, cementing a new parish love affair.

And... the new furnaces are functioning very well. Between the church building and the hall/daycare, four furnaces are required to heat the physical plant. It is estimated that St. Barnabas' are now saving approximately

\$150 per month on fuel costs with these new, energy efficient furnaces.

As of this writing in mid-February there are no officially planned party events, however, there have been some informal discussions about hosting another event to help offset the cost of some plumbing issues that will require

repairing and replacing drainage pipes and drain tiles. Stay tuned for further updates and future fun at St. Barnabas.

In a note that St. Barnabas's rector, the Rev. Emilie wrote to Bishop Skelton reporting on the event she wrote, "The Kingdom has come close, in celebration and love, and... we can pay back half of our diocesan loan." ♦

LEFT St. Barnabas' Parishioners Richard Tomkinson and Maryann. RIGHT Dancing lessons. PHOTOS Bill Main



Maco, Betty and Pamela, the kitchen crew prepared delicious and plentiful food. PHOTO Bill Main



A lucky winner of a raffle basket, Juan Ainslie. PHOTO Bill Main



The Rev. Emilie Smith and Amber Anderson, New Westminster's Citizen of the Year for 2014. PHOTO Bill Main



DEFINED BY LOVE

2015 Diocesan Confirmation Preparation Day

9:30AM - 3PM SATURDAY APRIL 25TH, 2015

ST JOHN'S SHAUGHNESSY (GRANVILLE AT NANTON)



Come and meet Bishop Melissa and share a day of learning, worship and fellowship with others being confirmed, reaffirmed and received this year.

If you have questions or need more information, contact Caitlin Reilley Beck at cbeck@vancouver.anglican.ca or (604) 684-6306 ex 225.

Registration fee: \$15 (includes lunch).

Register Online: www.tinyurl.com/DefinedByLove2015



Diocese of New Westminster
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA



ST JOHN'S
SHAUGHNESSY

Neighbours of the Wilderness • Session One • LAND

ALISON WATT
St. Catherine's, Capilano

The first offering of the *Neighbours of the Wilderness* Lenten series presented by the North Vancouver Deanery/Region entitled *Land* took place on Saturday, February 21st. Those present at St. John's in North Vancouver on this beautifully sunny afternoon were treated to a wonderful array of information and activities.

The first speaker was Cheyenne Hood, Community Services Coordinator for the Tsleil-Waututh Nation who welcomed us to the unceded territory of the Salish nation. Cheyenne, the great granddaughter of the late Chief Dan and Amy George, granddaughter of Robert and Kathleen George, daughter of Debra George and Don Hood talked about her family's deep and lengthy connections in the Dollarton region of North Vancouver and their age-old

links to the land and the inlet.

As this session was about the *Land*, the group then needed to get into the dirt — literally — and Alecia Greenfield from St. Clement's led a planting exercise. Everyone got into the act of making simple paper plant holders and planting parsley seeds to grow and nurture and enjoy at home.

Other speakers included Allan McMordie, longtime member of the North Shore Rescue team and Kevin Bell, Naturalist. Allan and Kevin talked about how to prepare for hiking in the local hills and mountains; how **not** to get lost; what to do if we get lost; and favourite trails. He also provided a briefing on the wildlife that co-exist with us in this wonderful place we call home.

The afternoon event concluded with the planting a new hawthorn tree by the City of North Vancouver on the south side of St. John's. Jonathan Budgell from the City of North Vancouver and his colleague Craig Bench had kindly prepared the site and brought the tree to the location. A number of people who were present at the event unwrapped the root ball and helped plant and secure the tree in its new home. With the following words, the Ven. Lynne McNaughton, Archdeacon of Capilano and rector of St. Clement's, Lynn Valley, blessed the newly planted tree:

Sacred Tree, rooted in the Earth
 Be for us a symbol of our commitment to renew the Earth
 Creator of the Cosmos, re-initiate us in Awe
 May we take time to breathe in Beauty.
 Stop us in our tracks at the wonder of it all;
 Blue sky and sunshine,
 The dank smell of humus in the forest,
 The faithfulness of seasonal changes,
 The miracle of seeds,
 The intricacy of root systems,
 The glory of branches,
 The marvel of trees.

As of this writing in late February there are three sessions remaining in the series. These sessions focused on: *Energy, Water* and *Food*. ✦

Allan McMordie. PHOTO Alison Watt



The Ven. Lynne McNaughton and Cheyenne Hood. PHOTO Alison Watt



TOP Planting the tree. BOTTOM The tree in its new home. PHOTOS Alison Watt



Stewardship Day for Parish Development

This all-day conference will focus on the theology of stewardship AND the practical skill development needs of parishes for implementation of year-round stewardship programs. We'll define stewardship, talk about "money" and spend time teaching the details of annual financial campaigns, hospitality, events, small parish stewardship and more.



Sign up today for this important conference on stewardship in parishes. Bring 2-3 people from your parish whose ministry is developing a stewardship focus in all aspects of your parish life. Your registration fee includes lunch and all materials developed for the conference.

PLENARY SESSIONS

- Year-round Abundant Stewardship: Bishop Melissa Skelton
- Talking About Money: Archbishop D. Hambidge, Ret.
- Annual Financial Campaigns: Glen Mitchell

WORKSHOPS

- Building Community: Events and Hospitality
- Connecting: Visits and Phone-a-thons
- Stewardship Teams: Best Practices

PLUS Parish Planning Time: Building Your Plan

WORSHIP

- Beginning with Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m.
- Closing with Evening Prayer at 3:45 p.m.

FEE: \$30.00 (Early Bird and Team Discounts available)

REGISTER: <http://conta.cc/1DHnPiH>

Learn the theology of stewardship and the key practical skills needed for a year-round stewardship program

Saturday, April 18, 2015 at Christ the Redeemer, Surrey

Christ The Redeemer is located at 16613 Bell Road, Surrey, BC V3S 1H7; QUESTIONS: Glen Mitchell: (604) 684-6306 x218



Folks gather for the Parish Development session in the St. Michael's hall.

Bishop Skelton processing in for Morning Prayer with the Rev. Marnie Peterson in the foreground.



*"To be obedient,
to be ready for every good work"*

Bishop Skelton welcomes the new members of the parish.
PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE Andy Whitmore & Danna Engnan



St. Michael, Surrey Parish Development Workshop & Annual Vestry Meeting

LOUIE ENGNAN (RECTOR) & VALERIE HAMPTON
St. Michael's, Surrey

On a cool and sunny morning, Saturday, February 21st, 2015, the faithful of St. Michael, Surrey gathered for a distinct occasion in the life and work of their community. The morning was filled with much anticipation and excitement since it would be the first time, after many years that the parish would engage in a conversation focused on congregational growth and parish development.

Everyone present would have an opportunity to immerse themselves in the call of ministry and respond to God's love through obedience, ready for every good work. The presence of the Bishop of the Diocese of New Westminster, the Rt. Rev. Melissa Skelton would be the driving force for the unity of this assembly.

At the appointed time, the congregation convened in the sanctuary for a solemn celebration of morning prayer, a liturgy that is seldom used in this parish. Presided over by the Bishop, with the Rev. Marnie Peterson and rector of the parish, the Rev. Louie Engnan, it was appropriate that the day start with worship.

After the reading of the Gospel, Joseph and Gilda Giorgis, accompanied by their children Naomi and Adam, welcomed the Bishop and the Rev. Peterson to the parish. Bishop Skelton and the Rev. Peterson were each presented with a bouquet of flowers. St. Michael's Sunday School children sang one of their favourite songs, *O Be Careful Little Eyes* to honour the presence of Bishop Skelton and the Rev. Peterson. The congregation joined in for the last verse.

The official welcome of new members to the parish was included in this liturgy. The secretary of the parish called out the new member's names and presented them to the Bishop for welcome. The secretary made special mention that these families had completed the "St. Michael's 101" orientation program prior to this event. With the affirmation to support the life and work of the parish, the Bishop formally welcomed the three new families, with the encouragement of those members present, to the parish.

The next facet of the agenda involved the teaching and nurturing of God's people—a workshop on Congregational Growth and Parish Development. The Rev. Peterson provided some information about the Diocesan School for Parish Development, which was launched in our diocese in 2012. It now has two formats: weekends and weeklong. Five dioceses in the Anglican Communion have recently adapted this congregational vitality program for clergy and lay persons.

The City of Surrey is the fastest growing city in the province and one of the fastest growing cities in Canada. During her presentation, Bishop Skelton shared a brief conversation she'd had with an immigration judge about the preparation of new immigrants for the oath-taking component of the citizenship ceremony. There are seven to eight judges in the Metro Vancouver Area who preside over the

Canadian Citizenship ceremony. On almost all occasions, there are at least eighty families being granted Canadian citizenship every day from Monday to Friday. This raises the question, "How does the influx of immigrants reshape the Anglican community and what will our church look like in the next few years?"

Within this context, Bishop Skelton and Rev. Peterson introduced the *Gather, Transform and Send Model* to the participants. The unique purpose and work of a congregation, is to gather those called by God into Christ's body, the Church, a community of transformed minds and hearts and to send them into the world to actively be God's loving and transforming presence. We are sent out to renew and in some cases to create God's realm on Earth, a realm of forgiveness, reconciliation, courage, justice, peace and hope.

Participants were divided into three groups and were asked to engage in conversations focusing on the following:

- What they are most proud of at St. Michael's Church?
- Their vision for this faith community?
- The steps they should take together to have these visions realized?

Participants then returned to the plenary session and reported on their discussions.

Concrete evidence of the diversity at St. Michael, Surrey was made evident by the wide variety of international dishes brought in by parishioners for the potluck lunch. At the conclusion of the meal, everyone had been nourished and there were plenty of leftovers to share. It was a continuing reminder to us that God's grace is more than enough as is outlined in Mark 6: 30–44, Jesus' feeding of the 5,000.

The afternoon session was used to conduct the business matters of the parish in compliance with the Canons of the Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster. The reports of the various ministries: Altar Guild, Greeters, Counters, Choir, etc., were commended for a year of continuing effort to expand the core of *Mature Practitioners* (*Mature Practitioners* is a term used in the language of the School for Parish Development referring to members of a church who do more than occupy a pew on Sunday mornings). There was a strong desire to focus on youth ministry and also to make an intentional effort to encourage inactive parishioners to return to church.

A Vestry Meeting is not just about receiving the reports of the various ministries and approving the parish budget, it is also about celebrating the life and ministry of the Church. It is about praying together, learning together, eating together as one big family. The desire of the St. Michael's, Surrey faith community is to work toward the building up of God's Kingdom, not for the glory of any individual but for the greater glory of God's name, **"To be obedient, to be ready for every good work."** ✠

Keep Calm & Stay Cool

Winter Retreat 2015 at Sorrento Centre

February's Family Day weekend saw 70 young people and youth ministers gather at Sorrento Centre for our annual Diocesan Winter Retreat. This year's theme, *Keep Calm & Stay Cool*, invited participants to explore how stress and anxiety affect our lives and our relationship with God and one another. Our theme speaker, the Very Rev. Louise Peters, spoke about how both music and ritual can bring our stress and anxiety before God, and through that process and God's presence alleviate our anxiety. We also had workshops, activities, lots of siesta time and the third annual British

Columbia Yukon Anglican Youth Movement (BCYAYM) Winter Olympics and Quiz night.

On the bus back from winter retreat, we asked both youth leaders and young people to share their thoughts on the weekend; here are some of their responses (more photos and responses can be found on page 23 and on the usual DYM back page). ✦

PHOTOS Caitlin Reilley Beck

What was Keep Calm & Stay Cool like for you?

"This was my first time at Sorrento, and I had a really wonderful time. It was a beautiful place to stay, and I loved having the opportunity to spend time with other youth leaders and with young people from my church and elsewhere. We were extremely well looked after: the food was wonderful and the rooms were lovely and cozy!"



What was Keep Calm & Stay Cool like for you?

"Keep Calm & Stay Cool was a wonderful experience, and I can't wait to come back! The staff, food, and accommodations were very good."



What was Keep Calm & Stay Cool like for you?

"This was a super fun weekend. This was my first winter conference and I would love to go again!"

What was Keep Calm & Stay Cool like for you?

"Keep Calm & Stay Cool was a tremendous experience, I loved the workshops. I certainly learned a lot!"



What was Keep Calm & Stay Cool like for you?

"Keep Calm & Stay Cool was a great re Sorrento's setting provides an opportunity for relaxation and reflection, inspired by theme sessions and workshops. I appreciated the variety of options in breakout sessions as a way to explore my spirituality through what I find most relevant. I enjoyed the amount of unplanned time as I was able to do certain things I needed to get done over the weekend so I could more fully participate in the program and be more present in my interactions."



What was Keep Calm & Stay Cool like for you?

"The winter retreat is a great counterpoint to the other events that happen throughout the year (Fall Conference and Young Sojourners). It's great to have lots of flexible time where you can choose the best workshop for you or just to chill with old and new friends. The worship was wonderful. I love the diversity of music. Louise's theme sessions were hard-hitting and right on point for the difficulties all of us face."



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What was Keep Calm & Stay Cool like for you?

"I'm really thankful to everyone, bus driver, leaders and all of the participants at Sorrento."

What was Keep Calm and Stay Cool like for you?

"This was my first time at Sorrento (and in leadership). I really enjoyed the facilities at Sorrento and the program was very well organized. I enjoyed the morning devotional and the style of worship."

What was Keep Calm and Stay Cool like for you?

"I enjoyed being and worshipping with friends, the food was awesome as usual, and I really enjoyed Louise's talks. It was good to have free time too."



School for Parish Development Refresher Day

RANDY MURRAY
Diocesan Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On Saturday, February 7th, 2015, the Diocese of New Westminster's School for Parish Development (SfPD) instructors: Tasha Carrothers, the Rev. Louie Engnan, Kim Hodge, David Swan, Archdeacon Lynne McNaughton, the Rev. Jeremy Clark-King and SfPD coordinator/registrar, the Rev. Marnie Peterson welcomed 30 students from around the diocese to St. Laurence, Coquitlam for a program sampler day.

The Rev. Marnie Peterson was delighted with the venue saying, "St. Laurence is a great spot for the daylong workshop. There is enough space for us to have breakout rooms, the hall and sanctuary are both large enough that we could split the group into two (returning/graduates and people who have not yet attended) and they were very flexible and welcoming to us which made it really easy for us as well. Finally, the location is good and there is enough parking." This is the second year that St. Laurence has been chosen as the venue for the Refresher Day.

"We model the day on a typical day at the school, we begin and end the day with the offices of morning and evening prayer; we worked on all three levels: individual, team and whole group."

The Rev. Marnie Peterson

When asked about the program for the day, Marnie replied, "(participants) got a basic sense of the school. We model the day on a typical day at the school, we begin and end the day with the offices of morning and evening prayer; we worked on all three levels: individual, team and whole group. We all worked together in the morning, learning/being reminded of organizational development and organizational development, and then we worked on a case study based on Richard Beckhard's *Change Model*. In the afternoon we allowed space for people who have not been to the school, to ask questions about the school." The SfPD is offered in two formats: four weekend sessions held throughout the year (the 2015 version is currently in progress) and a weeklong session (the 2015 session takes place July 26th–August 1st and the deadline for registration requests is May 15th). The SfPD curriculum is taught over two years.

The Rev. Scott Gould, rector of St. Helen's, Point Grey had this response when he was asked about the SfPD program, "I appreciate that it seems to be based on building quite a solid, I might even say 'rigorous,' set of skills for ministry teams. I especially like that it is for teams of clergy and lay working together. That is the key ... a lot of the work I have been doing in the parish actually makes a lot more sense when viewed through the 'lenses' provided by this course." Rod Mackin of Christ Church Cathedral (CCC), who has been generous with his time and talent over the years to the benefit of the Cathedral and the diocese is a Creative Director/Brand Manager currently on staff as Creative Lead at *engageQ digital communications* had this to say about his first experience with SfPD, "Perhaps the single most important initiative of the North American wing of the Anglican Communion." When he was asked what the most important thing was that he took away from the day, he answered, "That process/methodology/best practices need not be 'churchified' or dumbed down to succeed."

Betty Higginbottom of the Anglican Parish of the Church of the Epiphany, Surrey completed her first year in 2014, and she believes that the Refresher Day is of particular benefit for those between year one and two, and for people investigating the school who are thinking about requesting registration. She also thought that the day would be of benefit to those who have recently finished their second year as a way of firming up the knowledge and experience they had recently gained.

The worship time together, beginning and ending with the daily office and lunch were highlights of the day according to Scott, Rod and Betty.

When asked if the Refresher Day generated some enthusiasm for registration requests for the full program, Marnie replied, "Some people definitely indicated interest in the school but after the day some people also indicated the they felt that the school would not be a good fit for

them." When asked if he would seriously consider requesting registration at some future date, Rod said, "Yes. Prior to Refresher/Sampler Day, odds of attending were 50/50. Having been given the overview, that has changed to 80% probable." When asked the same question, the Rev. Scott Gould responded, "I plan to do the weeklong program as

soon as I can find a team of lay leaders to do it with me." And Betty Higginbottom plans to attend year two.

For all the current program and registration information please visit the Diocese of New Westminster's School for Parish Development webpages, <http://vancouver.anglican.ca/parish-development/school-for-parish-development>. ♦

The plenary and instructors gather in the St. Laurence hall for an overview of the day. PHOTO Marnie Peterson



School for Parish Development instructors, David Swan and Tasha Carrothers. PHOTO Marnie Peterson



Small group work with the Rev. Neil Gray, rector of Holy Trinity, White Rock and Sharon Taylor of St. Laurence. Watching in the background are SfPD instructors, Kim Hodge and Tasha Carrothers. PHOTO Marnie Peterson



The plenary attending the 115th Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster, Day One, May 23rd, 2014 at the Italian Cultural Centre. PHOTO Neale Adams



Current Synod Chair, Simon Johnston was also Synod Chair in 2014, here we see him welcoming the plenary to the 115th Synod. PHOTO Neale Adams



[be]longing Synod 2015 Preparations Underway

RUTH MONETTE
Director for Mission and Ministry

Under the capable leadership of Synod Planning Chair, Simon Johnston (member of Holy Trinity, White Rock), preparations for the 116th Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster have begun. Synod is the legislative body of the diocese. Clergy and lay delegates from the parishes gather to take counsel with others for the governing of our church, to listen to one another and the Holy Spirit and to take a course of action together.

The 2015 Synod, to be held May 22nd and 23rd at the Italian Cultural Centre, will reflect a number of changes in the diocese. Notably, as per decisions of Synod 2014, this will be the last annual Synod. After this May, the diocese will next gather as Synod in 2017. In the alternative year, a Mission Conference, with an open invitation to the whole diocese, will be held.

Over the two-day event, the 2015 Synod's theme of *[be]longing* will be explored

alongside various business matters of the diocese. Three elements of *[be]longing* will be explored on Friday:

1. Longing for community
2. Longing for God
3. Longing for an authentic Anglican expression of Christianity

Saturday's focus on the theme includes the longing for a realistic understanding of the diocese's current financial circumstances and what might be anticipated for the future. This is critical, in part, because our shared financial life is one tangible way in which parishes and others express their belonging within the diocese.

Clergy and elected Synod delegates can anticipate further details by email in the next few weeks. Stories and updates for the wider diocesan community will be available on the diocesan website and in future editions of *Topic*. ✠

The Rev. Ruth Monette at the 115th Synod, 2014. PHOTO Neale Adams



Welcoming Families, Children & Youth could be your Legacy

A legacy in your will is one way to help your parish community to welcome families with children and youth into God's family. As an ultimate act of stewardship, support the diocese or your parish in your will. Consider titling the value of your estate to support our growing Children & Youth & Family ministry.

For Assistance with your Legacy Gift, contact:
Glen Mitchell, Director, Stewardship & Gift Planning
Call: (604) 684-6306, Ext. 218
Email: gmitchell@vancouver.anglican.ca

Tweet us at @StLaurenceCoq

Using Digital Media for Parish Development

PAMELA MCELHERAN & SHARON TAYLOR (WEBMASTER)
St. Laurence, Coquitlam

Facebook. Instagram. Twitter. Blogging. To be relevant in a post-modern world, churches must use the tools developed by the post-modern generation. At St. Laurence Anglican Church in Coquitlam, our journey using digital media began in 2006, when our first website was developed. Our *Facebook* and *Twitter* accounts were created at the end of 2011. *Twitter* languished and *Facebook* usage was sporadic for about a year. The following year, a more conscious effort was made to provide content to both social media sites on a regular basis. This meant *tweeting* (usually *re-tweeting*) almost daily and adding regular *Facebook* postings. Despite weekly updates of news and events, there remained limited digital media awareness and usage by our parishioners.

Fast forward to 2013/14, during the first year of our two-year period of intentional interim ministry. Under the dedicated leadership of our priest-in-charge, the Rev. Keith Gilbert, we held a special parish meeting to begin the dialogue about our parish future. While parish finances needed significant attention, the feedback from the 56 parishioners in attendance at the meeting was clear — achieve a balanced budget and provide more frequent and transparent communication about parish decision-making and activities. Parish members made it explicit that they wanted more “connectedness” and actions taken to support parish growth.

With the recognition that the majority of communication regarding news, information and ministry events took place via Sunday’s bulletin and verbal announcements, and knowing that an increasing number of parishioners were attending church only once or twice per month, we knew that we needed to provide more information on the social media sites where our parishioners were already active. Of all the social media sites, *Facebook* remains the most popular. According to a 2014 report, 71% of adult Internet users use *Facebook* and of these, 56% are over the age of 65; the latter group represents 31% of all seniors.¹ 23% of online adults use *Twitter* and 26% use *Instagram*.² In 2012, the average Canadian was spending 45 hours a month browsing the Internet with the majority of time spent on *Facebook*.³

While the majority of St. Laurence parishioners can recall life without computers, cell phones, tablets and the Internet; Generation Z (aged 11 to 20) is the first group to have lived their entire lives with instant access to all this technology offers. This unique generation, as well as preceding generations, makes up the current and future members of our congregations. To enhance communication, the use of social media is not only desired, but in fact, essential.

Moreover, we want our digital media tools to be more than just a one-way vehicle for sharing information. We saw the potential for our website, *Facebook* page, *Instagram* and *Twitter* accounts to be accessible, exciting platforms for building and maintaining our faith community; for example, providing information and inviting participation in our missional activities, reaching out to new audiences, facilitating intergenerational engagement, inviting and connecting with both our regular and occasional parishioners.

We not only want to give our parishioners the reasons to use our social media sites, but we want to encourage them to become an active part of passing our messages to others through *shares*, *likes* and *re-tweets*. We identified this as a vital approach to unlocking growth, invitation, and stewardship. Our intent is to shift the focus of parish communication from passively providing information, to the actual engagement of the members of our parish as vehicles for the successful congregational growth and development. Digital media sites allow sharing of invitations, experiences and “good news” with family and friends.

To this end we developed an intentional Digital Media Plan for our parish. Our first step was to form a parish Digital Media Committee and develop a vision, goals, and guidelines for digital media. Our guidelines apply to all digital media sites where parish members discuss St. Laurence. The vision is that:

“By 2020, St. Laurence will be an engaged and collaborative parish using digital media tools competently, confidently and creatively to strengthen our Christian community and to support the Anglican Marks of Mission.”

Marks of Mission

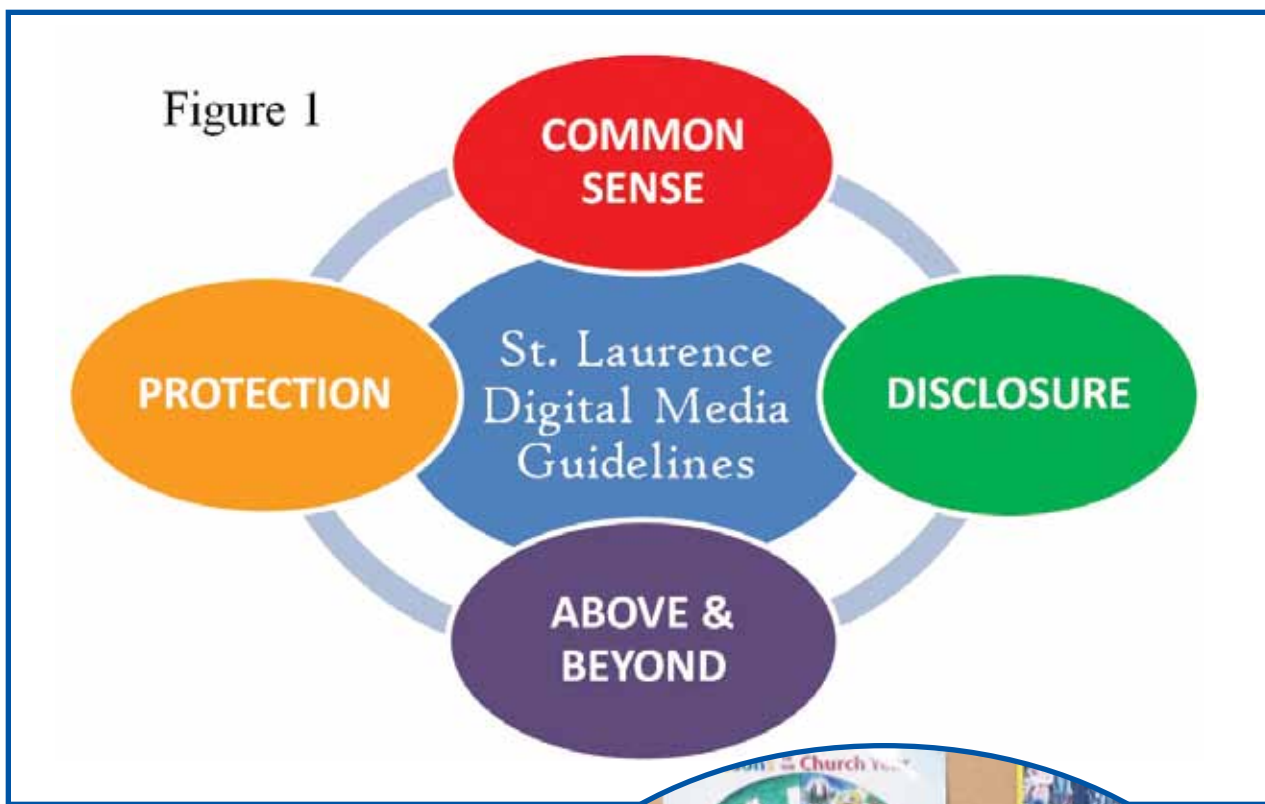
- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need through loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society
- To challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Our action plan is designed to meet the following goals:

- Provide a welcoming, inviting, on-line presence to users of the Parish’s digital media sites.
- Support congregational growth by using digital media tools to help achieve the stated vision.
- Meet the information needs of users who do not regularly attend Sunday services.
- Increase the number of St. Laurence parishioners communicating and collaborating with others using a variety of digital tools and applications (mobile, internet).
- Support the development of digital competence for St. Laurence parishioners, such as the application knowledge, skills, and attitudes in regards to digital media.

Our Digital Media Guidelines highlight a four-part framework incorporating “best practice” online behaviors (see Figure 1):

- Common Sense
- Protection
- Disclosure
- Above and Beyond



Recognizing that “people engagement” is a critical factor in congregational development, our 2014/15 digital media plan focused on several strategies to achieve our goals. The first strategy was name brand recognition; in this post-website world it’s no longer enough to have a static website and hope that people find it. In light of this, we changed all of our media accounts in use to either St. Laurence Coquitlam or StLaurenceCoq. When someone was searching for us, we wanted it to be obvious that they had found the correct social media account. The next step was to simplify our website menu from ten choices to six; it now includes a dedicated visitor’s page. Lots of photos of parishioners were added and positive feedback received regarding the changes.

Our third strategy consisted of regular, frequent updates on the sites — the latter cannot be stressed enough. We are fortunate to have a dedicated webmaster who volunteers many hours each week to post news and upcoming events. As much as possible, photographs and video are added to enhance engagement. *Hashtags* are used for events, topics and live conversations.

A fourth major strategy implemented in 2014, was the availability of “hands-on” learning sessions called *Social Media Sundays*. The intent of these “coffee-hour” sessions was to (re)introduce parishioners to the benefits of using St. Laurence’s social media tools. During each of the monthly sessions, a specific social media site was explored and individual demonstrations were provided on laptop computers.

While there is much more to be done, we are pleased with the results of the plan implementation to date. *Twitter* followers more than doubled — from 22 to 50 — and there has been a modest increase in *Facebook* followers. There has been a marked increase in user engagement, especially since June 2014, which has been very encouraging. Our use of digital media has filled the void of our previous parish newsletter and has reduced the need for parish wide emails. An *Instagram* site was recently established and an area of our website was designated to provide regular updates on our current canonical process. We plan to continue *Social Media Sundays* while working with our parish leaders to add more original content to our sites.

We believe that our small committee, under the leadership of our volunteer webmaster, has helped our parish to take a positive step to improving parish communication using digital media particularly during our period of interim ministry. We can’t wait to share our many new ideas with our next rector! S/he will be essential to the ongoing improvement of the interactive content on our social media sites. Weekly sermon posts, *podcasts*, regular



The authors Pamela McElheran and Sharon Taylor.

tweets and responses to a weekly “question of the week” are just a few of the ideas we have in mind for 2016.

We will also continue to take advantage of all opportunities to encourage our parish leaders and parishioners’ use of our social media sites as outreach tools to share the “good news.” Our vision and goals reflect that we do not see our parishioners as the end game; rather they are the method and the medium to share the Anglican Marks of Mission and to support congregational development.

If you would like to learn more about St. Laurence, please visit our website or “like” us on *Facebook* at *St. Laurence Coquitlam*. What has your experience been with digital media in your parish? *Tweet* us at @StLaurenceCoq. ✚

^{1, 2} Duggan, M., Ellison, N., Lampe, C., Lenhart, A., & M. Madden. (January 9, 2015). *Social Media Update*. Retrieved from: <http://www.pewinternet.org/2015/01/09/social-media-update-2014>.

³ From Steve Ladurantaye, “Canada Tops Globe in Internet Usage,” *The Globe and Mail*, March 1, 2012. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/technology/tech-news/canada-tops-globe-in-internet-usage/article551593>

Art Spirit Community at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale

Art

What do they do,
the singers, tale-writers, dancers, painters, shapers, makers?
They go there with empty hands,
into the gap between.
They come back with things in their hands.
They go silent and come back with words, with tunes.
They go into confusion and come back with patterns.
They go limping and weeping, ugly and frightened,
and come back with the wings of the redwing hawk,
the eyes of the mountain lion.

Ursula Le Guin

With these words from Ursula Le Guin's *Always Coming Home*, the Rev. Jeremy Clark-King, rector of St. Mary's opened a three-day exhibition of art on Thursday evening, February 12th. Over 120 artists and parishioners gathered in the St. Mary's Sanctuary for a wine and cheese reception to celebrate the opening.

The artists, from among the sixty-seven whose work was on display, came from Vancouver, Port Moody, Ladner, Burnaby, and other towns in the Lower Mainland. Their work, 175 items in paint, paper, wood, ceramics and fabric filled three rooms at St. Mary's.

Spirit

Celebration was the spirit that filled the sanctuary and spilled over into the exhibition rooms: the celebration of artists, delighted to have a well-lit and welcoming venue in which to show their work; the celebration of parishioners, including some parishioner artists, at being able to welcome to 2490 West 37th Avenue the creators of such beautiful work; the delight of all at seeing the Parish Hall, Gym and Lounge transformed by the art on display; and celebration by those who gathered in 2011, under the guidance of

Priceless...

The description of this painting is best summed up in the following, adapted from Erin Davis's story circulated through St. Mary's communications the week of February 9th, 2015.



A lot of wonderful things happen during Sunday School at St. Mary's. Art is one of them!

Judith Pike and Erin Davis, teachers of the St. Mary's Pre-school/Kindergarten class, wanted to contribute a Sunday School group creation for this exhibition.

Instead of planning too much, they decided to let "the spirit" move the children.

So... Judith told the story *Follow Me*—the lesson based on the reading that tells of Jesus calling his disciples from the boats in which they were fishing and inviting them to follow him.

A lively discussion followed.

The children (and these are the smallest of the small) were inspired to share their own stories about boats, canoes, nets and fish.

Lots of fish.

After the discussion, Erin brought out a canvas completely covered in yellow paint. "What should we paint?" Erin asked.

Teddy replied, "The Story."

Each child contributed: A boat, three nets, the figure of Jesus, two disciples and fish.

Lots of fish: orange fish, blue fish, starfish and jellyfish.

Lots of fish.

It was easy to name it *Follow Me*, and we know its worth: *Priceless*. ♦

the Ven. John Stephens of St. Philips, and the Reverend's Richard Leggett of St. Faith's and Scott Gould of St. Helen's, to plan for the first Art Spirit Community celebration in the then-Deanery of Granville-Point Grey—an illustrated lecture by Vancouver artist Tiko Kerr:

Community

Overheard at the opening by one guest to another:

"I know you. I'm your letter carrier, you live at...
Are you an artist?"

"Yes, I paint and have a couple of paintings on show.
Are you an artist?"

"Yes, and so glad for this opportunity to show my work.
What a coincidence. Where can I see your work?"

"Just behind you, in the Gym."

Art is a celebratory way of bringing together parishioners at St. Mary's with those from the far wider community of the diocese and beyond.

Through the sale of the pieces displayed, St. Mary's *Art Spirit Community* organizers collected \$7,463. Twenty percent will be retained by St. Mary's, and directed towards the maintenance of neighbouring St. Mary's Mews, the only subsidized housing complex for seniors in Kerrisdale. The rest of course goes to the artists whose work was sold. The show attracted more than 350 people during its run from Thursday, February 12th until Saturday, February 14th. ♦

More than 30 easels encircled St. Mary's gym. The artists, from among the sixty-seven whose work was on display, came from Vancouver, Port Moody, Ladner, Burnaby, and other towns in the Lower Mainland. Their work, 175 items in paint, paper, wood, ceramics and fabric filled three rooms at St. Mary's. PHOTO Randy Murray



Over 120 artists and parishioners gathered in the St. Mary's Sanctuary for a wine and cheese reception February 12th to celebrate the opening. The display and sale continued February 13th and 14th. PHOTO Randy Murray



Prior to opening the doors to the "galleries" we see art set up on tables and easels in St. Mary's Parish Hall. PHOTO Randy Murray



Bishop Skelton and the Bishop's Chaplain, Sara Shaw, at the conclusion of the Opening Hymn.
PHOTO Randy Murray



Bishop Skelton preaching on the Transfiguration. PHOTO Randy Murray



Bishop Skelton confirms Sonya. PHOTO Randy Murray



The View from the Mountaintop • A Celebration of Confirmation & Reception

Transfiguration Sunday at St. Stephen the Martyr, Burquitlam

RANDY MURRAY

Diocesan Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Bishop Skelton speaks with the children of the parish. PHOTO Randy Murray



Bishop Melissa Skelton began her sermon on February 15th, 2015, at St. Stephen the Martyr in Burquitlam with a story about two Anglicans engaged in mission in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. They had climbed to a mountaintop overlooking the city and the view was beautiful, in sharp contrast to the “hard, disheartening and exhausting” existence that more often than not is the case for that troubled place. They decided to take a photograph as a way of memorializing their feelings as they looked down.

In the Gospel appointed for Transfiguration Sunday, Mark 9: 2–9, James, John and Peter go with Jesus to the mountaintop. This will be the place where all will be revealed, the future will be told. Jesus’ clothes are transfigured, Moses and Elijah appear in the clouds and a voice from the clouds proclaims “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”

For Bishop Skelton, the transfiguration is a story about being on the mountaintop. It connects our vision of God, heaven and salvation to the harsh reality of the world. We are Peter. Peter wants to remember the moment, to stay longer, in a way to “take a photograph” like the missionaries. The mountaintop experience is “to become more aligned with the world.” It is about getting as deeply into this world as Christ himself. It is not about the flash and dazzle of the transfiguration.

In her homily, Bishop Skelton turned her attention to the Parish of St. Stephen and what was taking place that day. This was the first Reception into the Anglican Communion and first Confirmations done outside of dedicated liturgies at the Cathedral during the Bishop’s episcopacy. These were also the first Receptions and Confirmations to take place in the candidates’ parish in many years. Bishop Skelton said, “Today’s Service of Confirmation is this parish’s mountaintop experience.” It’s not just an “Anglican experiment,” it is this faith community making a deeper connection to the world. She pointed out that the Paschal Candle had been lit, and the Font filled with Holy Water for affirmation is most strongly connected to our baptism.

Bishop Skelton confirmed six people that morning: Ana Maria, Evans, Hassan, Lisa-Jane, Sonya and Takura-Patrick. As each candidate knelt before the Bishop, she said, “Strengthen, O Lord your servant, with your Holy Spirit: empower them for your service; and sustain them all the days of their lives.”

After the sixth confirmation, Bishop Skelton *received* Fiachra into the Anglican Communion. Fiachra affirmed that he had been baptized with water in the name of the Holy Trinity, that he believes that the Anglican Communion is part of the one, catholic and apostolic Church and he agreed to be loyal and obedient to the doctrines and discipline of the Anglican Communion. Following this affirmation Bishop Skelton said, “Fiachra, we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

Prayer over the Gifts with Bob Doyle, the Rev. Gary Hamblin, Bishop Skelton and Joy Hamblin. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Body of Christ. PHOTO Randy Murray



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you.”

At the conclusion of worship each of the newly confirmed and the one newly received were given a gift by the Wardens

on behalf of the parish. Then it was photo opportunity time with Bishop Skelton and the Rev. Gary Hamblin, priest-in-charge of the parish. This was a joyful event that went on for some time while the rest of the congregation lined up in the space between the sanctuary and hall for a potluck lunch. ✠

The newly confirmed Hassan, Takura-Patrick and Evans listen while Fiachra is received in the Anglican Communion. PHOTO Randy Murray



The newly confirmed Takura-Patrick and Evans pose with the Rev. Gary Hamblin and Bishop Skelton. PHOTO Randy Murray



“Strengthen, O Lord your servant, with your Holy Spirit: empower them for your service; and sustain them all the days of their lives.”

The newly confirmed Lisa-Jane (to the left of Bishop Skelton) poses with her family and friends. PHOTO Randy Murray



AROUND THE DIOCESE

• **Drum Making Session at St. George, Vancouver** •

SUBMISSION Brander McDonald

The Diocese of New Westminster was pleased to support the work of Vivian Seegers’ partnership with St. George’s on December 12th, 2014, for a First Nations Drum Making Workshop. The participants were diverse and everyone enjoyed the teaching time.

Vivian explained that:

“The cultural experience of learning to put these drums together was very spirit filling, bringing back memories for each participant of teachings from grandparents and other deceased friends and relatives. We can almost hear the drums of days long gone beginning to awaken and beat again. Our children will have the opportunity to experience the sacred drum circle once again because of the work that is being done by this wonderful project.

In our drum making session, we learned a few important things about our culture. When we first receive a drum as a gift we must wrap her

in a blanket and place her up high for four days. Respectfully, we are taught that when we are getting to know someone for the first four days, we should just be who we are and go about our days as we normally would and yet remain silent with each other but aware of each other.

The drum is one of the seven sacred ceremonies of the Sun Dance tradition. The heartbeat of mother earth, she gathers the heart of the community into one. This allows us to bring our hearts and minds to the generosity and abundance of mother earth—making us mindful of how important we are to our Creator who so unconditionally cares for us through all the gifts we receive from mother earth. Each person who received a drum is given this teaching of our elders.”

Thanks again to St. George, Vancouver and Vivian Seegers for this great time of cultural learning. ✦

Drum making materials.



Newly made drums.



“We can almost hear the drums of days long gone beginning to awaken and beat again. Our children will have the opportunity to experience the sacred drum circle once again because of the work that is being done by this wonderful project.”

Vivian Seegers

Vivian Seegers (on right) with a finished drum.



• **Bishop Jane Alexander Visits 401** •

In the photo (by Randy Murray) below, we see on the right, Bishop Jane Alexander of the Diocese of Edmonton visiting with Bishop Melissa Skelton on Thursday, January 29th, 2015, in the Bishop’s office at 401 West Georgia. Although there were and are

a variety of topics to discuss, this meeting focused on the Diocese of New Westminster’s School for Parish Development and how that ministry may be introduced to the Diocese of Edmonton. ✦



• **Bishop Jim Cruickshank Visits St. Barnabas, New Westminster** •

January 29th, 2015, was a beautiful, sunny winter day in the Lower Mainland. Bishop Jim Cruickshank, retired Bishop of the former Diocese of Cariboo had accompanied communications officer, Randy Murray on a picture-taking trip. Upon arrival at St. Barnabas, New Westminster Bishop Jim was happily reunited with two former students, Vivian Seegers and the Rev. Emilie Smith. Emilie is the rector of St. Barnabas

and her long-time friend Vivian is very active in First Nations ministry in the diocese, particularly at St. George’s, Vancouver. A few years ago, Bishop Jim (who was not a Bishop at the time) took over the teaching of a Vancouver School of Theology (VST) class in Social Ethics and Vivian and Emilie were students in that class. ✦

PHOTO Randy Murray



• **The Reverend Dr. Ellen Clark-King to Return to Parish Ministry** •

PHOTO Jennifer Friesen

It was announced on Sunday, February 1st, that the Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark-King currently on the faculty of Vancouver School of Theology (VST) with responsibility for Anglican Formation will be returning full time to Christ Church Cathedral (CCC) as Cathedral Vicar. The wardens and trustees of Christ Church Cathedral were delighted to cancel their search for a new associate priest. Ellen’s heart is in parish and diocesan ministry and she came to the full realization that she is a priest before anything else. Ellen will be continuing for this semester and on a more part time basis after that until a successor is found. In a February 1st Facebook post she said, “VST is a great school, with an excellent Principal in Richard (Topping) and wonderful faculty, staff and students—my ministry has been enriched by my time there.” ✦



AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Christ Church, Hope Escapes Ice Storm Damage •

SUBMISSION Gail Newell

In early February, the town of Hope fell victim to a rather nasty ice storm. There was a great deal of concern about the fate of the 150+ year old Anglican Church. According to priest-in-charge the Rev. Gail Newell, "Thank God the church escaped significant damage. One very large limb just grazed the side of the building and put

a huge dent in the wheelchair ramp railing. Nothing fell on the roof or went through our 154 year old windows. The trees were not so lucky. Many branches, big and small, came tumbling down. We should probably be amazed at the number of branches that stayed on the trees. There was an inch of ice over everything." ✚

Both photos show the many broken tree branches scattered near the church building. PHOTOS Mark Kirksey



• St. Matthew's Shares a Glimpse of the Past for Vestry •

SUBMISSION Linda Burton

The Parish of St. Matthew, Abbotsford added special touches to its Vestry day on February 15th, 2015.

Outgoing Bishop's Warden, Linda Burton made arrangements with the Reach Gallery and Museum in Abbotsford to borrow the model of the original "old" St. Matthew's for the day of Vestry. That building was demolished in the late 1970s, but its altar wood, steeple cross and bell were transferred to the new building. Viewing the old original building in miniature helped create a feeling of connectedness as the current St. Matthew's faith community moves forward with re-building its numbers and ministry.

The Hall is dedicated for Vestry with Canadian Flags. PHOTO Linda Burton



The maker of the model, Don Bladon, passed away in 2014 — this model that he built, following old photographs was among the last hand-crafted pieces that he'd created for the museum. Alma Bladon, along with her family, attended the morning's service in order that parishioners could thank her for her husband's attention to detail in depicting this part of the parish's history.

Since it was also the 50th anniversary of the raising of the maple leaf Canadian flag on February 15th, the Vestry meeting hall for the Parish of St. Matthew went with a red-and-white theme, with the flag in prominent place. Who says a Vestry meeting day can't be colourful? ✚

St. Matthew's parishioners: Margaret Dingwall, Bob Burton and Ross McLeod admire the finely wrought model of the old St. Matthew's. PHOTO Linda Burton



• Upper Fraser Valley Churches celebrate National Flag Day •

SUBMISSION Monica Gibson-Pugsley

Sunday, February 15th saw parishioners from Christ Church, Hope join the All Saints, Agassiz congregation to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the inauguration of the National Flag of Canada and the Feast of Saint Valentine. Sixty people of all ages gathered in the Hall for a Potluck luncheon and time of fellowship.

Our iconic red and white flag with a single red maple leaf at its centre was designed to reflect a modern Canada, looking towards its future, but ever respectful of its past. It was unveiled by Lester B. Pearson, then Prime Minister of Canada, on February 15th, 1965, and was flown for the first time from the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa on that day.

Since January, All Saints' has been fortunate to have Pastor Daniel Westin, his wife Rebecca and their children wor-

shipping with the All Saint's community. They live in Sweden and will be in Canada until June 2015. Pastor Daniel is from the Swedish Lutheran Church and Rebecca is a doctor of veterinary medicine at present working at the Research Centre in Agassiz. They are both accomplished violinists. As well as offering an uplifting sermon, Father Daniel accompanied local musician Sandra Bower for several hymns and Rebecca also joined him in sharing their gifts of music at the service of Holy Eucharist that day. At the luncheon that followed, the violinists had the crowd tapping their feet to Swedish folk music.

It is a great blessing to get together with our sisters and brothers from Christ Church, Hope a few times a year. We are looking forward to our next visit. ✚

The Rev. Gail Newell, priest-in-charge, Christ Church, Hope; Pastor Daniel Westin; and the Rev. David Price, priest-in-charge, All Saints, Agassiz. PHOTO Anthea Lewis



Rebecca and Daniel playing violins. PHOTO Anthea Lewis



• Seeking the Peace of Jerusalem • Overcoming Christian Zionism in the Quest for Justice • EDUCATION • SOLIDARITY • ACTION

SUBMISSION Lynne McNaughton

A conference examining the prevalence of Christian Zionism and its influence in the mainstream churches, and its adverse impact on the realization of a just peace will take place at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale in Vancouver on April 23rd to 25th, 2015.

This conference is sponsored by the Anglican Church of Canada and is a response to the General Synod Resolution of 2013 regarding working for a just peace in Israel and Palestine, and in particular that we, as the Anglican Church, commit to "explore and challenge theologies and beliefs, such as Christian Zionism, which

support the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories."

Please promote this in your parishes. As it is here in Vancouver, this is a great opportunity for people in our diocese to attend a national conference.

The conference is presented by the Canadian Friends of Sabeel (CFOS) and co-sponsored by: the Anglican Church of Canada; Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA); the Presbyterian Church in Canada; and the United Church of Canada.

For more information and to register please visit www.necfcsabeel.ca. ✚

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Ash Wednesday, blessedly not raining, was bright with early spring sunshine, which was welcomed because we went out on the road that afternoon. Signed with ashes, reminded that we are of earth and to earth we shall return, we gathered after the Eucharist, robed in albs and blessed by the community, to take ashes and the invitation to repentance and reconciliation to the neighbourhood.

“Frankly, I was anxious about going out,” reflects the Rev. John Marsh, priest of the merging communities of St. Mark and St. George’s, Vancouver. “I was very aware of our secular West Coast religious/spiritual landscape and I didn’t know how this would be received,” he said. The Rev. John knew that they were on to something when he headed out the church door at West 14th and Laurel less than 2 minutes after the first team had left to find them out on the sidewalk already busy imposing ashes on two passersby!

A second team made their way to the busy transit hub of Broadway and Cambie. Everyone there is always very intent on going somewhere else. Many people hurried by, avoiding eye contact. Others, though, paused to read the poster displayed, some even took the printed flyer we had supplied offering more details. Questions were asked, conversations engaged, ashes offered and, sometimes, accepted. Other people

dashed up and whipped off their hats or pull back their hair expectantly. Teenagers from the nearby Catholic high school, with telltale smudges still faint on their foreheads, smiled in recognition. One man rushed past, then doubled back and took off his hat, ruefully remarking that he was late for his meeting anyway—he might as well go in with ashes of repentance. “Remember you are dust...”

Everyone who participated in offering ashes returned to the church excited by the experience. As one participant observed, “Touching the forehead of a stranger with ashes was deeply human—and deeply holy.”

“We will definitely do it again next year,” said Rev. Marsh, “We took our faith out beyond the comfortable confines of the church building and engaged people where they live.” ✠

LEFT Pam Martin imposing Ashes on a toddler in a stroller at the Broadway and Cambie Canada Line station.



• Ash Wednesday on the Road •

SUBMISSION Pam Martin

Setting out with Ashes — the Rev. John Marsh, Pam Cambiazio, Kim Seary and Sean Lynn. PHOTO Jade Martin Seedhouse



Food for Life

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund
www.pwrd.org

The 6th St. Agnes Seymour Scout troop made their annual pilgrimage to St. Agnes Church to celebrate Scouting Sunday on February 22nd. St. Agnes has sponsored the Scouting program since 1928.

The February 22nd celebration has at least four different names: Scout's Day; Guides' Day; Founders' Days; and World Thinking Day as is observed worldwide in nearly all Scout associations to honour the birthday of the founders of Scouting/ Guiding, Robert Baden-Powell, 1st Baron Baden-Powell, born in 1857 and his wife, Olave Baden-Powell born on the same day in 1889.

Dave Brear, a St. Agnes parishioner and

David Brear with Lego® Ark. PHOTO Randy Murray



Lego® fun monochromatic style. PHOTO Randy Murray



Lego® enthusiast, offered a special Lego® Sunday School program. He set up a variety of stations in the church hall with different Lego® sets. The theme was Noah's Ark and the Rainbow from the first lectionary reading of the day.

The service also featured a special tribute to the late Tene Corba. Tene was a long-time parishioner of St. Agnes who was also a great supporter of the Scouting movement in North Vancouver. She died in Alberta in January at age 93. Her daughter, Joanne Lengyel, offered a moving tribute to a woman who made a positive difference in her church and wider community. ✠

David Brear with the Rainbow. PHOTO Randy Murray



"Look what I made." PHOTO Randy Murray



The Rev. Stephen Muir with Cubs and Scouts gathered around for the Children's Talk. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Tene Corbas's daughter Joanne Lengyel speaking in memory of her mother. RIGHT Processing Out. PHOTO Randy Murray



Lego® Sunday is fun. PHOTO Randy Murray



Mystics and the Mind

Towards an Understanding of Interfaith Spirituality with Rabbi Dr. Laura Duhan Kaplan

Saturday, April 25th, the Education for Ministry (EFM) group of the diocese is presenting an EFM Day of Reflection. Join fellow EFMers, old and new, as Rabbi Dr. Laura Kaplan speaks about “a spiritual basis for interfaith understanding found in mysticism and depth psychology.” There are common dimensions to the human encounter with the Divine that these disciplines describe and that find expression in our religious traditions and theologies.

The daylong event will be held at St. Stephen the Martyr in Burnaby's Burquitlam district located at 9887 Cameron Street adjacent to the Lougheed Mall's north access. Things get underway at 9:30 am with refreshments and check-in, in advance of a 10 am start. You are encouraged to bring a bag lunch and the program will conclude at 3 pm.

In the past these events have only been open to EFM members but new this year, all are welcome to attend Dr. Kaplan's **morning presentation**. A donation (to defray costs) of \$20 is recommended at the door.

For additional details please contact the Rev. Paula Porter Leggett at torevp@shaw.ca.



Biography (Courtesy of Vancouver School of Theology/Iona Pacific Interfaith Centre)

Rabbi Dr. Laura Duhan Kaplan holds a BA Summa Cum Laude from Brandeis University (1980), a PhD in Philosophy and Education from Claremont Graduate University (1991), Rabbinic Ordination from ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal seminary (2005), and a Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction from the Vancouver School of Theology (2010).

From 1989–2004, Laura served as Professor of Philosophy at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and for seven years coordinated the university's Women's Studies program. Her books include *Philosophy and Everyday Life*, *Family Pictures: A Philosopher Explores the Familiar*, and two co-edited volumes on the *Philosophy of Peace*. For her innovative work helping students use philosophy to explore their life narratives, she received five teaching awards, including the Carnegie Foundation's US Professor of the Year award and an honorary Doctor of Pedagogy degree from Niagara University.

Laura arrived in Vancouver in 2005, where she served for nearly ten years as Rabbi at Or Shalom Synagogue. Since 2005, she has also been a core faculty member at the ALEPH seminary. She has served as co-chair of the Canadian Jewish Congress Jewish-Christian dialogue, led weeklong summer workshops at the United Church's Naramata Centre, and taught at the Vancouver School of Theology (VST) and the University of British Columbia (UBC) Religious Studies as an adjunct faculty member. She is a fellow at Rabbis Without Borders, a progressive, pluralistic US-based Jewish think tank. Laura's most recent publications explore the phenomenology of prayer and images of animals in the Hebrew Bible.

Laura, a native of New York City, is married to psychologist and musician Charles Kaplan. Together they are parents of two young adults, and caretakers of a changing array of companion animals. ✡



Rabbi Dr. Laura Kaplan PHOTO Courtesy of VST Communications

GROWING COMMUNITIES OF FAITH

Trending Part 2: A Shift in the Frequency of Attendance

RUTH MONETTE

Director for Mission & Ministry Development, Diocese of New Westminster

Last month, I used this space to acknowledge the ways that shifts in family life are impacting our parishes. This month I want to explore a related trend, which isn't limited to families with children at home: a decrease in the frequency of attendance on Sunday mornings.

For families with kids, skipping the occasional Sunday is about everything from an unending cycle of “daycare flu” to all those sports teams to sometimes just needing a morning where there is no chorus of “let's go already!” For some of our families with kids, it is also about the challenges of shared custody arrangements. Add social engagements, travel (for work or pleasure), and a general decline in the cultural norms around church specifically and joining groups in general and we might be more realistic wondering how we keep getting so many folks week by week.

It is true that if the majority of us—even those of who are deeply committed parish members—skip a Sunday or two, every six to eight weeks, it shows up in our parish statistics. In some parishes it may be the single largest reason for a decline in Average Sunday Attendance. And it is hard to figure out how to have a coherent Sunday School program for children who come, at best, once every other month and how to run a youth program when a third of the kids are out for one sports season or another and how to manage an adult formation cycle with a bunch of snow birds.

This trend is probably not going to be reversed by guilt-trips, frustrated rants, or glaring angrily at the empty spots in the pews. So what are we to do?

First and foremost, we need to be non-judgemental about this shift. It can be tempting to either under-empathize or over-empathize with less-frequent-attenders. Those of us who do manage 48 Sundays a year can feel as if those who

don't are “making up excuses” or lack commitment. At the same time, I have heard weekly attenders apologize for the less frequent with such a long and sympathetic list of reasons, I wondered if we'd given up the idea that church was still a valuable commitment.

So we begin by acknowledging that

*So we begin by acknowledging
that we get something out of showing up for church
and that the more we show up, the more we get out of it.
But that for all of us
—including clergy (sorry to spill our secrets, friends)—
there are Sunday mornings we would rather spend elsewhere.*

we get something out of showing up for church and that the more we show up, the more we get out of it. But that for all of us—including clergy (sorry to spill our secrets, friends)—there are Sunday mornings we would rather spend elsewhere.

When we approach this without judgement, then maybe our conversations about the value of showing up and showing up regularly can be conversations about how we struggle together. One of the clear advantages we have in this conversation is that our worship is centered on the sacraments. Although I have had some deep, meaningful spiritual experiences hiking, sharing meals with friends, reading and listening to music with my coffee on the couch—none of those things is the Eucharist. The Eucharist feeds me in a way that is completely unique and it is that which motivates me when I'd rather sleep late or take advantage of good weather to be outside. When I talk with others about making Sunday worship a priority, it is out of my experience of the Eucharist that I want to

speak. I want to be issuing an invitation to others to join me in something worth rushing around to get out the door, worth postponing other plans for. Doesn't that sound better than a guilt-trip about duty and habit?

The other thing we will need to do in our parishes to respond to this trend is to think

you in a couple of weeks. You're probably just busy, but just in case, let me know if there's anything we should be praying for in your life. And you might be interested in this special worship we're having soon.” The truth is this terrifies many of us. We worry we'd be intrusive or pushy and scare people away. And we might. Or we might find out that people really appreciate being invited and noticed and cared about. And when that's true, we might find that people actually want to become more frequent in their attendance on Sundays, too. ✡

Ruth Monette can be reached by email at rmonette@vancouver.anglican.ca

Give the Gift of IMAGINATION

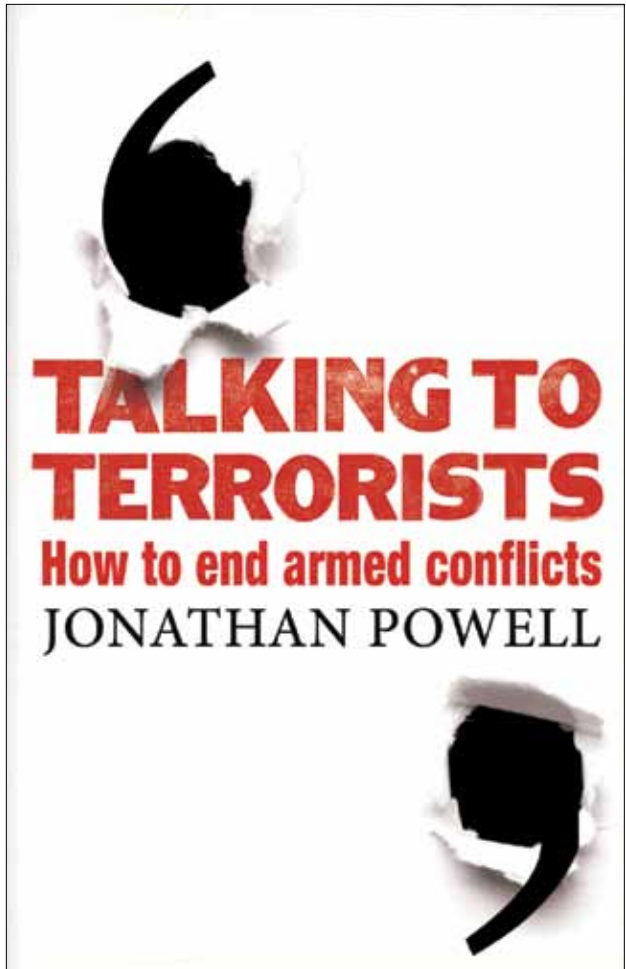
This year, make a gift to provide a faith community the unique opportunity to encourage their creative potential and build a strong future for Canadian Anglicans.



Book Review

MARGARET MARQUARDT
Priest of the Diocese of New Westminster, Chair of the diocesan Eco-Justice Unit

I was getting ready to attend church on January 4th, the Sunday closest to Epiphany, listening to CBC's Sunday



Talking to Terrorists: How to End Armed Conflict

Written by Jonathan Powell
Published by the Bodley Head, London. 2014

Jonathan Powell runs Inter Mediate, a London-based charity for negotiation and mediation that focuses on the most difficult, complex and dangerous conflicts in our world.

Edition when I heard Michael Enright's introduction of his next guest, Jonathan Powell. Michael Enright was going to be talking to Jonathan Powell about his new book, *Talking to Terrorists: How to End Armed Conflict*.

As I listened to the interview, I was filled with hope. How many times have I heard the leaders of nations say they will not talk with, meet with, or negotiate in any manner with terrorists? Jonathan Powell is one of those people doing this behind the scenes and around the world for years. I was filled with hope as I listened to his description of the many years of building human connection all over the world. It is an understanding of what is really going on; what the deep issues are; and building a human connection that is a foundation for when the time arrives for a settlement. That time is at the point where all those involved need to talk and negotiate. He refers to this as "a mutually hurting stalemate." Without the years of behind the scenes meetings and building trust, there can't be movement forward when this critical time comes.

Jonathan Powell does not rule out some form of military action, in some manner, depending on the situation. However, he is clear that it will not resolve the conflicts around the world and will not bring a lasting resolution. After hearing the interview and heading of to celebrate Epiphany at church, reflecting about the light of God coming into our world, and sharing my appreciation of the interview with others over coffee, I headed off to get the book.

The book is full of details of behind the scenes work in every area of conflict and civil war that has troubled our world. It is a full account of the way this has happened. Powell is clear that this work cannot be built upon an emotional base. Knowing that he and others are meeting with those who have killed and are continuing to brutalize and kill is always present and yet these kinds of meetings have to happen so that the stage is set for negotiation when the parties are ready.

Powell defines "terrorists" as "non-state armed groups that enjoy significant political support and which deliberately use the tactics of terror by attacking civilian as well as military targets to advance their political aims." (Page 11)

Powell is clear that when it involves leaders of nations, speaking to terrorists is not the problem. The problem is

in giving into them. "They are not the same thing. Talking would indeed be a reward to blackmail if it consisted of conceding to all of the terrorist's demands, but no democratic government would survive if it were to do so." (Page 18)

Powell himself, fully involved in Northern Ireland leading to the Good Friday Peace Agreement of 1998 and now runs *Inter Mediate* in London, is fully committed to this way of working in our world. Stating his position clearly, "The absolute moral arguments against talking to terrorists don't really stand up, and they certainly fall away in the face of the practical, if distasteful, need to talk to terrorists if we are to stop them killing." (Page 19)

The real experience in all this groundwork leading up to the "mutually hurting stalemate," is that human beings have actually made the effort to meet with the end result being a movement towards peace and an end to killing. Powell's writing about the years of behind the scenes work and the barriers that had to be overcome for trust to exist, recounts the words of a Tajik Islamic rebel leader who told him, "that it was only when he had sat down with the government side for the first time in the late 1990s that he saw them as humans, and that after they had met and talked, it was harder to go back to killing them." (Page 98)

This work is all a process. As Peter Sheridan, a Roman Catholic policeman from Derry, Northern Ireland noted as the Northern Ireland peace accord was set in place in 1998, "Peace-building which follows peacemaking, is an unending process." (Page 308)

I am personally encouraged by the depth of this work. As we pray in our own lives and our churches week by week for peace in the world, may we add the names of Jonathan Powell and all mediators who are taking the risks of being a presence of peace, stretching out a hand to meet the human beings behind the massacres, that something of life might emerge. Pray that these who do this work on our behalf may be "as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves (Matthew 10: 16)." ✠

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The Rev. Margaret Marquardt can be reached by email at mmarquardt@telus.net.
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On Reading in Church

LYNDON GROVE
Christ Church Cathedral; Former Editor of Topic

There was a time when the only non-clerical reader in church was someone, usually an aged gentleman, carrying the semi-official title of "Lay Reader." He wore a stole and processed with choir and clergy, and when he stood to read, he fixed the congregation with a look that said, "You better pay attention."

Times have changed, and now there are all sorts of lay readers, of all ages and genders, and in most parishes there is a new cast every Sunday.

Many take the microphone with eager enthusiasm, and project in what might be termed "the full Olivier." Listening to one reader hit a fiery dramatic pitch in an Old Testament passage, a worshipper next to me murmured, "He's channeling his inner prophet."

Tony Pellett, long a pillar of the now extinct parish of St. Margaret of Scotland, used to preface readings with a short historical account that put the passage in context—a good thing, with some of the more obscure items in the lectionary. (Who *was* King Ahasuerus? When Naomi tells Ruth to "uncover the feet" of Boaz, is that a euphemism?) One hopes Mr. Pellett continues to do this instructive work at St. John the Apostle, Port Moody.

Not all readers come so informed. We were surprised to hear one, in recounting the Passion narrative, refer to Pontius Pilate as "Pontius Pill-aw-tee." It is possible the reader, who looked very fit, may have just returned from exercise class. Later, the priest suggested that this was, perhaps, the way Pilate's name was pronounced. If so, it means the entire Christian Church has been getting it wrong for two thousand years.

It was in the same parish that another reader, given the passage that recorded the scourging of Jesus, read that our Lord had been "frogged."

Clergy are not without error, on occasion. A former, and rather rigid, Dean of Victoria's Christ Church Cathe-

dral, having appointed himself to read the Gospel, read the wrong one, something he apparently realized halfway through. Coming to an end, he said, "Having heard the Gospel from last Sunday, we will now hear this week's Gospel." Wicked concealed laughter from clergy who happened to be present.

Then there was a day when the Gospel reading included the famous line "In my Father's house, there are many mansions." The Bible provided for the reader was of a newer translation, one that had "In my Father's house, there are many dwelling places." The reader, feeling this revision lacked the power and mystery of the King James Version, read the line with "mansions" instead of "dwelling places." Unfortunately, the priest giving the sermon had based it entirely on the word "dwellings." (I have heard a later revision, which reduces the poetry even further, to "In my Father's house there are many rooms," bringing to mind Dwight Macdonald's criticism of the Camford Bible: "It's like finding a parking lot where a great church once stood.")

Years ago, this writer was called upon to read at St. Andrew's, Nithsdale (another extinct parish). But like the Victoria Dean, I began reading the wrong passage, which was one of those interminable genealogical lists. The priest was the Rev. A. E. Davies, and if you were asked to describe Mr. Davies, the word "lighthearted" would not be the first to come to mind.

As I read on — "...and Adah begat Eliphaz, and Eliphaz begat Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam and Kenaz, and Teman begat..." — I saw the color drain from Mr. Davies's face. Even so, I kept on to the end.

I was never asked to read again. ✠

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Lyndon Grove can be reached by email at jlgrove@shaw.ca.
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Lyndon Grove. PHOTO Kent Kallberg

Keep Calm & Stay Cool

Winter Retreat 2015 at Sorrento Centre

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

More photos and responses on the DYM back page.



Diocesan Youth Movement

YOUTH CONNECTIONS

News & Events for Youth in the Diocese of New Westminster

youth groups •

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

contact • Caitlin Reilley Beck,
Diocesan Coordinator for Children & Youth Ministry
cbeck@vancouver.anglican.ca
604.684.6306 ext. 225



What was Keep Calm & Stay Cool like for you?

“Out of all the 9 times I’ve been to Sorrento, I think I enjoyed the company the most on this one. The people I spent most of my time with were all cool, and it was great leading the improv activity.”

What was Keep Calm & Stay Cool like for you?

“This was my first time attending the Keep Calm & Stay Cool retreat. I wasn’t sure what to expect at first, but ended up enjoying my time here and getting to meet new people. The programs and activities were thoughtfully planned and the community was welcoming, and open to new people and ideas.”



What was Keep Calm & Stay Cool like for you?

“Keep Calm & Stay Cool was a great weekend for me. I got to meet new people and I made new friends. Got to learn new things and learned new songs. The food was great and the place was great. Thanks to everyone.”





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Keep Calm & Stay Cool

Winter Retreat 2015 at Sorrento Centre

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

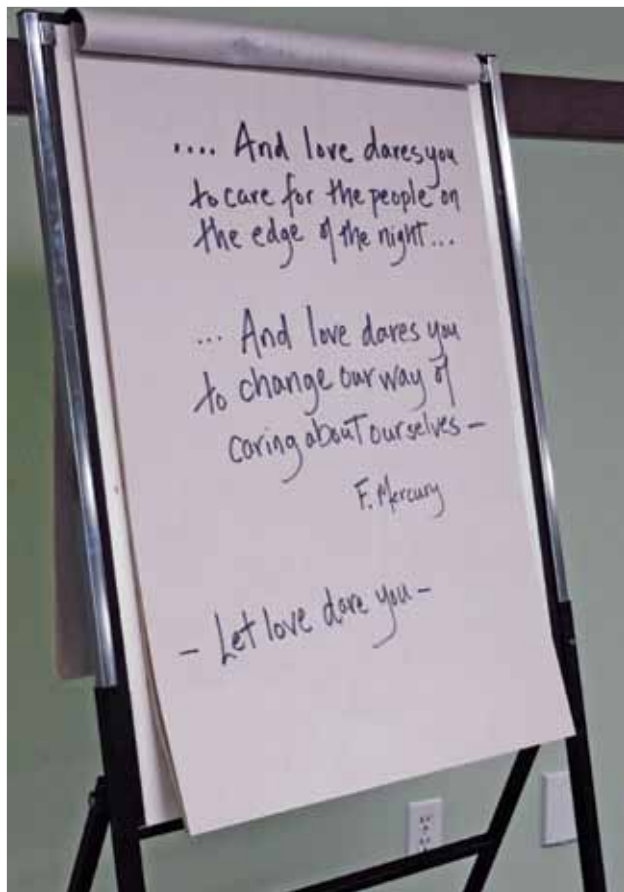
What was Keep Calm & Stay Cool like for you?

*“Keep Calm & Stay Cool was a good retreat.
I liked that I could reconnect with old friends and make some new ones.
I liked that the Ice Breakers or Community Builder games
continued through the weekend instead of for only the first day there.
It made me more familiar with the people at the retreat.”*



What was Keep Calm & Stay Cool like for you?

*“It was my second time attending Sorrento,
and I think it’s a really nice way to meet new people and get involved.
My favourite part is obviously meeting new people, and all the activities that we did.
It’s a really welcoming environment and everyone is nice,
and willing to make an effort to make it the best experience.”*



What was Keep Calm & Stay Cool like for you?

*“Keep Calm & Stay Cool was an amazing experience for me.
This was my first church conference and retreat ever, and I had a ton of fun.
Everyone was really nice and kind.
I would definitely come back.”*

What was Keep Calm & Stay Cool like for you?

*“Being at Sorrento was the highlight of my year,
I made new friends and met up with old ones.
I had a really good time and I will be coming back next year.”*

