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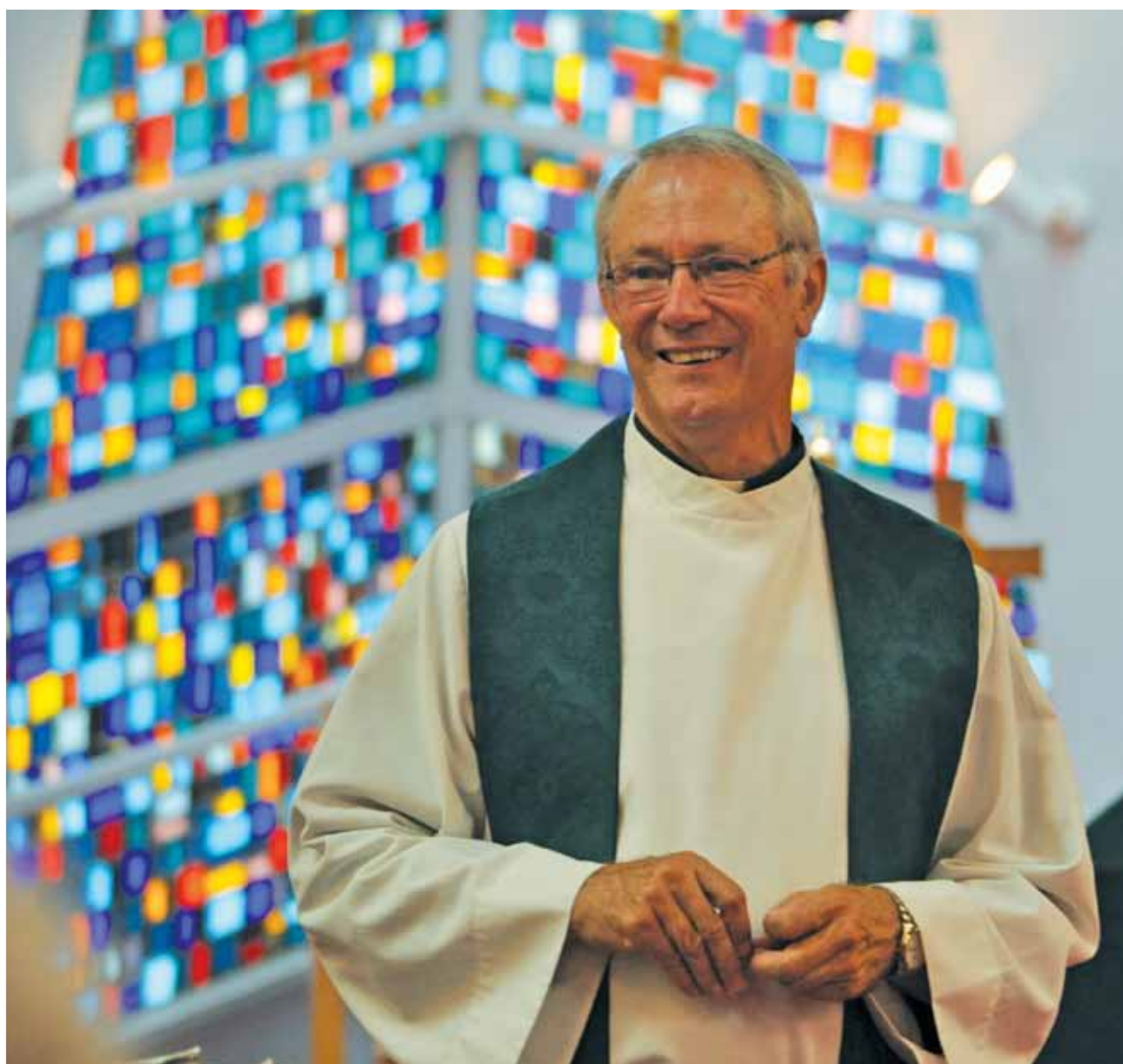
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LEFT Listening to the letter from the choir just prior to the dismissal. RIGHT TOP The rector, on 12-string guitar, enjoys the harmonica intro to *This Train is Bound for Glory*. RIGHT BOTTOM Trevor with baby Lincoln just prior to the baptism. PHOTOS Randy Murray

## With God There are No Endings, Only New Beginnings

### Trevor Fisher's retirement Eucharist

RANDY MURRAY

Diocesan Communications Officer and Topic Editor

The sanctuary of St. Stephen's Anglican Church in West Vancouver began to fill on the morning of August 31st, 2014, to the strains of a musical trio (trumpet, piano and bass) expertly playing early swing versions of well-known gospel tunes.

The Parish of St. Stephen's is blessed. Not only is the current church building (built in 1968 in the Modern West Coast style) one of the gems of architecture and design of our diocese, the community also boasts a cadre of musicians of outstanding skill and accomplishment. Organist, choir leader and soprano soloist, Glauca Fadigas handles the classical and more traditional repertoire (i.e. Victorian hymns) and pianist, Peter Vanderhorst oversees the jazz and gospel music in worship. It was "all available hands on deck" for this special Eucharist with Baptism that would mark the last scheduled Eucharist celebrated by outgoing rector, the Rev. Trevor Fisher.

The worship began with the spirited hymn, *We'll Sing in the Morning a Song of Creation*, which included the rector enthusiastically playing 12-string guitar. At the completion of the hymn, Trevor greeted the congregation, and although most of the folks seated in the pews already knew what he

was about to say, he informed those that might not, that this would be his "last service as a full-fledged, full time priest." He pointed out that he had been a full time priest since November 30th, 1975. Then it was time for the baptism. Trevor positioned the baptism in the context of this specific occasion when he said, "as one ministry ends, another begins."

Following the baptism of baby Lincoln, and the readings, it was time for the Gradual Hymn, *This Train is Bound for Glory*, which featured Peter Vanderhorst's nephew, Andrew Huggard on the blues harmonica. His musical emulation of an accelerating steam engine set the tone perfectly for a resounding rendition of the well-known spiritual.

Between the Gospel—Matthew 16: 21–28—and the homily, the accomplished Vancouver jazz singer, Joani Taylor sang a bluesy version of S. S. Wesley's anthem *Lead Me Lord* accompanied by Peter Vanderhorst.

Energetically pacing backing and forth in front of the chancel entrance without the aid of notes Trevor preached his last sermon as the Rector of St. Stephen's, West Vancouver. He began by telling the story of a youth group conference he had attended in his native New Zealand in

1969. At this conference facilitated by a popular "live-wire" priest the plenary were divided in half and separated, with one half asked to focus on, and then list the attributes of a good spiritual leader. The other half were asked to focus on and list the attributes of a good Christian. When the flipcharts had been filled with notes and the two groups brought back together, the lists were exactly the same. This was a revelation for the young Trevor who up to that point had always considered priests (spiritual leaders) to be a "different" group, separate from the rest of the faith community. He then went on to apply this observation to each of the three readings offered that morning for Pentecost 12: Exodus 3: 1–15; Romans 12: 9–21; and Matthew 16: 21–28.

In the Old Testament passage, God wants to use Moses (a natural leader) to further God's plan for the Israelites. Moses gets into a fight, kills an Egyptian, at that point loses his "leader" status, flees, is hunted, and ends up tending goats. He has his experience with the burning bush and his instructions from God to return to Egypt, which is somewhat distressing news for him, but leadership is not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



# With God There are No Endings, Only New Beginnings

## Trevor Fisher's retirement Eucharist

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

always comfortable. The burning bush is an example of "Holy Ground" and Trevor developed that idea and put the concept of Holy Ground in context. As all the Earth exists for God's purposes therefore all ground is holy. We

are all on Holy Ground.

Trevor shifted his focus to the Epistle, which is really Paul's "letter to everyone," for in it he instructs people in how to follow *The Way*. For Trevor, this scripture confirms

what he has come to know about his own faith; that it isn't about ascribing to a set of beliefs but it is how we as Christians live our lives, **all of us who follow The Way.**

He then moved on to the gospel and spoke about the passion and intensity with which Jesus speaks about his impending death in the face of Peter's challenges. When Jesus says, "Get thee behind me Satan," he's not so much admonishing Peter but saying it to himself. Like anyone else, Jesus is experiencing fear—the fear of what's to come. **We all experience fear.**

For Trevor these messages from scripture are extremely relevant for his last Sunday as a full time priest and they also contain good counsel for the community of St. Stephen's as they face this time of transition. These are challenging times for faith communities existing in a society that is becoming more and more secular. People of faith have less and less to do with the "current conversation" and in fact are often "vilified."

"Everyone in every generation has had to make a decision about what we are here for and what we are here for is to—LOVE. God doesn't want us to waste our lives but to make the most of them... with God there are no endings."

With his homily completed, Trevor continued speaking to the congregation and applied what he had said to his present situation. Today is not the end of his ministry, the Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon who is also the Diocesan Bishop of Kootenay, the Most Rev. John Privett has already contacted him about taking a small parish in the Diocese of Kootenay near his future residence in Oyama, BC, part time as priest-in-charge.

Following the homily there was more music, prayers and, of course, that focal point of worship, the Eucharist. Following the Eucharist and the Blessing, Trevor once again spoke to the community. He thanked the musicians and singers who had led the music in worship and on behalf of himself and his wife Andrea, he said a profound and heartfelt thank you for the generosity and kindness of the parish. He assured them that he and Andrea had read every card more than once and listened to the "Voice Quilt" of 62 recorded messages "stitched" onto an audio CD. He closed by saying, "you allowed me to make mistakes, you allowed me to grow... Although our time together has come to an end we need to remember that there are no endings, only new beginnings."

This prompted Peter Vanderhorst to launch into an impromptu rendition of the Parker and Charles classic made popular by Vera Lynn, *We'll Meet Again*. During the singing of the tune the congregation all stood and sang and remained standing for the closing hymn, Trevor's favourite, *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*.

The Rev. Trevor Fisher has had a remarkable 39 years as a full time priest, including five years at St. Stephen's, West Vancouver. The time that he and Andrea spent in West Vancouver, and their connection to the community, was summed up in the brief message printed on the cover of the August 31st, 2014 service bulletin:

Trevor and Andrea,

Already we miss you but you have left us a wonderful gift of spiritual inspiration, encouragement and hope. For this, we give you a heartfelt "thank you."

We pray that, in life's next chapter, you will both be blessed with joy and good health under sunny Okanagan skies.

The Parishioners of St. Stephen's ✠

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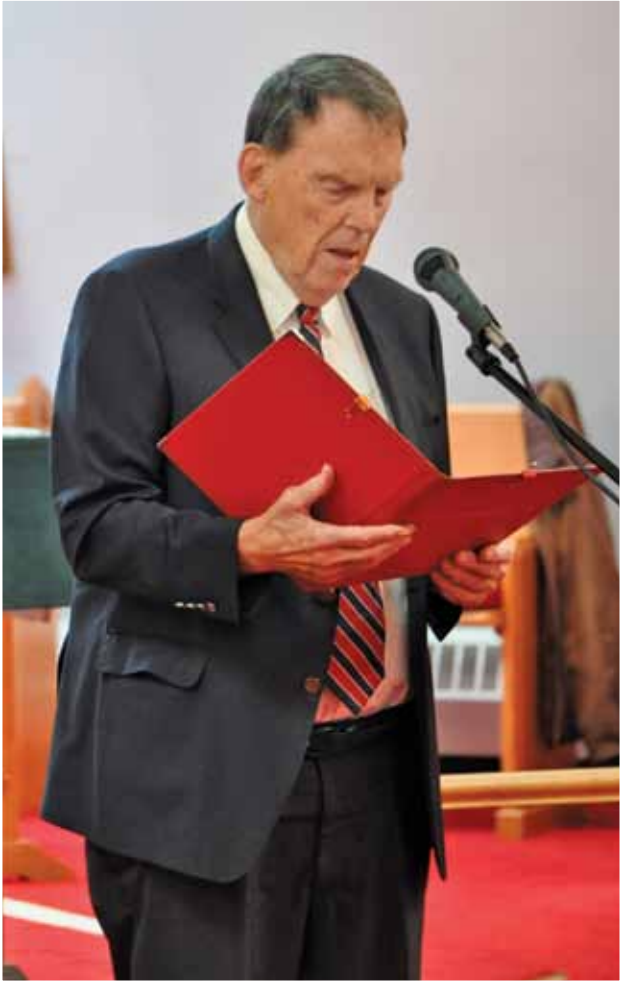
Andrew Huggard plays the intro to *This Train*. PHOTO Randy Murray



David Rolfe reads the Gospel. PHOTO Randy Murray



Joanie Taylor prepares to sing *Lead Me Lord*. 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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### 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](http://www.vancouver.anglican.ca)

### Contributors & Helpers for this issue

Linda Adams, Liz Barr, An Carson, Tie Jian Carson, Hilary Clark, Phil Colvin, Jane Dittich, Michael Eikan, Archdeacon Douglas Fenton, Deanna Ferguson, Michael Fuller, Lyndon Grove, Christine Hatfull, Mildred Johnson, Kent Kallberg, Allan Kerr, Patricia McSherry, Kenji Nagai, Wilna Parry, David Pearl, Andrew Pike, Charity Reddington, Tracy Russell, Judy Steers, Andrew Stephens-Rennie and Christine Wilson.

**Thank you!**



# The Voices of St. Stephen's Anglican Church Are Heard

LISE DODD

St. Stephen's, West Vancouver

On August 29th, 2014, the parish family of St. Stephen's in West Vancouver had a *Farewell* evening for the Rev. Trevor Fisher and his wife Andrea in recognition of their retirement, effective August 31st. It was a celebration of their ministry at St. Stephen's for the past five years. Over 90 enthusiastic parishioners attended, representing about 75% of the membership, despite it being the Friday of the Labour Day long weekend.

The theme of the evening, "I am the good shepherd, I know my sheep and my sheep know me. (John 10: 14)," was carried throughout a Variety Show and the following dinner. The Variety Show featured congregational singing and skits, expressing joy, love and humour all within the theme of Trevor and Andrea's ministry. The dinner — shepherd's pie (of course) and berry crisp — was home-cooked by three parish members. Following dinner, several speakers highlighted Trevor and Andrea's impact over their five short years. The evening concluded with the presentation of a "Purse" and a "Voice Quilt."

The "Voice Quilt" was a novel gift designed to keep on giving. In the weeks prior to the *Farewell*, parishioners were asked to phone a special 1-800 number and leave a message for Trevor and Andrea. This was an opportunity to convey sentiments, in the parishioner's own words and voice. They could express appreciation, recall a special way that Trevor

and Andrea had touched their lives, share a memory or simply wish a happy retirement. Sixty-two members were represented in this opportunity to provide a unique keepsake. All these messages were "stitched" together on a CD that was presented to Andrea and Trevor at the *Farewell*. It became a "Voice Quilt" that Trevor and Andrea could

"pull over themselves" for comfort in their retirement. The messages were confidential; the CD was not played at the *Farewell* evening. By their final church service on Sunday, August 31st, Trevor and Andrea had listened to the CD and they spoke of the overwhelming emotional impact that the personal messages had upon them. ♦

LEFT The dinner. RIGHT Andrea Fisher holds a heart as four parishioners serenade her singing the Nat King Cole classic, L-O-V-E during the Variety Show. PHOTO Charity Reddington



Many thanks to Peter Vanderhost who accompanied all the Variety Show performances. PHOTO Charity Reddington



## Calling All Choristers Past & Present From Christ Church Cathedral



Christ Church Cathedral Vancouver is inviting all Cathedral Choir choristers, past and present, to help us celebrate 125 years of music at 690 Burrard on November 23rd, 2014 at 3 pm. In honour of this major milestone, we're planning a Festal Evensong for Reign of Christ at the Cathedral and we're seeking all available choristers to reunite and sing in celebration of our anniversary.

We'll gather to rehearse on Saturday, November 22nd, 2014 at 10 am for two hours and then sing together at the service on Sunday afternoon. A simple reception in the Parish Hall will follow the service where you'll have the opportunity to reconnect with old friends.

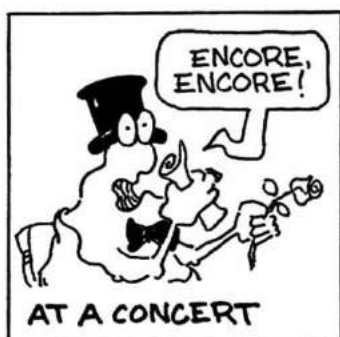
We'd love to see you in November. If you're able to join us for Saturday and Sunday, please RSVP by emailing [cathedralchoiryvr@gmail.com](mailto:cathedralchoiryvr@gmail.com).

As well, any help you can provide in getting the word out to former choristers from any of the Cathedral Choirs is greatly appreciated.

We're also planning to honour choir members who are no longer with us. Please send any names to [cathedralchoiryvr@gmail.com](mailto:cathedralchoiryvr@gmail.com) so that we can recognize them.



## PONTIUS' PUDDLE by Joel Kauffmann



## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

compiled by Anglican Archivist Melanie Delva

- 40 years • 1974 Camp Artaban "fighting back" after summer closure due to financial issues.
- 35 years • 1979 Diocese turns 100 years old, begins centennial celebrations.
- 15 years • 1999 BC Supreme Court judgment finds Anglican Church vicariously liable and negligent in case involving abuses perpetrated at St. George's Residential School in Lytton.





LEFT David Pearl's coloured glass creation painting with light in the interior of St. Gabriel's Passionist Church, Toronto. RIGHT Another view of St. Gabriel's with people in the nave. PHOTO Courtesy of David Pearl

## Finalists Selected in Bell Spire Art Competition

JOAN SEIDL

Christ Church Cathedral; Raise the Roof, Ring the Bells, Feed the Hungry Campaign Volunteer

Four pre-qualified artists have been selected in the competition to design the glass cladding for Christ Church Cathedral's new bell spire, part of the *Raise the Roof, Ring the Bells, Feed the Hungry* project. The finalists are Sarah Hall (Toronto), Lutz Haufschild (Vancouver), David Pearl (Toronto) and Susan Point (Vancouver). Glass panels will clad the upper 60 feet of the proposed 100-foot tall bell spire. The four artists have been commissioned to submit preliminary artistic design concepts. One will be selected for the bell spire, which will be constructed in 2015.

You can Google the four finalists for eye-popping tours of their art. Or you can visit examples of glass art by three of the four finalists in Lower Mainland Churches and Mosques. Sarah Hall designed the *Light of the World* and *Mysteries of Light* windows in Holy Name Catholic Church, Vancouver and the *Lux Nova* wind tower at Regent College, Vancouver. Lutz Haufschild designed the *Four Elements* windows at Westminster Abbey, Mission, the *Four Seasons* windows in St. Mary's Catholic Church, Vancouver, and the *Golden Keys* windows in the Burnaby Jamathkana. Coast Salish artist Susan Point designed the *Tree of Life* stained glass window installed in Christ Church Cathedral in 2010. David Pearl has not worked with Lower Mainland places of worship, but his religious art glass can be seen at St. Gabriel's Passionist Church, Toronto.

Sarah Hall is an internationally recognized glass artist who has specializes in large-scale installations for places of worship. She has received American Institute of Architects awards for the *Lux Gloria* windows at Cathedral of the Holy Family, Saskatoon and for the *Lux Nova* wind tower at Regent College, Vancouver. Sarah works at the leading edge of art and technology as evidenced by *Lux Nova*, a solar art glass installation that incorporates photo-voltaic elements, which generate electricity.

Lutz Haufschild is a Vancouver based artist with a wide range of internationally recognized work in glass. Of particular interest locally is his *The Great Wave* at Vancouver International Airport. He has also created works for the Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto, as well as major installations in Europe and Taiwan.

David Pearl of Toronto, a glass artist with an architectural background, is currently working with the Toronto Transit Commission to create a series of colour and light installations in large-scale glass works throughout a new subway station. He is the lead designer for the Chapel of the Living Light, a new chapel for the Green Mountain Monastery in Vermont, USA and is a sessional professor at Ontario College of Art and Design University.

Susan Point, a member of the Coast Salish First Nation, is an internationally recognized artist based in Vancouver. She is an Officer of the Order of Canada. Over her 30-year career as an artist, she has undertaken significant commissions in various media, including glass. Her work is represented in several US states and the Pacific Northwest region.

The finalists were selected as the first step in a rigorous adjudicated commission process that will result in the design for the art glass cladding of the new bell spire. The Cathedral widely circulated an invitation to Canadian glass artists to submit their credentials and qualifications, and received more than 100 inquiries and 26 submissions by the deadline of July 15th.

The Cathedral's Glass Advisory Panel selected the four finalists. The Panel includes architecture, construction, design and art professionals, knowledgeable community

members, donors, and clergy. Members are Larry Beasley, chair; Allen Aubert; Catriona Jefferies; Darlene Poole; David Podmore; Michael Francis; Susan Knott; John Ross; and Cathedral Rector, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott.

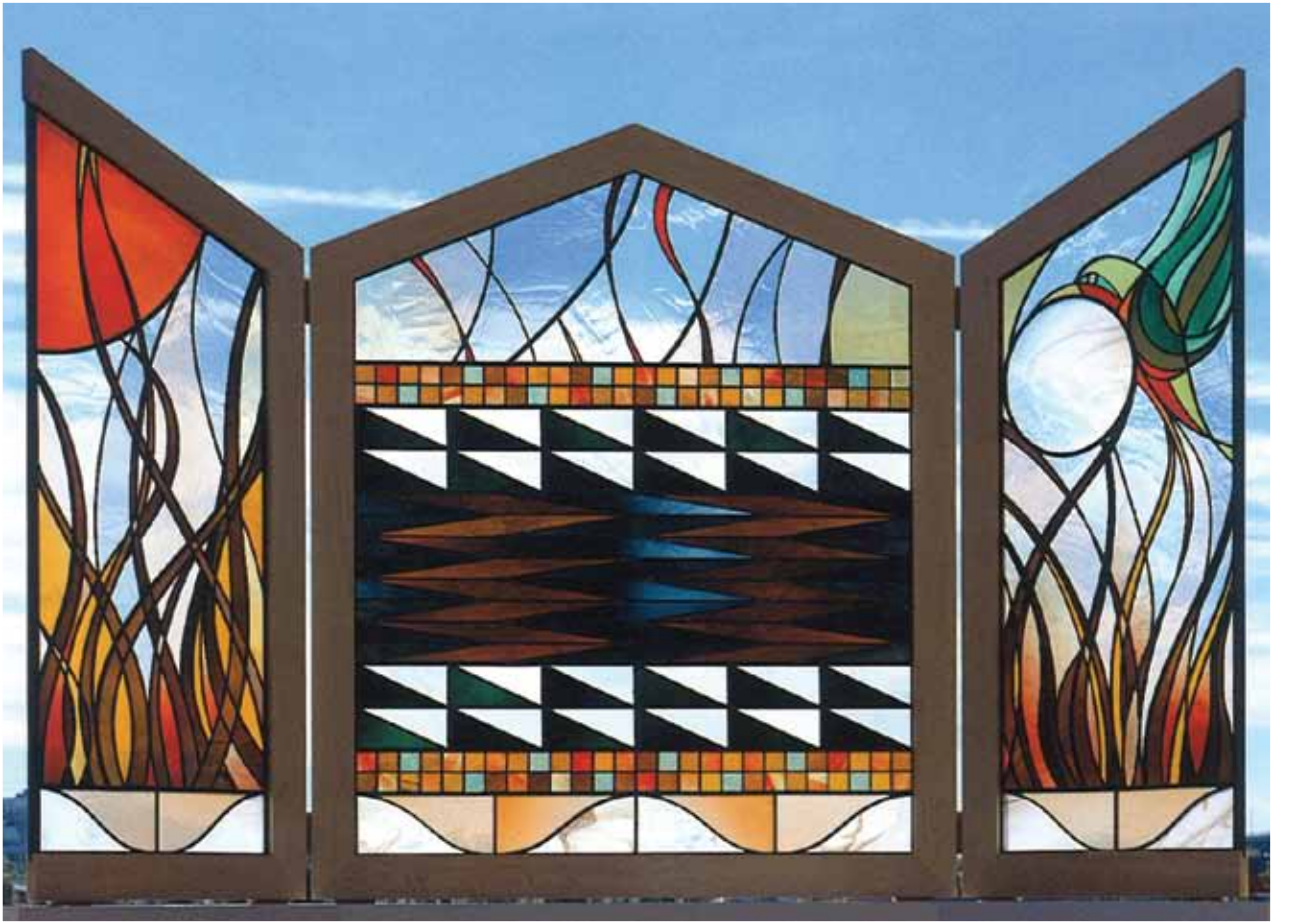
The artists will submit their preliminary designs October 1st, and these will be on public display in October. The artists will make presentations to the Advisory Panel on October 27th. The selection of an artist for a design

commission will be recommended to Cathedral Trustees at that date.

To find out more about the *Raise the Roof, Ring the Bells, Feed the Hungry* campaign and project please visit <http://raisetheroofthecathedral.ca>.

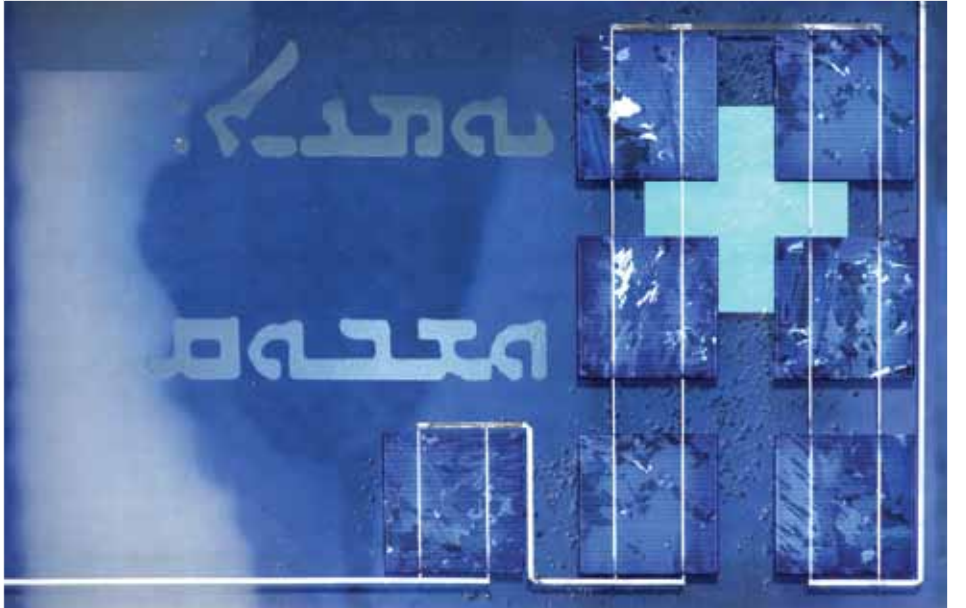
For further information, please contact Joan Seidl by phone at 604.731.8452 or 778.836.8452 or email at [joanseidl@gmail.com](mailto:joanseidl@gmail.com).

Titled *The Mahli*, a three-section screen created by Susan Point in 2000. The Mahli is an ancient village site, which is still part of the main Musqueam village today. The frame is the shape of a house symbolizing the village. It is made from hand-blown glass and maple (Dimensions 6' x 11' x 3"). PHOTO Kenji Nagai



LEFT *Lux Nova* at Regent College UBC, solar powered wind tower by Sarah Hall.

RIGHT *Lux Nova* detail, solar cells with dichroic cross and the Lord's Prayer in Aramaic. PHOTOS Michael Eikan





# A Parish That Thinks it Can • That Knows it Can • That Can

MILDRED JOHNSON

Rector's Warden, All Saints' Burnaby

All Saints Parish in South Burnaby is showing signs of being a parish that thinks it can, that knows it can, and **that can**. At the end of April 2013, we took a vote whether we should stay open or choose the painful alternative and close the parish. Due to a few (I believe God-inspired) events in the few weeks prior to the decisive vote, the mood was positive: 25 voted to stay open and 13 voted to close. A year and three months later, we are still here and starting to grow. Alleluia!

Yes, we've had our ups and downs. The biggest one happened in early September 2013 when our new part time priest left us after eleven days due to a family emergency. But then, God, continuing to work in mysterious ways brought us the Rev. Shirley Stockdill. Shirley has turned out to be a powerhouse. She has experience turning parishes around because she is willing to think outside the box. Besides that, her small stature and friendly demeanour makes her cute and lovable which only adds to her substantial leadership skills.

Soon after the April 2013 vote, six parishioners attended Back to Church Sunday co-founder, Michael Harvey's workshop, *Unlocking the Growth*. Our first attempt at following his suggestions did see a rise in attendance for that one day. I don't think any of the guests became regulars but seeing more people in the church for even just the one day was inspiring. Our second and third attempts were not as successful as the first. We have not given up though, and we did organize another invitational day for September 14th, 2014.

We have tried to increase our profile in the community with concerts. We had a Celtic music night on August 29th, 2013, with the band *Blackthorn*. This was a great success and we are looking forward to having *Blackthorn* perform again on October 23rd, 2014. On May 17th, 2014, the All Saints' community hosted our second concert, which featured another Vancouver band, *Quartet a Tete*. The Vancouver Gaelic choir, which uses our building for practise space, has further added to the idea that our church welcomes music with their concerts held at All Saints' at least two times per year. So far, the musical events have featured the Gaelic tradition, but this is more coincidence than a programmed plan. We hope to invite and encourage other musical styles in our church too.

In an effort to develop our own sense of spirit and community, we've had two talent nights, a church picnic, garage sales, a Strawberry Tea, and work bee. We have made some physical improvements to the building, which helps us feel more positive and shows that we indeed do **love the**



The All Saints, Burnaby Garage and Bake Sale Leadership Team, August 23rd, 2014. Left to right: Hales Jones, Norma Stephenson, Loretta Pelew (sitting), Ray Duff, Mildred Johnson, Yolande Varley, Catherine Copland and Nellie Porkert (sitting). PHOTO Randy Murray

**place.** Some of these improvements include: new carpeting, painting, gardening, power washing the steps and walkways, and some work in the kitchen, including the replacement of our two decrepit stoves.

On July 30th, 2014, we teamed up with Nando's (a Portuguese style chicken restaurant) for a community BBQ. Those in attendance were mostly our own parishioners but everyone including those from the neighbourhood who gathered enjoyed the socializing and the food.

All Saints', Burnaby is committed to outreach. We have donated food bank items and warm clothing to the Maywood Community School for years, and we are increasing our connections with the school. Our first new connection with them involves making a financial contribution towards an after school Hip-Hop class.

New outreach connections include Burnaby South High School, Aunt Leah's and Burnaby Neighbourhood House. Currently, our sole connection with Burnaby South is augmenting their *feed hungry students* program by donat-

ing items to their food bank. Our outreach programs with Aunt Leah's and Burnaby Neighbourhood House are still in the discussion phase. We had hoped that both Aunt Leah's and Burnaby Neighbourhood House would use All Saints' hall space and kitchen to develop some programs aimed at teaching people to cook. Since our original contact, both of these organizations have moved into new facilities, so they no longer need space for these programs. We are still in contact with them and expect to find some ways of working together in the future.

So as you can see, we have had a very full year and three months. The parishioner's attitudes have much improved and we have had some new people join the parish. Rev. Stockdill and I attended the Diocesan School for Leadership in July and came back revitalized. We're now hoping to pass on new energy and new projects to our congregation. With God's help, All Saints Parish is becoming a parish that will be around for years to come because *it thinks it can, it knows it can, and it can.* ✠

## Resquiescat in Pace

DOUGLAS FENTON

Executive Archdeacon of the Diocese of New Westminster

Edwin Owen Johnston ✠ March 1st, 1923 – October 9th, 2013

On August 7th, 2014, I was advised by the office of the Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia of the death of the Reverend Owen Johnston.

Father Johnston was born in Kingston, Ontario, completed his undergraduate degree at Queen's University before attending Trinity College, Toronto for theological studies. Following service in the Royal Canadian Air Force he was ordained in the Diocese of Niagara as a deacon in May 1948, and priest in December 1948. He served his curacy at St. George's, Guelph before becoming chaplain at St. Francis' Boys' Home in Ellsworth, Kansas. This was followed by appointments in the Diocese of Ontario as Rector of St. John the Evangelist, Bancroft and the four point Parish of Kitley. He then served a parish briefly in the Diocese of Yukon before leaving active ministry in 1967.

He worked in secular employment beginning with six months at St. George's School, Lytton, then at the Gifford Hotel before becoming the Residence Attendant at the University of BC. During this period he attended the Cathedral (having been a family friend of Dean Northcote Burke) then St. James' (where Father Gardiner permitted him to live in the Clergy House for a period) before assisting Fr. Hutchins at St. Saviour's and then the combined Parish of St. David's in East Vancouver.

Father Johnston was inducted as Incumbent of St. John the Divine, Squamish and St. George, Pemberton on December 10th, 1975. He resigned the Parish on August 31st, 1977. During vacancies he continued as a supply priest in Squamish at the request of the Wardens and retained his Retired with Permission to Officiate.

It was when I enquired as to whether or not he wished to renew his license that I received the letter from the Public Guardian and Trustee notifying us of his death. ✠

Albert Phillip McLane ✠ August 8th, 1943 – July 25th, 2014

The Reverend Doctor Albert Philip McLane, priest, died early the morning of July 25th, 2014, after a very brief illness with cancer. Albert (who was in hospice care at the time of his death), when learning the cancer was very aggressive and untreatable, gave himself into God's care. The result was a very gentle passing from this life to the next.

Albert was born in Valdosta, Georgia. His family were committed Methodists but during his undergraduate days he was invited by a fellow student to the Episcopal Church and remained an Anglican for the remainder of his life.

Albert's academic career included a Bachelor of Music (University of Georgia); Master of Music Conducting (Ball State University, Indiana); Doctor of Musical Arts (University of Washington); and Master of Divinity (Vancouver School of Theology).

During the Vietnam War, and knowing that conscription was virtually inevitable, Albert was determined that he should decide where he would serve. He applied and was accepted as a Band Officer in the US Air Force and was stationed in Weisbaden, Germany. After his military service concluded Albert was very involved as a Church Musician in the Diocese of Olympia. It was during this period that he completed his doctoral programme in music. Together with his first wife Margaret, they raised two sons in Washington: Andrew and Patrick.

Albert decided to study theology and enrolled as a non-sponsored student at Vancouver School of Theology (VST), although ordination was much on his mind. He served as Interim Music Director during the mid-1980s at Christ Church Cathedral, after the departure of Patrick Wedd and the arrival of current Director of Music and Organist, Rupert Lang. Albert became a landed immigrant and continued with his musical career. He was very involved in contemplative prayer and offered workshops and trainings around the diocese.

In the late 1990s, Albert began attending St. Alban's, Richmond, invited by a friend: Alison Marshall. Albert continued in his musical career directing the Vancouver community choir, The Gallery Singers. He also re-entered the ordination process supported by the clergy and people at St. Alban's.

Albert and Alison married and have a son, Aidan. They had just celebrated their 15th anniversary.

Albert was ordained a deacon on June 15th, 2003, and appointed to a three year curacy at St. Peter's, Rosedale and All Saints', Agassiz under the supervision of the Rev. Fred Tassinari, Rector of St. John the Baptist, Sardis. Albert was ordained priest on December 7th, 2003 and soon thereafter was appointed Regional Dean of Yale (April 12th, 2005). His curacy was extended to four years. Following this he served as Honorary Assistant at St. John the Baptist, Sardis before retiring to Kelowna. Albert remained active in priestly ministry assisting in parishes in the Diocese of Kootenay.

A memorial service was held at St. Michael's Cathedral in Kelowna, on August 8th, 2014. ✠



# Insights in Working to the Glory of God With an Amateur Choir

An interview with Annabelle Paetsch, PhD., Music Director, St. Christopher’s, West Vancouver

HILARY CLARK  
St. Christopher’s, West Vancouver

As Annabelle Paetsch (*photo right*), Music Director of St. Christopher’s, West Vancouver described her musical beginnings it became clear to my wondering mind why this brilliantly talented musician was led into church choir work. “When I was twelve years old, and playing the piano, there became a need at the Lutheran Church I was attending for an organist. That sounded like fun, so I jumped at the opportunity. I virtually taught myself the organ from my piano background... all those stops and all that musical power!”

She took her music degrees in Canada at the University of Saskatchewan (Bachelor of Music in Music Education), and then went to Europe on a Saskatchewan Arts Board Grant. While in Europe she had the unique opportunity to work with one of the conductors of the Vienna Boys Choir. Upon returning to Canada she embarked on a Masters of Music (while working as a Teaching Assistant), and a PhD from the University of Western Ontario. These programs included courses in choral direction. She studied with well-known Canadian organist, Hugh McLean, and virtually “learned by doing” by working with excellent conductors as an accompanist.

“I have worked with many different church denominations, but never felt any conflict among the Christian churches. I have been musical director for Anglican, Lutheran, United and Reformed congregations. After all, we are all working to the ‘glory of God,’ even though there are congregational differences. The job description usually sets out the parameters of the work. My present one is to develop and to direct all musical programs at St. Christopher’s, West Vancouver: prepare and conduct the choir; research/find/ and purchase the music (working within a designated budget); select hymns and service music based on the lectionary themes in consultation with the rector; choose and perform appropriate organ preludes and postludes (occasionally involving guest instrumentalists/singers); oversee the maintenance of the instruments; and explore musical involvement of the community (concerts, etc...).”

Choir practice itself takes a very distinct pattern under Paetsch. As a friendly leader, she always welcomes the choir and begins the practice on time. Her rule for herself is not to waste anyone’s time. She keeps a firm but warm hold on the rehearsal asking members not to talk, and encourages them to signal if they want to add something to her instructions.

Initially she gets to know the individual choir members, their voice ranges, their strengths and weaknesses, and tries to utilize their respective talents.

“I do a vocal warm up: breathing, vowel blends and intonation using a five note pattern moving gradually up the scale. I add to that, physical gestures that emphasize the correct use of the lungs and vocal cords. We read through the service music and concentrate on hymns not well-known by the choir. We use various approaches to the Psalms: cantor with choir and congregation on a repeated refrain, a voice-over reader with organ background, or on days with low choir turn out (summer) we simply read the text responsively led by the rector.”

Annabelle Paetsch has a well-developed method of having new anthems available for rehearsal, so that at any time there might be three or four works in various stages of readiness. Thus when the appropriate Sunday arrives, the choir has already worked on the piece for three or four weeks, before it is needed, and doesn’t have to scramble at Thursday’s choir practice.

“As conductor I prepare the scores before the rehearsal, and note the difficult sections. I work with a very peripatetic group. From week to week, I never know who will be there, or how many I may have for any service. It keeps me on my toes. I choose music that isn’t too simple, to keep them interested, but is possible to sing with a varied number of participants. People have no idea how much background work goes on below the tip of the iceberg! Some of the music resources I use are The Oxford Book of Flexible Anthems, global music from the Internet, selected repertoire from the Royal School of Church Music, and some I write myself.”

When possible she introduces variety such as hand bells, drums, glockenspiel, tambourine, and also enlists the children and youth of the congregation as active participants on drums or rhythm instruments. Often she varies the sound by conducting the choir a cappella.

“Some of my goals are not only to maintain a high standard, but also to introduce more diversity of styles, and hopefully to involve more people from the congregation, and the community as guest artists. Guests bring variety to the service, and really help during a period when many choir members are absent due to school breaks, or winter holiday periods. Guests are also good for the choir as they demonstrate professional performance. They also join the choir for the service and augment the singing. I may use a guest to provide the sermon anthem as well as the post-communion anthem.”

When asked about the future, she laughed and said, “Oh, how about a Bach Cantata series, and a concert series



plus a ‘Messiah’ with full orchestra!” Given the respect and support she has from the choir, she just may be able to pull this off! ✦

## Order of the Diocese of New Westminster 2014 Nominees

The Order of the Diocese of New Westminster Investiture of New Members will take place at Christ Church Cathedral, November 2nd at 4 pm within the context of the Eucharist. Bishop Skelton will preside and Brother James Koester, Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) will preach. This is a well-attended liturgy so please make plans to arrive early.

### Parish Nominees

- Mr. William (Bill) Lyall Atkinson • Bishop Hills Memorial Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Vancouver
- Mrs. Doreen Barclay • St. Laurence, Coquitlam
- Ms. Helen Elizabeth (Betty) Boland • St. Faith, Vancouver
- Mrs. Janet Brown • St. Philip, Dunbar
- Mrs. Rosemarie Carmen Bundock • St. Anne, Steveston
- Mrs. Pat Burgess • St. Helen, West Point Grey
- Ms. Lynda Marie Catchpole • Christ Church Cathedral
- Ms. Susan Chortyk • St. Thomas, Vancouver
- Ms. Sybil Geraldine Collett • Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster
- Mrs. Sylvia Kathleen Dawson • St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge
- Mrs. Roberta Irene Foxall • St. Hilda, Sechelt
- Mrs. Donna Goldstone • St. Thomas, Chilliwack
- Mrs. Valerie (Val) Ann Hampton • St. Michael, Surrey
- Mrs. Jill Hanney • St. Clements, North Vancouver
- Mrs. Claudette Hayward • All Saints, Ladner
- Mrs. Virginia Gail Jennings • All Saints, Agassiz
- Mrs. Hales Jones • All Saints, South Burnaby
- Mr. Peter Erskine Kidd • St. John, Shaughnessy
- Mr. Kenneth (Ken) Barry Lindsay • St. Agnes, North Vancouver

- Mr. Carl Victor Markwart • St. Andrew, Langley
- Mr. Stewart Martin • St. Christopher, West Vancouver
- Mrs. Margaret Ainslie Moignard • St. Francis-in-the-Wood, Caulfeild
- Mrs. Allison Mulligan • St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver
- Mrs. Ruth Ellen Nichol • St. Mary, Kerrisdale
- Mrs. Patricia (Pat) Anderson Nociar • St. Helen, Surrey
- Dr Robert North • St. Anselm, Vancouver
- Mrs. Katherine Claire Pallen • St. George, Fort Langley
- Mr. Bernard (Bernie) Leslie Poitras • St. Catherine of Alexandria, Port Coquitlam
- Mrs. Barbara Popham • St. Dunstan, Aldergrove
- Mrs. Shelley Prendergast • Church of the Epiphany, Surrey
- Mr. Edwin Luther (Lou) Railton • St. Alban the Martyr, Burnaby
- Mrs. Mary Riches • St. John the Baptist, Sardis
- Mr. Douglas (Doug) Stanley Robinson • St. George, Maple Ridge
- Mrs. Margaret (Peggy) Rockliffe • St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby
- Mr. Greg Scott • St. David, Delta (Posthumous)
- Mr. Quintin Sheng • St. Matthias—St. Luke, Vancouver
- Mr. Gregory (Greg) Tatchell • St. Michael, Vancouver
- Mrs. Michiko Tatchell • Holy Cross Japanese Canadian Anglican Church, Vancouver
- Mr. Kenneth Douglas Turnham (Ken) • St. Mark, Ocean Park
- Mr. Richard Pieter Van Delft • St. Paul, Vancouver
- Mr. Paul Wagler • Holy Trinity, Vancouver
- Mr. F. Richard Whiteside • St. Martin, North Vancouver
- Mr. Frank Alexander Rutherford Willis • St. Catherine, Capilano



### Bishop’s Nominees

- Ms. Daphne Muriel Francis
- Mr. Robert (Bob) David Hardy
- Ms. Theresa (Teri) Hazelton
- Mr. Moses Kajoba
- Mr. Philip Walter Owen
- Mrs. Dorothy Saunier
- Ms. Hope Eleanor Sealy
- Ms. Helen Tataren
- Mr. Robert (Rob) Douglas Watt
- Mrs. Elaine Young ✦

“Without music, life would be a mistake.”  
Friedrich Nietzsche





LEFT The gardens (beautifully maintained by staff and volunteers) outside of Sorrento Centre headquarters building, Spes Bona. In the photo is the Fred Gailus memorial bench and the Centre's newly acquired Ford F250 truck in the background. PHOTO Jane Dittrich  
RIGHT Sing-along night at the beach. Left to right: longtime Sorrento Centre board member Colin Millar; John Taylor; Jane Dittrich; Erin Barr; Sharon Taylor; summer staff coordinator Amanda Millar; and Moira Millar singing the well-known church camp action song, *I've Got The Joy* (aka *Down In My Heart*). It has been a good 20 years since Jane, Colin and the O'Driscoll girls (Erin and Moira) have been photographed at the campfire sing-along night! PHOTO Craig Fairley

## The Spirit Of Sorrento

### The last summer course week of 2014 in review

JANE DITTRICH

Christ Church Cathedral

The week of August 4th to 9th at Sorrento Centre was a week of familiar faces, predictably hot Shuswap weather (the Centre was covered with a light haze all week stemming from the Interior forest fires), and the joy and tranquility, which only comes from being in that wonderful location. The Rev. Canon Herbert O'Driscoll and the Rev. Richard LeSueur (Rector at St. George's Anglican, Cadboro Bay) led a course entitled *Land Of God, Word Of God*, a virtual pilgrimage, using the scriptures and offering prayer for a renewed encounter with a living faith in Jesus Christ. The course was well attended and much enjoyed by the participants.

In light of the recent passing of Executive Director, Dr. Christopher Lind, the Centre was filled with an understated sense of enhanced purpose, balanced by an atmosphere of reflectiveness. There was an unspoken feeling, everyone quietly yet forcefully carrying on with the visions, both current and future, set forth by Lind for the growth of Sorrento Centre. There were signs of new life and sustainability at the Centre. Amongst those signs was the midweek birth of a baby girl to the Centre's groundskeeper and manager of The Sorrento Centre Farm, Dave Wides (Farmer Dave) and his wife Marie. The Centre also received a silver F250 Ford truck (complete with Sorrento Centre decals on both sides) later that same week. The Centre had been raising funds for a new truck for some time. This vehicle was acquired in part by the use of those funds, and by taking over the remaining and comparatively low lease of its original owner.

I set up in my usual camping fortress, at a site on the property which has been my favourite for many years. I had the pleasure of having the Rev. Craig Fairley (Deacon at St. Michael's, Merritt), his wife Carmen and their three young grandchildren (Draven, Elektra and Braxton) as my site neighbours this year. Although the Fairley's are longtime Sorrento Associates, we hadn't crossed paths before. This was their grandchildren's first time at the Centre.

A first for me this year was seeing deer on the Centre's property. Upon arrival, August 3rd and walking the familiar trail (many of my footprints have been left there since 1976) to the beach, I encountered two deer, a few feet from me. The Fairley's and I also experienced deer on the Centre's fence-line by our sites. They seemed to gather to observe our morning coffee rituals.

The Rev. Rob Waller (Sorrento Centre's Campaign Consultant) was at the Centre on the Tuesday for a meeting, and it was great to have him participating in the traditional Tuesday night beach sing-along.

On the Thursday afternoon there was a *Party With A Purpose*. These are the gatherings held both at the Centre, and in the broader Sorrento community, in both British Columbia and Alberta, to provide information on the current fundraising campaign: *Embracing Transformation: The Next 50*. They provide a great opportunity for Associates (new and old) to gather, and keep current on the status and needs of the campaign.

Nancy Denham is a craniosacral biodynamic practitioner from Sechelt, BC. Nancy was at Sorrento attending a course and she generously gave of her free time to offer her services in exchange for a donation to the Centre. She set

up daily beside the beach trail and memorial garden and her schedule remained fully booked. The Centre gratefully welcomes gifts offered in this way.

In conclusion I thought I would ask the Rev. Canon Herbert O'Driscoll to share his invitation to Sorrento Centre.

"Try to imagine beautiful parkland overlooking a lake whose shoreline is more than 1200 miles long, the whole thing cradled in wall to wall mountains. Now put in residences, a sports field, a beautiful outdoor chapel, a great coffee shop, and indoor/outdoor dining. Add in a farm nearby from which daily fresh produce comes into the kitchen and onto your plate. Meet a score of magnificent young people, all well-trained in hospitality to help run the place, take your kids morning and evening, organize and make music for worship, lead campfires, show small fry how not to burn a marshmallow,

and take you on afternoon outings (your choice, a neat brewery, a magnificent waterfall, a fascinating Donkey Refuge {only one in Canada}). Every morning a choice of fascinating courses help you explore contemporary faith and spirituality via Bible study, history, art, music, family faith formation, personal story, prayer, cycle touring, hikes, yoga, personal journaling, and caring for creation. If you packed the car the night before and had a really early breakfast you could be there by lunchtime. Even the dog is welcome! There? Where? Sorrento Centre, that's where! What are you waiting for?"

Please have a look at the Sorrento Centre's website at [www.sorrento-centre.bc.ca](http://www.sorrento-centre.bc.ca), for all of the latest news, upcoming events, information on the Campaign, and for details on the Fall Associates' Work/Study Weekend (October 10th to 13th). ☛

The Rev. Craig Fairley and his grandson Braxton. PHOTO Jane Dittrich



Jane enjoying the Sorrento Centre beach. PHOTO Jane Dittrich



LEFT A deer on the beach trail, just below the Centre's outdoor chapel, St. Francis Chapel. RIGHT Sorrento Centre's memorial garden with the Anglican Church of Canada flag flying in the background. The gardens were designed and added in 2013. PHOTOS Jane Dittrich







## Homelessness Action Week 2014

### Opening Doors, Opening Hearts

CHRISTINE WILSON  
Deacon, St. Faith's, Vancouver

For the third consecutive year St. Faith's Anglican Church has been awarded a grant from the City of Vancouver for Homelessness Action Week (HAW). On Saturday, October 18th, 2014, from 11 am to 2 pm St. Faith's will open our doors and our hearts to those who participate in *Take A Bite Out Of Winter*. This event invites people in the community to come by for a delicious meal and to pick up winter clothing (at no charge).

We will be offering bread and non-perishable food items for people to take with them and in order to provide "food for the mind" and not just the body. St. Faith's have invited the local library staff to bring books and register folks for library cards. Representatives from BC Housing and the Vancouver Rent Bank will be available to discuss housing concerns.

A tent will be set up outside the church to welcome people and make them feel comfortable about going inside the church hall. "Valet service" will be offered so people can leave their shopping carts/backpacks outside, confident their belongings will be looked after.

While we share a meal in community together, cheerful "personal shoppers" will be on hand to assist people in selecting winter clothing—coats, boots, mittens, scarves, hats, blankets, sleeping bags, socks and underwear.

"Last year at *Take A Bite Out of Winter*, close to a hundred people in need of our support and care came to St. Faith's," said event organizer the Rev. Christine Wilson. "Our church hall was alive with conversation, laughter, handshakes and hugs. We lived out God's commandment to love our neighbours, to uphold our sisters and brothers in dignity and grace, and for a few hours to bring about God's kingdom here on Earth."

St. Faith's is privileged to partner again this year with Marpole Place Neighbourhood House to jointly promote our respective events and produce an updated version of the Kerrisdale/Marpole Community Resource Guide.

On Thursday, October 16th, 2014, from 6 pm to 9 pm

Marpole Place Neighbourhood House is holding *Marpole Homeless Connect*, sharing dinner and offering personal-care kits, flu shots, blood pressure checks and housing support resources for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Marpole.

The City of Vancouver, in response to a call for proposals for HAW, awarded grants totalling \$40,000 to 16 organizations, three of them faith-based. The recommendation report presented to City Council by Community Services stated, "Of note are two organizations, Marpole Place Neighbourhood House and The Parish of St. Faith's, who have received funding since 2012 for *connect-style* events in their local neighbourhoods.

This year, because of their success at creating community partnerships and leveraging donations and in-kind support, they have requested grants for significantly less than in previous years. They stand out as models of the way in which community members can work together to address homelessness at the local level, and of the way in which HAW projects and events can, over time, become increasingly self-sustaining."

*Take A Bite Out Of Winter* is one of the many ways St. Faith's demonstrates our commitment to ministering to people in our community. Through our Community Pastoral Resource Centre we provide compassionate support, advocacy and referral services for people in need or crisis. People are able to meet with a care advocate who will refer them to the appropriate dignity resources to meet needs for food, housing, health and security and provide support in making those connections. The Community Pastoral Resource Centre is pleased to be recipients of the Diocese of New Westminster's care+share funding for 2014 and 2015.

Do you feel called to support Homelessness Action Week 2014? Please join us in opening doors and opening hearts to the homeless and at risk in our community. Donations of winter clothing, socks, underwear, non-perishable food items and toiletries in support of both St. Faith's *Take A Bite Out Of Winter* and Marpole Place Neighbourhood House's *Homeless Connect* events are gratefully accepted and volunteers are VERY welcome. Please contact the Rev. Christine Wilson at St. Faith's church office at, 604.266.8011. ✕



Members of the Regional Anglican Youth Ministry group, *Constellation* helping out at *Take A Bite Out of Winter* take a break out on the St. Faith's steps.  
PHOTO Courtesy of Christine Wilson



Diocese of New Westminster  
DIOCESE OF NEW WESTMINSTER

## A Legacy for yourself and God

*We all need to prepare for a retirement we will enjoy. That, plus a bequest in your will to the Diocese of New Westminster or your parish church, is your ultimate act of stewardship and a tangible expression of your trust in God.*

*Consider titling the value of your estate, or creating an endowment as your legacy gift to God's mission in the world.*

**For Assistance contact:**

**Glen Mitchell, Director, Stewardship & Gift Planning**  
**(604) 684-6306, Ext. 218; [gmitchell@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:gmitchell@vancouver.anglican.ca)**





The exterior of St. James'. PHOTO Christine Hatfull



The Gospel is read in the nave of St. James' during the Mass. PHOTO Christine Hatfull

# The Heart of the City Festival

## Anglicans join in celebrating Vancouver's oldest community

PATRICIA MCSHERRY  
St. James', Vancouver

Each fall for the past 10 years, an impressive 12-day festival celebrating the history, culture and people of Vancouver's oldest community, takes place in the Downtown Eastside (DTES). *The Heart of the City Festival* highlights architecture and activism, plays and poetry readings, recitals, guided tours and special events such as a day-long open house at the neighbourhood's historic parish church, St. James' Anglican. Since the 1880s, St. James' has welcomed worshippers and ministered to the community from its location at the corner of Gore and Cordova streets. Offering a blend of rich and beautiful Anglo-catholic liturgical traditions with street outreach and community service, the church is a place of sanctuary and calm, and a real presence in solidarity with the people and challenges of the neighbourhood.

The Festival, a production of Vancouver Moving Theatre, runs this year from Wednesday, October 29th to Sunday, November 9th with many live performances, art installations, neighbourhood walks, local films, building tours, cultural and religious events to take in. Check out [www.heartofthecityfestival.com](http://www.heartofthecityfestival.com).

Three events unique to St. James' always prove highly popular: the St. James' Women's Guild Bargain Sale, the All Saints Day Open House, and the All Souls Day Mass.

### The St. James' Women's Guild Bargain Sale

LOCATION 280 N. Gore Street in the Parish Hall of St. James'  
DATE Friday, October 31st, 2014  
TIME 11 am – 12:30 pm

An hour and a half in *bargain sale heaven*—a chance to pick up household items, gifts, electronics, clothes, a last minute Halloween costume and oodles of other items for cheap, cheap, prices.

Long time Guild member Pam Jeacocke, Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW) reports, "1916 is the earliest record of a guild sale when the proceeds were used to pay off the church bank overdraft! It is a happy time with families newly arrived in the city or individuals moving from homelessness find cookware, dishes or bedding at a price they can afford." Proceeds from the sale go in part to support the work of neighbours such as The Bloom Group (formerly St. James' Community Services).

### The All Saints Day Open House

LOCATION St. James' Church, corner Gore & Cordova Streets  
DATE Saturday, November 1st, 2014  
TIME 10 am – 3 pm

This is an all day opportunity to visit the church, learn of its history and witness to the city, and experience its ancient practices. At 10:30 am a glorious All Saints Day Solemn High Mass and Procession will celebrate the Saints of Christendom with pageantry and ritual. For those not used to high church liturgy this is a chance to bathe the senses. At

St. James' on high holy days such as this, even the incense is special! Hear the full St. James' Choir singing Palestrina's *Missa Aeterna* and Willan's *O How Glorious*. Following the mass there is a luncheon for everyone in the church hall and an afternoon full of activities, including: a demonstration of the 1760-pipe Casavant organ, a medieval morality play, a tour of the Art Deco church building, a performance by students from the St. James' Music Academy and a fascinating neighbourhood photographic exhibit.

### The All Souls Day Mass

LOCATION St. James' Church, corner Gore & Cordova Streets  
DATE Monday, November 3rd, 2014  
TIME 6:30 pm

This event features the St. James Choir singing Durufle's *Requiem Op 9*, with special devotions for the faithful departed. Here is a chance to have friends and family who have passed, remembered (all names forwarded to the church are read aloud as part of the service).

The Heart of the City Festival is a great opportunity to introduce yourself or to reconnect with both the Downtown Eastside, where Vancouver began some 128 years ago, and to the foundational and still-vibrant Anglican witness and presence of St. James' Church.

### St. James All Saints Day Events Highlights • November 1st

- After the High Mass the Organist and Choral Director Gerald Harder will offer a talk and demonstration of the church's renowned 1760-pipe Casavant organ in the choir gallery.
- At 2 pm in the church, it has become a Heart of the City tradition at St. James to stage medieval morality plays. This year's offering is, *The Second Shepherd's Play*, one of the Mystery Plays by the Wakefield Master, will be presented in modern English, directed by parish Archivist Paul Stanwood, ODNW.
- Long-time parishioner Allan Duncan will take visitors on a guided tour of the wonderful Art Deco church building, telling of its architecture and the personalities who were involved in its construction in the 1930s.
- Students from the now famous St. James' Music Academy, which offers musical instruction to more than 150 youngsters in the DTES, will offer a special performance.
- Photographer Christine Hatfull will exhibit under the choir gallery recent images from her project documenting the on-going architectural re-purposing of the former BC Remand Centre (across the street from St. James') into social housing.

For more information on any of these events please visit the St. James' website at <http://stjames.bc.ca> or contact the St. James' office at 604.685.2532 or email [office@stjames.bc.ca](mailto:office@stjames.bc.ca). ✦



An embroidered chasuble and kneelers. PHOTO Christine Hatfull



The Casavant Organ. Organist and Choral Director, Gerald Harder, will offer a talk and demonstration of the Church's renowned 1760-pipe Casavant organ in the choir gallery on All Saints, November 1st. PHOTO Deanna Ferguson





# Faith, Generosity & Hope • North of the Arctic Circle

DOUGLAS FENTON  
Executive Archdeacon of the Diocese of New Westminster; Archdeacon of Bu

*In March 2014, the Ven. Douglas Fenton was away from the Synod Office on a trip to Alaska for one week. The Diocese of New Westminster and the diocesan communications office were very busy in the spring of 2014, and there wasn't a whole lot of time available, however, when things calmed down a bit, Douglas shared his Alaskan experience with the Synod staff. As I listened to the story of his week away, particularly the three days involving Point Hope, I decided that this was something that should be shared with Topic readers. Thank you Douglas for sharing this with us in words and photographs. • Editor*

The Transition Officers in The Episcopal Church's Province VIII (which includes the following dioceses: Hawaii, Alaska, Navajo lands, Taiwan, Micronesia, Spokane, Olympia, Oregon, Eastern Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, Northern California, El Camino Real, California, San Joaquin, Los Angeles and San Diego), meet twice a year to do such things as strategize and learn best practices for canonical search processes, review effective means of recruitment, and share names of priests interested in moving from their current parish. This group invited me to join them for their biennial meetings.

Each diocese takes turns hosting the meeting and at the 2013 fall meeting the group was invited to come to the Diocese of Alaska in March 2014. The priests who are members of the Province VIII Transition Officers were asked if they would be willing to go out to a village to celebrate the Eucharist. There is a shortage of priests in the Diocese of Alaska and many do not have the benefit of regular sacramental ministry. I was included in this invitation and was delighted to say, "Yes," to the opportunity to preach and preside at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church at Point Hope.

I left Vancouver International Airport en route to Fairbanks, Alaska on Tuesday, March 11th, 2014, arriving in the famous Alaskan city in the late afternoon. I met up with the Transition Officers hosted by the Diocese of Alaska. The meetings took place from Tuesday evening, March 11th through to lunch on Friday, March 14th. We took some time one evening to view the ice sculptures, which are part of an annual international ice sculpture competition.

On March 14th I flew from Fairbanks to Anchorage and transferred on to Kotzebue (Qikiktagruk in Inupiaq), which is located on the Northwest Coast. It is a city of about 3,200 people.

I stayed overnight at the beautiful Nullagvik Hotel, which in Inupiaq means 'a place to sleep.' What else would you call a hotel? The hotel is owned and operated by NANA Corporation, one of the 13 Regional Native Corporations created as a result of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) passed by the US Congress and signed into law by President Nixon in 1971. NANA's mission is to provide economic opportunities for its more than 13,500 Inupiat shareholders and to protect and enhance NANA lands.

1. At St. Thomas' Point Hope: Elder, the Ven. Douglas Fenton, a future acolyte and a Churchwarden.
2. The plane to Point Hope.
3. St. Thomas' Episcopal Church.
4. Inside St. Thomas'.
5. The Summer Whaling Feast location.
6. The Whaler's Inn.
7. Point Hope Town Hall.
8. The Tikigag Community Store.
9. The Elder and her four-wheeler.
10. & 11. Fairbanks International Ice Sculpture Competition: Raven & Acrobats.
12. The Arctic Sun.

PHOTOS Douglas Fenton





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The next morning (March 15th), I flew up to Point Hope or as it's known by those who have inhabited this place for 2500 years: *Tikigaq*. Located 200 km north of the Arctic Circle it is reportedly the oldest continuously inhabited village on the North American continent with over 2,500 years of recorded history. The spit of land jutting into the Chukchi Sea resembles an index finger and *Tikigaq* means index finger in the Inupiaq language. Presently there are about 700 people living in Point Hope.

Point Hope is only accessible by water or air. Ice prevents barges from landing most of the year so what doesn't arrive on the summer shipments has to wait until the next summer. This includes building materials, appliances, machinery, vehicles and furniture.

The Diocese of Alaska covered the cost of airfare and accommodation within the diocese for my trip to St. Thomas' Church, Point Hope. The internal airfare from Fairbanks—Anchorage—Kotzebue—Point Hope and return to Anchorage was \$1,400 USD. The costs of providing ministry support are phenomenal, just as it is in our Council of the North Dioceses.

In preparation for my trip prior to March 11th I struggled with getting a sense of where I'd be sent and what I would need to bring to prevent myself from being frozen solid. While the snowdrifts were huge, the wind sometimes howling, the air temperatures were not any colder than I'd experienced growing up in Northwestern Ontario. The downside was that I no longer needed those clothes anymore and my blood runs thinner living in Vancouver. Flying across the State gives you a perspective on the land and therefore its people. It runs from valleys and farms to high plateaus, mountain ranges and sea ice.

I was hosted by *Aqqiluk* Hank, Sr., the Manager of the Point Hope Native Store and Whaler's Inn where I stayed. *Aqqiluk* toured me around the community and showed me the preparations he was making to his *umiaq* (a good-sized boat made of skins for fishing and whaling). He is also a whaling captain (whaling captains hold a place of honour in the community) and has a whaling crew. I was shown the process of making the boat waterproof, the waterproof stitching done by the women, and heard of the difficulties of bringing a whale onto shore with diminishing ice cover. Eating whale blubber and seal oil was also a new experience and a great one. The oil and blubber taste like sweet olive oil. The people of Point Hope, as with other Alaskan Native communities, truly live from the land and sea. Whaling is not a sport but a sacred task and a means of survival.

Since all foodstuffs have to be brought in to the outlying communities by plane they are incredibly expensive to purchase. Fresh fruit and vegetables are a rare commodity in the North. Those of us going to the villages were asked to bring whatever produce we could in our packs and some of my colleagues brought cases of oranges and apples. Since produce cannot be carried from Canada into the US my gifts were coffee, tea, and chocolate. They seemed to satisfy



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my host, his wife and children.

The aforementioned, Whaler's Inn has the only restaurant in town. Like the restaurants in Kotzebue, this too was run by a Korean man with kitchen help from Los Angeles. I asked the owner how he got from Korea to Point Hope and he explained that he first began in Spokane, Washington and then Anchorage and always found that no one knew their neighbour and that you could live your entire life alone and disconnected. He didn't want that. He wanted to know people and be known so he applied to manage the restaurant in Point Hope.

When he first arrived he said that he felt racism and was physically threatened on a number of occasions. People saw him as an outsider coming into their village, making money, and not a part of the community. When his wife gave birth to their daughter in the Point Hope community (most women leave for a larger centre where there is a hospital) it changed his status and the level of acceptance. His family was recognized as people who were making Point Hope their home.

I met several young men in the restaurant. It was a gathering place. Everyone was very curious about why I was in Point Hope and when I told them they all began to share their stories of faith. These stories usually referenced an elder—grandfather, uncle—who played a significant role in their faith formation. Most had left Point Hope for some period of time (one had lived in Colorado for a while and thought he'd like to go back and have a ranch but he wasn't sure Colorado was ready for an "Eskimo Cowboy"). I asked this young man if he would be joining a whaling crew and his face lit up as he told me how he was preparing

himself for a whaler's life.

In addition to preaching and presiding at the Sunday Eucharist I was also scheduled to visit with Church Elders and instruct one of the children on how to be an acolyte. I met with three lay leaders soon after my arrival on Saturday to choose the hymns and organize the worship.

The main mode of transportation in the community is by four-wheeled motorcycle. One of the oldest lay leaders, a woman in her late 70s was no exception. After our meeting I saw her pull the starter cord and off she went through the snow on her four-wheeler.

On Sunday morning (March 16th), as people gathered in the church, they all filled the pews from the back to the front in typical Anglican fashion. The church would seat 200 people so the 30 or so who attended were a long way from the Altar.

The church plays a traditional role in the community. Before whaling season begins, a community service is held. Pastors from the other two non-denominational churches are invited to participate in offering prayers for a successful hunt, for safety and a blessing of the whaling captains and their crews. The boats are also brought to the church and blessed.

My journey back to Vancouver began on Monday, March 17th and concluded with a direct flight from Fairbanks the next day. A week later, I found myself reflecting upon this extraordinary experience and I was reminded that we need to be open to partnering with other dioceses in our church, dioceses that are often within our reach. They have much to teach us about resilience, faith, hospitality, generosity and hope. ✦



# A Traffic Jam of Thanksgiving

## Welcome to the Refugees Around Us

WILNA PARRY  
St. Clement's, Lynn Valley

The whole group attending *Welcome to the Refugees Around Us*. The author is in the middle, back row with sunglasses. PHOTO Courtesy of Dave and Wilna Parry



LEFT Margaret Falls is one of Sorrento's many photo ops. RIGHT Marie Claire at Sorrento Farm with some good-looking raspberries. PHOTO Courtesy of Dave and Wilna Parry



Kler Taw and Eh ThaMay explore the Sorrento Farm. PHOTO Courtesy of Dave and Wilna Parry



This past July I had the incredible privilege of spending a week at Sorrento Centre with three families who recently came to Canada as refugees. Originally from Burma, Kler Taw, Ehmoo Si and their two children have been in Canada since 2009, but have never traveled beyond the boundaries of metro Vancouver. An extended family that arrived in August 2013, from a large refugee camp in Kenya included: grandmother, Drocella Mukambonera; daughter, Marie Claire along with her daughter Bijoux; and daughter Angelique and her son Trevor. They left Rwanda when civil war erupted in 1991. Ghidey Abay and her four children, Haben, Sosina, Million and Yossan, came from Eritrea a small country located in the Horn of Africa near the Gulf of Aden. They were granted refugee status in Canada recently.

Dr. Christopher Lind, then-Director of Sorrento Centre who passed away in July approached the Diocese of New Westminster for funding for the program three years ago. This arose from discussions Chris had with the Rev. Margaret Marquardt and Mambo Masinda (my co-leader for the 2014 session) who had organized the details of the program for these past three years. For many, the program affords the first opportunity to talk about the past and come to terms with the upheaval and trauma of their lives prior to arriving in Canada.

We arrived at the Sorrento Centre at 4 pm on a hot Sunday afternoon. We spent some time exploring the grounds before the dinner gong invited us all to our first dinner—a toothsome BBQ with fresh salads and a delicious cake for dessert. Eating in community with the other visitors to Sorrento was a great way to get to know each other, share some stories, and relax after the long drive from Vancouver.

On the Monday morning, the children met the youth leaders and happily went off to their programs whilst the adults settled in. Our program for the week, *Welcome to the Refugees Around Us*, was built around several themes: shared experience, how values evolve and change, resilience, spirituality, and a prayerful focus on the role of hope in the lives of families and humanity as a whole. The mornings were set aside for this task, while afternoons were free for swimming or going on outings.

None of the refugees can swim but all had great fun splashing around in Shuswap Lake. Our group was invited to Sorrento Farm to harvest fresh organic vegetables to take home. Everyone found deep pleasure in being on the farm, digging into the rich soil for the harvest—Drocella was even moved to chant a prayer to the land.

Our final session focused on gratitude. Marie Claire, a young mother from Rwanda, expressed herself in no uncertain terms, “I have a *traffic jam* of thanksgiving in my head!” It was a wonderful note on which to end the week.

Without the generous support of the diocese and each parish, it would not have been possible for this program to take place, as none of the refugees would have had the financial means to participate. On behalf of all who participated I would like to say THANK YOU!

Included is a letter, written by Kler Taw, expressing what the week meant for him and his family. Kler Taw’s English has dramatically improved over the past five years; it is a great joy to see that he can so clearly articulate his gratitude, despite his still-growing understanding of English.

### Our Memorable Vacation to Sorrento Centre

#### • August 14th, 2014 •

##### SAW KLER TAW

The first of all I am very much grateful to the Lord for giving me godly friends such as Wilna Parry, Dave, and Anglican Churches because they had arrangement for my family.

Going to the Sorrento Centre is very good to my family for learning, sharing, and belonging. My family and I were invited to Sorrento Centre for the Refugee Course was really good.

For the first thing, Sorrento Centre is nice place for my family to spend the time together, learned God’s words together, and swimming together. We spent our time there for a week, but not enough for my kids, they didn’t want to come back home because they loved swimming and playing, they missed their friends and teachers (staffs/volunteers).

For another thing, my wife and I were so pleased to share our story to other people and they shared their story to us; therefore,

we learned from each other and we knew we came from the same difficult situation and similar complicated countries. By the grace of God, we were brought over here (peaceful land).

Finally, the program was very good to my family because staffs were very kind to the children; therefore, my kids learned many things such as dancing, singing, drawing, and performing. Moreover, they let us to visit the amazing places like Margaret Falls, Donkey Valley, the Old St. Mary Church, and Sorrento’s farm in the afternoons. We saw beautiful views, and we received the fresh air when we were going on our way.

Going to the Sorrento Centre is my memorable experience because it is a holy place of transformation for learning, healing, and belonging. ✨



LEFT The Worship leaders gather for the Service of Light. RIGHT Long time 8 am Cathedral parishioner Syd Gallinger lights the penultimate candle during the Service of Light. PHOTOS Randy Murray



## Let There Be Light

RANDY MURRAY

Diocesan Communications Officer and Topic Editor

The 6th Annual Gay Pride Day, Holy Eucharist took place on the Sunday of the second long weekend of the summer, August 3rd, 2014, again at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver.

As has now become traditional at this liturgy, after the processional hymn (for 2014 it was *Morning Has Broken* led by harpist/vocalist Clare Morgan) and the Dean's welcome, the Service of Light is offered. The presider opens with these words, "The lighting of a candle is a simple act yet becomes a powerful sign. For when we don't have the words or don't know how to pray, a small candle burning brightly expresses our prayer that is always with us—and becomes more powerful with each candle lit."

Two candles on the Altar and six candles of a rainbow candle holder placed on the Altar were lit: in the face of fear, in the face of violence, in an age of AIDS, for hope, for healing, for courage, for community and for resurrection.

This moving ritual was then followed by the hymn, *Let There Be Light*, led by music in worship leaders, the aforementioned Clare Morgan and pianist/organist Ginger Shaw. On Sunday, August 3rd the 100+ members of the congregation sang the hymn with enthusiasm and emotion.

The preacher at the Eucharist was a priest of the Diocese of New Westminster, the Rev. Laurel Dykstra. Laurel was also the chief organizer of the Anglican presence at the Pride Parade held later that day, a few blocks west of Christ Church Cathedral. She chose for her text, the Old Testament reading, Genesis 32: 22–31, which she said was a pretty good fit for Gay Pride Day. The story of Jacob wrestling with the angel (an emissary of God) and then his receipt of the new name Israel, is a scriptural passage with many and various interpretations. To quote Old Testament scholar and theologian Walter Brueggeman, "Its rich expository possibility is based in part on its lack of clarity, which permits various readings." Laurel covered a variety of themes in her homily ranging from the complications of Jacob's family, his wives, children, the fear of his brother, to the translation of his name to mean "heel/trickster/over-reacher/jerk." She made reference to a seminary professor's teacher who when speaking about this passage had said, "This story is key metaphor if you want to grapple with Holy Scripture." Not only does Jacob wrestle with God but he also "wrestles" with his loved ones and although that is about conflict, "wrestling with the ones that are close to us shows us the face of God."

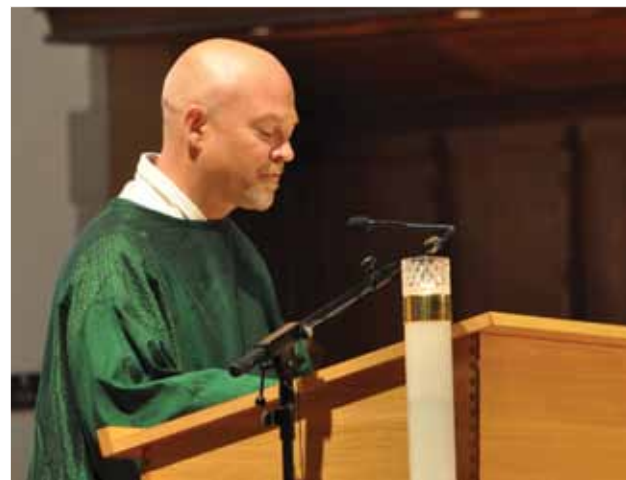
Laurel took the wrestling metaphor further on to the world that we live in today and to the struggles that continue. Laurel said:

"In both wrestling stories Jacob and Rachel 'prevail,' which seems to imply winning. But the Hebrew word *yachol-ti* is more accurately translated 'to be able, or to cope' so really it is not about winning, more about not being defeated.

I think this is powerfully true about the struggle for Queer/ LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning) liberation, it is not something we have won:

- With queer migrants forced to seek sanctuary as immigration laws become more restrictive.
- The shockingly high suicide rate of queer people.

LEFT The Rev. Laurel Dykstra. RIGHT Long time 8 am Cathedral parishioner Peter DeGroot offers the intercession. PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT Vocalist/harpist Clare Morgan leads the music in worship with *Morning Has Broken*. RIGHT The Service of Light Candles. PHOTOS Randy Murray



- Persistent misogyny-anti-femme violence that ranges from daily micro-aggressions to murder.
- Homeless rate of LGBT youth.
- Pinkwashing — that presents western militaries as the champions of gay rights — for example in Palestine.
- With new HIV infections in the Lower Mainland down in every group except men who have sex with men.
- When our Pride celebration is more about corporations than liberation.

And all of us are under pressure to abandon those members of our community, or parts of ourselves, who fail or refuse to conform to a white, partnered, wage-earner model.

No, whatever concessions the most privileged of us benefit from, we have not won queer liberation — but neither have we been defeated."

One of the most compelling and thought-provoking take-aways from Rev. Laurel Dykstra's sermon was when she made reference to the last line of the Gospel reading for the day from Matthew 14: 21. She said:

"Speaking of God wrestling, today's Gospel passage ends with the words 'those who ate were about 5000, besides women and children.' the New English translation is more blunt 'not counting women and children.'

I wrestle with the fact that 2000 years later in the church and out of it, in many ways we are still 'not counting women and children.'

After today's passage in Genesis, Jacob/Israel fresh from his encounter with God, blessed with a new name, goes to face the

brother whom he has cheated — but just when you want him to get it right, he puts his wives and children in order of status — most expendable (maids and their children) first.

Those of us, who are heirs to the stories of Jacob and Jesus, need to always ask ourselves who are we 'not counting?' Who is not included? Do we rattle off the string of letters — LGBTQ — but really not mean bisexual and trans people? Do we use the term 'Two Spirit' like it's 'Native for Gay' without listening to those who claim that identity? Do we have meetings upstairs or behind doorways that wheelchair users can't access? Do we sing 'all are welcome' but find in real life that the people who actually feel welcome and comfortable are people who look, and earn, and live quite a lot like us?"

You are encouraged to access the text and an audio recording of the Rev. Laurel Dykstra's sermon by accessing <http://bit.ly/1AVUMI7> on the web.

One of the many positive benefits that have grown out of the Annual Pride Service over the years at Christ Church Cathedral is the increasing involvement of the Cathedral's 8 am Congregation. They are a group of 20 to 40 who celebrate Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer. Many members of that congregation were present for this worship as were the 8 am worship leaders who read the Old Testament passage, the Gospel and offered the intercession, served at the Altar and participated in the Service of Light.

Following the Gay Pride Day Eucharist, everyone was invited to partake of a complimentary continental brunch prepared and served by members of the Christ Church Cathedral faith community. ✠



# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## • Nisga'a Mask Received by St. James', Vancouver •

SUBMISSION Linda Adams

On the feast day of our patron, Sunday, July 27th, the people of St. James' celebrated a special liturgy in which we ceremonially received the gift of a carved cedar mask. The mask, created by Mike D'Angeli, was designed as an altar cross and was placed on the Altar of St. David of Wales, Vancouver up until that Parish closed on March 1st, 2014. It was then given to St. James' Church. The Mass began with a welcome to the traditional territories of the Coast Salish People, given by spiritual leader Wes Nahanee of the Squamish band. At the offertory, the Nisga'a dance group, led

by Keane Tait, processed the mask into the church to be blessed, and an honour song was offered. At the conclusion of the Mass, apples and oranges were given as a thank you to all who were present, and as a way of inviting them to the responsibility for sharing their experience and keeping the memory of this ceremony alive. The mask was created as a symbol of the long and enduring relationship between the Nisga'a People and the Anglican Church, especially within our own diocese. It will be installed where it will be immediately visible to all who enter St. James'. ✦

The Mask is processed into the Chancel. PHOTO Tracy Russell



The Nisga'a Dance Group poses for a photo. PHOTO Tracy Russell



Members of the Nisga'a Dance Group offer an honour song. PHOTO Tracy Russell



## • Rectory Renovations Fundraising Sale at St. Helen's, Surrey •

Church fundraising sales are great. If you haven't been to one lately, or for that matter if you haven't organized one recently, you should. Whether the venue is a brand new modern parish hall or an old drafty parish hall, the back alley behind the church, a large suburban church parking lot or the church grounds lovingly landscaped by volunteers, a church sale has a special feel.

The Big Church Yard Sale event organized by St. Helen's, Surrey was a great example of this part of church culture. The St. Helen's leadership had identified a need and that need was to make an intentional effort to fundraise to pay for the renovations of the church's rectory. The long time tenants of the rectory had moved on in order that the home could be made ready for St. Helen's new rector, the Rev. Stephen Laskey and his wife Jocelyn (Jos). They arrived at St. Helen's July 15th from their last ministry position at Christ Church in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia ready for their new adventure. St. Helen's Church and grounds are beautiful, one of the most visually stunning properties in the Diocese of New Westminster, and a great location for an outdoor event of any kind.

Organizer Kelly Foulds and her support team went out into their neighbourhood to add a dimension to the church sale paradigm and they did that by ambitiously advertising for vendors. Vendors were invited to purchase vending space at the sale for the bargain flat rate of \$20 with the \$20 going directly to the parish project. They advertised using every available medium, accessing the Public Service Announcements sections of newspapers and online information sources.

The sale got underway at 10 am on the morning of August 2nd and by 10:45 am a steady stream of shoppers browsed through the two dozen plus tables selling everything from sunglasses to decorative jewelry, from cakes and cookies to crafts, from clothes to appliances and more. The Parish of St. Helen's had a section of the vending area where volunteers sold baked goods, hot dogs and second hand merchandise. All

profits from these tables would go directly to the rectory renovation fund.

The hot dog concession was so popular that after 45 minutes into the scheduled 4-hour yard sale, Kelly Foulds had gone off to source some more wieners for the grill.

Representative vendors included entire families with a large variety of new and used merchandise who had secured three tables, to a couple from Ontario visiting their children and grandchildren in Maple Ridge. When they travel this retired couple always brings boxes of CDs and DVDs and they visit yard sales and flea markets as a way of making some extra money to help offset travel costs.

So please keep the community of St. Helen's, Surrey, their new rector and his wife, in your prayers as they begin their shared ministry together.

The Rev. Stephen Laskey was installed rector by Bishop Melissa Skelton on Wednesday, September 3rd. The November issue of *Topic* will have full coverage of the Induction Eucharist. ✦

St. Helen's folks staff the hot dog grill. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Couple from Ontario. PHOTO Randy Murray



A Sale is made at one of the vendor tables. PHOTO Randy Murray



The St. Helen's Fundraising Table. PHOTO Randy Murray





## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### • St. Augustine's Hosts Street Market • Summer of 2014 •

With the Marpole Place Community building still under repair, the Anglican Parish of St. Augustine's, Marpole continues to support Marpole Place with access to the Parish Hall and now with access to the church grounds.

Beginning on Wednesday, July 16th, Marpole Place partner organization, Westside Mobile Food Market, began holding their weekly street markets in front of St. Augustine's Church, from 4 pm to 7 pm.

Every Wednesday in the summer of 2014, Westside Mobile Food Market Coordinator, Rachel Elves and her staff and vol-

unteers covered the Anglican circuit. They began first by setting up the tables in partnership with the South Granville Senior's Centre located at Holy Trinity Anglican Church at the corners of West 12th and Hemlock Streets, and then stocked up and headed over to St. Augustine's.

In speaking with Rachel on July 30th, the third week of their residence at St. Augustine's, she was delighted to point out that first week sales at the St. Augustine's location were higher than the average for 2013. The Westside Mobile Food Market supplies had sold out earlier in the day at

Holy Trinity. Rachel was grateful for the support of Holy Trinity Parish Administrator, Sharon Grove, who made sure that there was room in the Holy Trinity/South Granville Senior's Centre cooler, for Westside's produce, and also arranged for them to borrow Holy Trinity's white tent/awning to set up at St. Augustine's so that they would have two canopies on site, offering shade for the shoppers.

Westside Mobile Food Market's produce comes from Surrey's God's Little Acre Farm, (<http://godslittleacrefarm.com/>) a not-for-profit that donates half of its produce primarily to faith-based organizations like the Salvation Army for use in their food outreach ministries. The other half of the produce is sold to not-for-profits like Westside.

The produce sold by Westside consists of the highest quality organic fruits and vegetables. Prices are fixed at the same or a lower price than what customers would pay at the local grocery chain stores. Many of Westside's regular customers are seniors and according to Rachel, it is beneficial for older people, young children and those with compromised immune systems to avail themselves of fresh produce, free from growth hormones and pesticides.

Congratulations to priest-in-charge, the Rev. Andrew Halladay and the Parish of St. Augustine's for the continuation of their relationship with Marpole Place and for supporting initiatives like Westside Mobile Food Market. For more information online visit [www.plantednetwork.ca/project.aspx?asset=37](http://www.plantednetwork.ca/project.aspx?asset=37). ✠

Produce on display. PHOTO Randy Murray



Rachel Elves, in the foreground, arranges some potatoes as customers gather right at the 4 pm opening time. PHOTO Randy Murray



### • Open Air Worship at Holy Trinity, Vancouver •

On August 3rd, as the congregation gathered on the lawn of the Chalmers Lodge located directly west of Holy Trinity, Vancouver, the rector, the Rev. Karl Przywala went up to the microphone and welcomed everyone to worship. He said that it looked like their prayers had been answered for the outdoor Morning Prayer at 10 am, "no rain but not too hot." As the worship progressed and noon approached, the sun travelled higher in the sky and it did get pretty warm with many of the congregation moving the folding chairs to shady areas to seek relief from the direct sunlight.

The preacher for the liturgy was Vancouver School of Theology (VST) student, Roger Revell, who had recently relocated

from South Carolina to attend Regent College and had subsequently enrolled at VST. It was Roger's task to deliver the second installment of Holy Trinity's ongoing sermon series on Galatians. He began his 20-minute address with the disclaimer that there is "more in these 21 meaty verses than I can possibly pull out in one sermon." After an analysis of the text, including a careful focus on the confrontation between Peter and Paul, Roger said, "Galatians 2, among other things, broadens our understanding of God's Grace; the Church is not filled with perfect people." But it was a perfect day and perfect way to glorify God under the bright blue midsummer sky. ✠

The Rev. Karl Przywala gathers the community. PHOTO Randy Murray



The preacher, Roger Revell. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Rev. Karl Przywala leads a prayer. PHOTO Randy Murray



## SORRENTO CENTRE SEEKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



PHOTO Courtesy Sorrento Centre

An opportunity exists for someone who is prepared for a unique career path in the management of a Christian-based conference and retreat centre.

Responsible to a volunteer board of directors, the competitive candidate will be a strategic thinker as well as an effective manager of staff, volunteers and physical resources. Essential to the position are business and administrative skills, an ability to develop and administer a wide variety of programs, the capacity to communicate effectively and motivational skills in overseeing staff and others in a community environment. While not essential, experience

and success in the hospitality industry would be an asset.

Sorrento Centre is a year-round facility located on 24 acres in the interior of British Columbia on the beautiful Shuswap Lake. Associated with the Anglican Church of Canada and ecumenical in its welcome, the non-profit centre is operated by core and seasonal staff with the assistance of many volunteers.

Interested applicants are asked to email their requests for further information to Colin Millar, from the Search Committee, at [sorrentocentredirector2014@gmail.com](mailto:sorrentocentredirector2014@gmail.com), on or before Wednesday, October 31st, 2014.

For more information please visit the Sorrento Centre website at [www.sorrento-centre.bc.ca](http://www.sorrento-centre.bc.ca).



# AROUND THE DIOCESE

At 5:15 pm on Saturday, August 23rd the aroma of savoury salmon filled the air of the St. Anselm's grounds located in the beautiful UBC Endowment Land's neighbourhood.

About 40 folks both parishioners and

guests attended the community building and fundraising event.

The salmon steaks were carefully prepared by parishioner/grillmaster Kin Ho who featured two recipes: salmon cooked on the grill in foil with lemon and dill and

## • St. Anselm's Salmon Barbecue •

salmon cooked on the grill in foil with fennel and mixed vegetables. There were also salmon steaks available for the purist sans accoutrements grilled on the rack.

Following a story about the salmon and a blessing offered by St. Anselm's priest-in-

charge the Rev. Canon Harold Munn, the buffet was opened and staffed by People's Warden, Shirin Theophilus who made sure that everyone was served.

The event was enjoyed by all and was a great way to spend a late summer evening. ✠

LEFT The Chef smiles for the camera. RIGHT On the right the Rev. Canon Harold Munn greets a guest while Shirin Theophilus staffs the buffet table. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Chef Kin Ho keeps an eye on the grill. PHOTO Randy Murray



The salmon grilling. PHOTO Randy Murray



The buffet table. PHOTO Randy Murray



## Stewardship in COMMUNITY The Benedictine Way

*"This stewardship conference is about creating pathways to discipleship through our baptismal promises and the Marks of Mission. It is framed in the Benedictine way which all of us experience as an ongoing conversion of life as we listen for God's direction and find stability and support in our faith community."*



The Right Rev. Melissa Skelton  
The Benedictine Way



The Rev. Dr. Marilyn Hames  
Pathways to Discipleship

*"Participants will not only learn about the Benedictine way of stewardship, they will have the opportunity to create their personal 'Pathway to Discipleship' - what some call a rule of life. The person following this pathway will face many challenges and changes and that is to be expected."*

*We'll start by looking at ourselves and creating a place to begin the journey. After we create our pathway of discipleship, together we will strive to live out our baptismal promises and do our part to make the Marks of Mission a reality. All those setting out on the pathway will have the support of others on the journey."*

**VENUE:** St. Dunstan Aldergrove  
3025—264<sup>th</sup> Street  
Aldergrove BC  
**FEE:** \$50.00, lunch & resources  
\$135 Parish Team of 3  
**DATE:** Saturday, October 18, 2014  
**TIME:** 8:30 P.M. Registration  
9:00 A.M. Morning Prayer  
**ADJOURN:** 4:00 P.M.  
**REGISTER:** <http://conta.cc/1ntuANE>  
**CONTACT:** [gmitchehl@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:gmitchehl@vancouver.anglican.ca)



**Diocese of New Westminster**  
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA



## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### • Diocese of New Westminster Deacon Receives Commendation •

On Thursday, September 11th, 2014, Second Lieutenant the Rev. Gordon William Barrett, a deacon of the Diocese of New

Westminster currently in ministry at All Saints', Burnaby, was awarded the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation.

Gordon poses for a photo at the Regional Cadet Instructor School (Pacific) at Albert Head, Victoria where he took his basic training. PHOTO Courtesy of Lt(N) TD Silvester, Regional Cadet Instructor School (Pacific)



Gordon received the award with 40 others at a ceremony held at a luncheon in Richmond, BC. It is usually awarded to veterans but may be awarded to non-veterans for service to the veteran community. As this event was scheduled to take place two days after this issue of *Topic* went to print we hope to have some more coverage of Gordon's receipt of the award in the November issue.

The following is the information about the commendation from the Veteran's Affairs website:

In April 2001, Her Majesty the Queen approved the design of a special bar to be worn with decorations to be known as the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation.

The Governor General has issued a Warrant creating this award, and the governing policies call for it to be "...awarded to individuals who have performed commendable service to the Veteran community and/or individuals who represent commendable role models for their fellow Veterans." The Commendation is intended primarily for Veterans, but may be awarded to non-Veterans.

#### Insignia and Wear

The Commendation consists of a certificate, a lapel pin for civilian wear and a bar for wear with decorations. The design is a gold maple leaf resting on a red poppy, a flower long associated with the sacrifices of war, with the Royal Crown on the top of the pin.

The Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation is worn below official decorations on its gold bar. It can be worn on a recipient's blazer, formal

wear, etc. on occasions when it is appropriate for medals to be worn. The lapel pin may be worn at any time on civilian dress.

Here is the text of the citation read at the ceremony when Gordon received the award with his spouse Lynda in attendance:

**Second Lieutenant  
the Rev. Gordon William Barrett,  
North Vancouver**

Rev. Barrett has been an integral part of the military community for more than 30 years. He is the founding Pipe Major of the British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Irish Pipes and Drums and held that position from 1990 to 2007. In 2007 he was appointed honorary Captain and Director of Music with the BC Regiment and was then appointed Honorary Captain and volunteer chaplain with the 15th Field Regiment Association, RCA in 2009. In his role as chaplain, Rev. Barrett has offered counsel to reservists and their families on issues ranging from overseas deployment to injuries. Rev. Barrett became a CIC Officer with the 2472 Army Cadet Corps. He continues to organize Remembrance Day ceremonies at BC's head office of the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, where he was formerly employed. These events are attended by current employees where special distinction is given to retired CF staff. Rev. Barrett also assists at other commemorative ceremonies in the community where he has acted as MC, chaplain and has conducted Remembrance Services at the George Derby Centre — home to 300 War Veterans.

**Congratulations to Gordon on receiving this honour in recognition of his ministry. ☙**

## Clergy News from Around the Diocese from the Desk of the Executive Archdeacon

First of all, a number of changes took place at Christ Church Cathedral effective September 1st:

The Rev. Marnie Peterson, Assistant to the Rector for Evangelism and Christian Formation, increased to three days per week and reduced to two days a week her role as Ministry Resource Associate at the Synod Office.

The Rev. Philippa Segrave-Pride, Assistant to the Rector for Pastoral Care and Liturgy began a ½ time appointment. Philippa was formerly in the Diocese of Hereford in the *Church of England*.

The Rev. Brian Heinrich joined the team as Assistant to the Rector, Street Ministry and Service. Brian was formerly the Director of the *Lutheran Urban Mission Society* (LUMS).

The Very Rev. Peter Elliott, Rector of Christ Church Cathedral and Dean of the Diocese was given extraordinary permission by the Bishop to employ the Rev. Liz Hamel (Assistant to the Rector, Pastoral Care and Liturgical Administration), a newly minted vocational deacon, on a very part time basis during the transition in staffing at the Cathedral. Liz will work as an Assistant to the Rector until December 31st, 2014.

The Rev. Ellen Clark-King, transitions from Cathedral Vicar to a ¼ time appointment as Assistant to the Rector and Theologian-in-Residence. As had been reported earlier Ellen accepted the appointment at Vancouver School of Theology as Anglican Director for Denominational Formation and the Bishop accepted her resignation as Regional Archdeacon of Burrard effective August 31st, 2014. The Bishop appointed the Ven. Douglas Fenton as Archdeacon of Burrard beginning September 1st, 2014. This appointment is in addition to his duties as Executive Archdeacon of the Diocese and it is not an uncommon model in other

The Rev. Marnie Peterson.



dioceses.

The Parish of St. Margaret, Cedar Cottage is benefiting from the gifts and talents of the Rev. Sharon Salomons who joined them as Assistant to the Rector (non-stipendiary). Sharon will continue in her professional practice as a therapist and will also exercise her priestly ministry.

The Rev. Vida Jaugelis, a Rostered *Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada* (ELCiC) Lutheran Pastor, joined the Rev. Paul Woehrle as Assistant to the Rector for Pastoral Care at St. David, Tsawwassen. Vida was licensed last summer to provide sacramental and pastoral care when Paul was on extended study leave.

St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby will have the benefit of the ongoing ministry of the Rev. Gary Hamblin. Gary has had his appointment extended at St. Stephen's until July 31st, 2015.

Also taking up the mantle of interim priest-in-charge is the Rev. April Stanley who succeeded the Rev. Keith Gilbert at St. Laurence, Coquitlam. The parish leadership is keen to take the time to be intentional in their preparation for their next chapter in ministry. ☙

The Rev. Liz Hamel.



The Rev. Sharon Salomons.



The Rev. Gary Hamblin.



The Rev. Ellen Clark-King.



The Rev. Paul Woehrle.



The Rev. April Stanley.





# OPINION

## An Carson's Adoption Reflection

SUBMITTED BY THE REVEREND ALLAN CARSON

*"Your sons and daughters  
shall prophesy."*  
Acts 2: 17b

*The following is a reflection written by our sixteen year old daughter, An, to encourage us, as a family, to press on with the adoption of a little girl (Liu Ying) in an orphanage in China (see the front page story of the October 2013 issue of Topic). It is not only inspirational for me as a parent but I believe it is both inspirational and challenging for all Christians. May those who read this be open to hear the prophetic call of God. May the call result in action.*

• The Rev. Allan Carson

I believe that we live in a broken world, a world with sin and where things don't always work perfectly (actually they rarely do). As a sixteen year old growing up in our society today, I believe that we live very sheltered lives. Lives where we don't realize the things that are happening all over the world, our world, and we come nowhere close to understanding some of the things that I believe to be unjust.

The truth is that there are: 153 million orphaned children; 12.3 million children who starve to death or die from preventable diseases; 126 million children who work as child slaves and prostitutes—often enduring beatings, humiliation and sexual violence by their employers; and 3.4 million children who live with HIV, which adds up to at least 294.7 million needy children. Now that's a big number. I've talked to my friends about it, and they don't know what I'm talking about. Why is it fair or how can it even make sense that people aren't even aware of these statistics?

People die all the time and that's a part of life that I understand and expect. An average of 56 million people die worldwide each year from different causes, whether it be heart disease, cancers, diabetes or chronic lung diseases as well as communicable, maternal, neonatal or nutritional conditions. Death is a part of life, but about 6.6 million of those deaths are children that died before ever reaching their fifth birthday. About 99% of those children lived in low and middle-income countries. I don't want Liu Ying to end up as one of those children.

Frankly, I wish that there were no children in that situation, but there are.

Over 2 billion people on the earth claim to be Christian, but if only 15% would care for one of these children, there would be no one left to fill those sad statistics that I mentioned earlier. We will never be able to change the world by just going to church, but we might bring about change by applying things that we've learned by listening to God's teaching and as a result, become the church for others. Aren't we all the same in God's eyes? Don't all lives matter to him? I think so, but I don't understand why to us, some lives seem to matter less. In my short life, I've come to realize that orphans are easy to ignore before you see their faces and spend time with them, but when you hold them in your arms, look at them and learn their names you can't keep pretending that they're not real, and once you realize that, everything changes. Every child deserves to know the love of a forever family and deserves the chance to thrive. This world is too small for so many to go unseen.

I don't believe that I can change the world but I do believe that a broken place is where we are most used by God, and I believe that Liu Yin was put on my heart for a reason. One of my favorite quotes is from Andy Stanley and it reads, "Do for one what you wish you could do for everyone." I've already said, I will not change the world, Jesus will do that, but I can help change the world for one person, so I will keep loving one person at a time.

I'm aware that our family has already done a lot, but one could think of our family as a big beautiful patchwork quilt. The pieces that represent each of us are different but are stitched together by love. The bigger the blanket, the warmer we feel. I don't understand why, knowing all the facts, we turn our eyes to heaven and asked God to do something about it, because I've done that and I feel like I've got my answer. I feel like he said, "I did, I created you." If we're not going to do something about it then who is? It's not enough for us to say, "We've done our part."

There is so much more that we could do and we're never going to be able to change the world by standing still. I don't doubt that this will be hard, the adoption and everything that goes with it, but I don't think that we should be afraid of something because it seems impossible. I think that's



An Carson. PHOTO Tie Jian Carson

*"From the ends of the earth I call to you,  
I call as my heart grows faint;  
lead me to the rock that is higher than I."*  
Psalms 61: 2

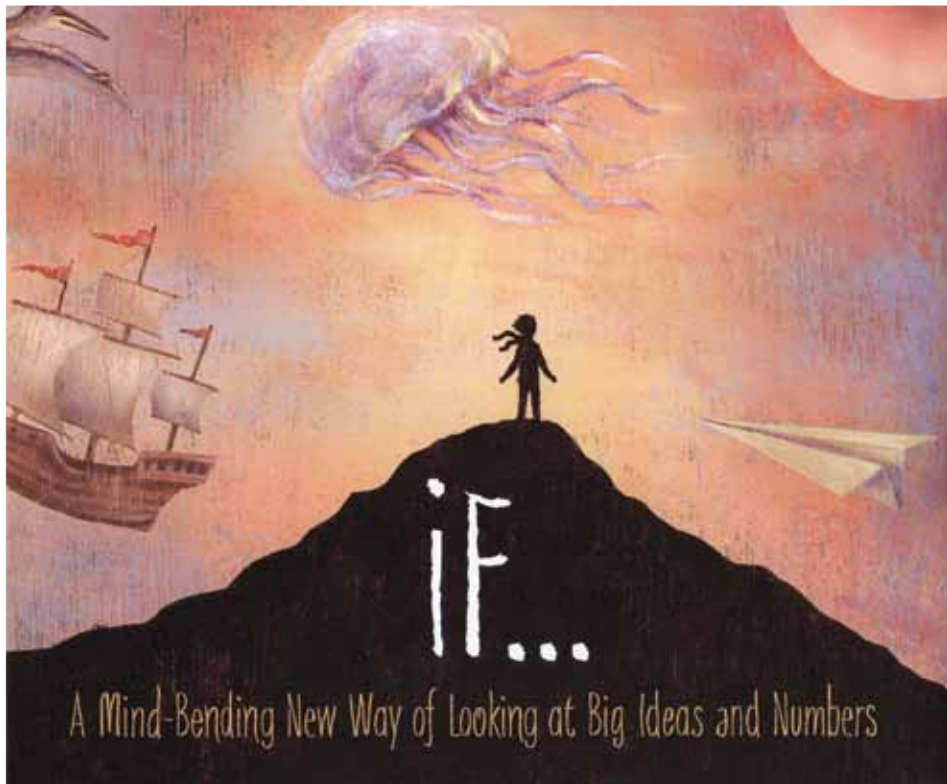
how God most easily shows his might, by presenting us with an opportunity to glorify him. I have faith that he will carry us through it and we will leave our testimonies for the benefit of others.

I am still young, and still have a lot to learn. I don't understand the stock market, why people still watch *Keeping Up With the Kardashians*, why it makes sense for abortion to cost more than adoption, whether time really does seem to pass more quickly with every year or sometimes even how to

replace jealousy with happiness for another person, but I do know this, we might not think that we're ready to adopt again, but no child is ready to be an orphan. ✠

.....  
*Many thanks to An and Al Carson for supplying Topic with references documenting the statistics quoted in this op/ed piece.*

*If you would like a copy please contact  
rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca • Editor.*  
.....



## Book Promo

**if... A Mind-Bending New Way of Looking at Big Ideas and Numbers**

Written by David J. Smith

Illustrated by Steve Adams

Published by Kids Can Press, 2014

.....  
*"Imagine if you could condense all 3.5 billion years of life on Earth into just one hour. If you did, the dinosaurs wouldn't show up until 56 minutes into the hour, and they'd be gone 3 minutes later. Modern humans (the ones we are related to) would amble into view at the very end of the hour with just 0.2 seconds to spare."*

• From the dust jacket of the first edition of *If*

.....  
Educational Consultant and author, David J. Smith of North Vancouver, BC is a parishioner at Christ Church Cathedral.

In recent years, David, a teacher with more than 25 years of experience in the classroom has turned his considerable talents to writing children's books about our planet and the people on the planet.

His newest offering, beautifully illustrated by Quebec's Steve Adams is called *If... A Mind-Bending New Way of Looking*

*at Big Ideas and Numbers* and is the perfect companion piece to David's earlier works: *If the World Were a Village*; *If America Were a Village*; and *This Child, Every Child*.

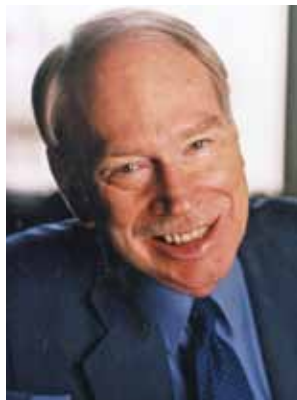
To see the 30-second trailer the publisher has created for this book, please go to <http://bit.ly/1sIJIs4> online. For further information about David's other books please go to <http://www.mapping.com/index.shtml>. ✠



# OPINION



The Rev. Michael Fuller.



Lyndon Grove. PHOTO Kent Kallberg



Allan Kerr.

## Singing in Church!

MICHAEL FULLER

Rector, St. John's, Shaughnessy

Looking around the church recently, I was struck by the fact that there was little engagement in the music and that the majority of the congregation were barely singing. Most of those who were singing hardly moved their lips. The only voices I actually heard were those of the choir.

In my humble opinion, that's been the case for years now, in churches large and small. What used to be congregational singing has become congregational miming.

Even when the overly enthusiastic "worship leader" in contemporary churches bounds on stage and predictably beckons everyone to "stand and worship," the people compliantly obey the stand command, but then they turn into mute mannequins.

What's behind this phenomenon? What happened to the bygone sounds of sanctuaries overflowing with fervent, harmonizing voices from the pews, singing out with a passion that could be heard down the street? I suspect it's a number of unfortunate factors.

Music is a highly subjective thing. Everybody has an opinion on how music should be managed in a church setting.

After recent events I have a new appreciation for the difficult work of music leadership and the minefields through which they must delicately walk.

Even though I've been in church all my life, lay and ordained, I've learned some new things recently:

1. Everyone sings in my church.

Some clergy report that everybody sings in his or her church, and they see none of the problems I perceive. That's good news.

We all see life through our own lens, wherever we happen to be. This article reflects only my view. The views expressed are not drawn from any particular church and I know that some work really hard at congregational participation, at least in music.

Rather, my reflections in the article represent a composite of churches in the UK and Canada that have indeed seen declines in participation and not just with congregational singing.

Most often it's the problem of the collective approach to the selection of music. For the clergy, if they select the music, it's too often as an add-on task but to be undertaken when either they are backed against the wall, time-wise or, as I know several parishes do, just repeat last year's hymns, even though we have different lectionary readings.

The alternative scenario is where the music "director" selects stuff and "directs" the clergy thinking to what the choir can perform best, to entertain the congregation. A classic example of this was when visiting a church recently during the distribution of Holy Communion the choir sang, *My Heart Will Go On* from the *Titanic* film (I mean, seriously?).

2. You have opened a can of worms best left closed. God help you.

I am sorry. I do not intend to ignite the old worship wars, pitting traditional music against contemporary music. It seems a number of "progressives" will attempt to "read between the lines" and will judge me as a mercenary against contemporary music.

Not true at all. I really like some of the contemporary genre and the classic hymn genre. God can be worshipped with all kinds of genres (though mostly with the heart). Musical genre is not the issue. Congregational participation is what is at the heart of this.

If we're talking about participation and we ought to be, it's important to consider what we, regular attendees and visitors, hear in the room.

If we hear only the choir, then it sounds like a performance. If, however, we hear the clear sound of the congregation, the community of believers, praising the Lord together, then it sounds like participation.

We need to experiment occasionally. Let the choir keep silent, or the musicians stop playing and encourage participation. Done on a random but regular basis it will not be long before people get the message.

Liturgy, the work of the church, is built on the work of the people, rather than on anybody in particular. The performance issue is one that is particularly troubling.

Sadly, but again IMHO (In My Humble Opinion), we all too often create an experience that has too much to do with "performers." We need to hide individual personalities. We need to make it more of a collective experience. So the choir ought to be artistically obscured behind a liturgical translucent curtain, this could mean a robed choir or a choir in a gallery (heard but, not necessarily, seen!).

3. Open conversation

Finally, my gut feeling is that there's a lot of pent-up, unresolved emotion on the issue of music and singing in church.

We really do need to be engaging in face-to-face conversations with our congregations about this stuff, rather than speculating about one another. We need to sit down **with** one another, listen **to** one another, understand one another, and explore together what it really means to worship.

We are the Body of Christ. We represent different parts of the Body, with different perspectives. But God desires to see God's people work with each other, to accept each other, to love each other, but above all worship God together, especially singing together! Alleluia. ✠

## Hear What the Spirit Says to the Churches Forward Together...

ALLAN KERR

Retired Priest of the Diocese of New Westminster; St. Helen's, Point Grey

"Hear what the Spirit says to the Churches," that is the refrain that runs through that wonderful portion of the book of Revelation, known as the Letters to the Seven Churches. The church needs to be sensitive to what the Spirit says and it was surely the strong conviction of the Bishops at the 1988 Lambeth Conference that the Spirit was calling the church to a decade of Evangelism. And really, when it comes to Evangelism, not that much has changed in 25+ years. The reality remains that Evangelism is the work of the whole church. All who are baptized are called to be Evangelists. The ministry of the church is NOT the ministry of the clerical collar/clergy. They are called to lead, to teach, to equip the whole body for the ministry of all who have been baptized.

I believe one of the most important tasks must be to continually awaken the church to that work that Christ would have us accomplish in our time. We all have to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. There is a warning given to the

great church at Ephesus, "But I have against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember then from what you have fallen. Repent and do the works you did at first."

In a more gentle way, the hymn (one of my favourites!), *Be Thou My Vision* sends this message to the church today. Remember that you belong to a church where Christ was perceived with reason and scholarship. A church that leads others to know the love of Christ remains a passion of many people of faith should be encouraged and nurtured.

Our church, our faith does not have to be a dead heritage but a living experience. We can make our own prayer:

Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart.  
Naught be all else to me, save as thou art;  
Thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
I ever with thee and thou with me Lord... ✠

## When Women Wore Hats in Church

LYNDON GROVE,

Christ Church Cathedral; Former Topic Editor

There was a time when women were required to wear hats in church. This is not listed in the thirty-nine Articles of Religion, and if a woman had taken a pew without a hat she might not have been hustled out the door by two burly sidemen, but who knows? It was never put to the test.

Women, until at least the 1950s, knew they must wear hats in church or if not hats, head coverings of some sort. Some tied scarves over their heads. One young woman, turning up at evensong without hat or scarf, borrowed my father's fedora. The congregation may have thought it odd, but it was acceptable.

Men, of course, wore suits, dress shirts and neckties. The concept of wearing one's "Sunday best" was religiously observed. While at college, Ted Scott assisted for a time at Christ Church Cathedral, where he was chided for "wearing a blue shirt under my cassock instead of a white one." Almost destroyed his career.

This was a time when churchgoers carried their own prayer books, knelt when entering the church (and before leaving—the kneeler cushions got a lot of use). Psalms and much else in the liturgy were chanted, and hymns were punctuated with a vigorously fervent Aaaah-men! A lot of the hymns have since fallen out of favor and probably out of the hymnal. How long since you've heard *Yield Not to Temptation* or *Onward, Christian Soldiers*?

In those years, it was, if not exactly a sin, an act of theological impoliteness to eat breakfast before receiving the bread and wine of Holy Communion. My mother, looking on Sunday mornings as though she might faint, finally was given permission by the priest to have a cup of tea. But as late as the 1970s a CHQM (at the time popular local AM radio station now known as QM/

FM) colleague regretted being unable to attend noon Eucharist at the Cathedral because that morning he had eaten a jelly doughnut.

This was, of course, long before anyone thought of the Book of Alternative Services (referred to, unfortunately, as the BAS, and which itself is beginning to look a bit tired). With the shelving of the Book of Common Prayer, we managed to abandon as well the Prayer of Humble Access, and many of the confessions in which we acknowledged that there is *no health in us*. It was salutary at New Westminster's 2014 Diocesan Synod to be reminded by Randy Murray and his all-star band of Miserable Offenders.

Parishes in those years held whist drives and fowl suppers and white elephant sales. Sunday Schools had superintendents, and teachers awarded students gold stars. Often participating in services was a "lay reader," usually a very serious elderly gentleman, and occasionally what was then called a "deaconess."

Churchgoing was taken seriously in the general community. Saturday newspapers gave two pages of coverage to church affairs, and Sunday services were broadcast on popular radio stations. Many private stations and even the CBC carried weekday mini-programs—*Daily Devotions*, *Good News* and *One Man's Journal*.

Hands up! All who remember all or part of this?

This is not nostalgia. This is not a plea for women to wear hats in church. And this is not a revisionist screed, nor a longing for a forgotten chapter of Anglicanism. This is simply a more or less affectionate look at the past, before these things like the typewriter, the telephone book, the VHS player and cursive writing become objects of only archaeological interest. ✠

*"God can be worshipped with all kinds of genres (though mostly with the heart)."*

The Rev. Michael Fuller





# Diocesan Youth Movement

## YOUTH CONNECTIONS

News & Events for Youth in the Diocese of New Westminster

### youth groups •

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

**contact •** The Rev. Ruth Monette,  
Acting Director for Mission & Ministry Development  
[rmonette@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:rmonette@vancouver.anglican.ca)  
604.684.6306 ext. 219

## DIOCESAN YOUTH LEADER'S TRAINING



### TRAILBLAZING

THEOLOGICAL FORMATION FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

**LOCATION** St. Mary's, Kerrisdale  
2490 West 37th Avenue, Vancouver  
**DATE** Saturday, October 25th, 2014  
**TIME** 9:30 am – 2 pm  
**COST** \$10 • includes refreshments but not lunch

This October 25th, the Diocesan Youth Movement is offering a one day training opportunity for youth workers, camp staff, clergy and anyone else who ministers with young people.

Join us as we walk through the Trailblazing material together.

Take this time to meet with fellow youth workers, enjoy fellowship, and partake in a great conversation.

We will be meeting at the church of St. Mary's, Kerrisdale at 9:30 am.

For more information or to register, please contact Liz Barr at [youth@saintlaurence.ca](mailto:youth@saintlaurence.ca).



# Trailblazing Lights New Path for Youth Ministry

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR FOR YOUTH INITIATIVES, FAITH, WORSHIP & MINISTRY  
Anglican Church of Canada

*"I love working with youth in my congregation but sometimes I feel like I don't know what I'm doing."  
"How do I get training as a youth leader?"  
"I want to put more spiritual content in our youth program in ways that the kids can relate to."  
"Can I get more in-depth formation as a youth ministry leader without going away to take expensive courses?"  
"The young people I work with ask so many great and profound questions — but I have no clue how to respond."*

If you have ever said one of the above, you're not alone! Across the country, there are many volunteer and part time youth workers who don't feel fully equipped for their vital ministry role. As a church, we share passion for working with young people. But how, without heading away to seminary, will any of us gain the skills to do that better? In many dioceses across our church, we turn to our part time youth workers and rely on them as "youth experts." How often do we resource and equip them to truly be those ministry experts?

Responding to these concerns, the National Youth Initiatives Team, in collaboration with the *Ask & Imagine* youth theology program at Huron University College, Faculty of Theology created *Trailblazing*.

*Trailblazing* is a new online theological formation and leadership development program for youth leaders. It's Canadian. It was developed by Anglican youth leaders and theologians.

"Many youth workers are dedicated volunteers," says *Trailblazing* coordinator Andrew Stephens-Rennie, from Vancouver, "and yet they don't necessarily have much youth ministry formation beyond their own experience of youth group. Perhaps they have a degree in education, or a diploma as a child and youth worker in a secular setting." Very few leaders have theological training, even though the task of youth ministry is to work with families and congregations to provide young people with Christian formation that will help them to navigate their spiritual lives and life choices.

*Trailblazing* fills some of those gaps by providing an accessible, easy-to-use, do-at-your-own-pace kind of training for youth leaders.

Through a collection of online learning modules (on computer or tablet), learners can explore such topics as Introduction to Theology, Worldview and the Gospel, Building Community, Faith and Film, Theology and Music, the Power of Story, Youth Ministry Basics, Mission and Formation and many more.

Each module takes between two and three hours to work through and they build on each other to form a thorough, theologically rigorous and engaging series of lessons. Online forums allow learners to interact with each other through conversation and reflection on the module content. Videos, articles, animations and interactive content all serve to help learners learn and connect with the material.

Like knowing the right tool for the right job, *Trailblazing* challenges learners to think about why they do what they do.

Judy Steers, program director of *Ask & Imagine* and *Trailblazing* notes that, "Until we know how to think and reflect on our ministries, developing skills in theological reflection, we will just be doing program for the sake of program." Often times, youth workers are going online for the latest "grab and go" idea for cool youth meetings. Rarely do these online sources equip leaders to engage young people in ways of navigating the world where faith and real life intersect.

*Trailblazing* gives youth leaders tools for the job — tools that can be applied to many situations. In the same way that one wouldn't grab one type of saw to do all kinds of woodworking, *Trailblazing* aspires to "fill youth leaders' toolbox," giving them skills and confidence in knowing what's in their toolbox and how to use it.

A \$75 annual subscription gives a subscriber access to ALL current and future modules for a 365-day period. The price is set to make the program sustainable, while being absolutely accessible and affordable to part time or volunteer leaders and their parishes.

Visit [www.trailblazing.anglican.ca](http://www.trailblazing.anglican.ca) to see a sample module, watch a video about the project, read what other youth leaders have said about it and register/purchase the subscription. ✦

Diocese of New Westminster Synod staffer, Phil Colvin is one of the architects of *Trailblazing*. Here we see him at CLAY in Kamloops this past August facilitating a *Trailblazing* learning session. PHOTO Courtesy of Phil Colvin



Among many other important initiatives and programs *Trailblazing* was a big part of CLAY 2014. Here we see two Diocese of New Westminster members, the Rev. Andrew Halladay, priest-in-charge at St. Augustine's, Marpole and Caitlin Reilley Beck with Lutheran National Bishop, the Rev. Susan Johnston between them at the CLAY closing Eucharist. All three looking on while participants in a PWRDF (Primate's World Relief and Development Fund) workshop lead the prayers and the whole planning team on stage, (Andrew was one of the members, with responsibility for worship). PHOTO Courtesy of Phil Colvin

