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The Call of St. Andrew

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Ordinations in the Holy Church of God, December 1, 2018 (St. Andrew's Day, transferred) by the Most Rev. Melissa M. Skelton, Archbishop of New Westminster & Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC & Yukon.

To the Diaconate: *Alexandra D'Arcy (Tasha) Carrothers & Cameron Michael Northcott Gutjahr*

To the Priesthood: *The Reverend Vivian Margaret Seegers*

In 2018, there were three Ordination Eucharists in the diocese of New Westminster, the first was January 21, the second June 23 and the third, December 1 on the Commemoration of the Holy Day of St. Andrew the Apostle (transferred from November 30).

The Ordination on January 21 was at St. John's, Shaughnessy and there was one ordinand, Vivian Seegers, who was ordained to the transitional diaconate. At the December 1 Ordination held at Christ Church, the Cathedral Church of the diocese, Rev. Seegers was ordained priest, becoming the first Indigenous woman in the diocese of New Westminster to be priested.

Tasha Carrothers and Cameron Gutjahr were ordained to the transitional diaconate on December 1. As with Rev. Seegers, both of these ordinands had been raised up through their communities here in the diocese and their arrival at this point in their lives as Christians and as leaders have been many years in the making. Rev. Tasha Carrothers has been a member of Synod Staff for 11 years and a member of Christ Church Cathedral. She is well known due to her ministry as the diocesan Missioner for Congregational Development wo Synod office. Rev. Gutjahr has been a leader among diocesan youth for many years both at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale and the Sorrento Centre.

Archbishop Skelton was the preacher for the Eucharist and about halfway through her homily she asked each ordinand to stand as she said a little bit about their backgrounds and their journey. Archbishop Skelton positioned her remarks within the context of the Gospel, *Matthew 4: 18–22* and the inspiration of a painting with the title, *Call of St. Andrew* where a mysterious figure is seen in the background to the right of the principal figures (see the image on page 2).

The following is what Archbishop Skelton had to say about the three:

First, Tasha Carrothers: Tasha, engaged, passionate, talented, Tasha has assisted many, many parishes in learning who they are and what they want to work on. And, of course, she has done this as a highly effective lay person whose success, in a sense, has had to do with the fact that she was a layperson. But that darn mysterious figure, the one shown in the painting, would simply not let up on her. That darn mysterious figure kept intruding into her otherwise successful work saying — yes, you have done important things with your skills as a lay person — now take those skills and both hold to them and let them go. Move from one who is comfortable and skilled in her role as consultant, as facilitator and as a trainer and follow me into the mystery of what it might be like to serve and to lead, to listen and to let your perspective be known, and at the root of everything you do, to carry the people you serve on your heart before God. Tasha Carrothers.

Second, Cameron Gutjahr: Cameron has been in the Anglican Church of Canada since he could draw breath. He has been the youth, and he has been a leader of youth. And he has done it all

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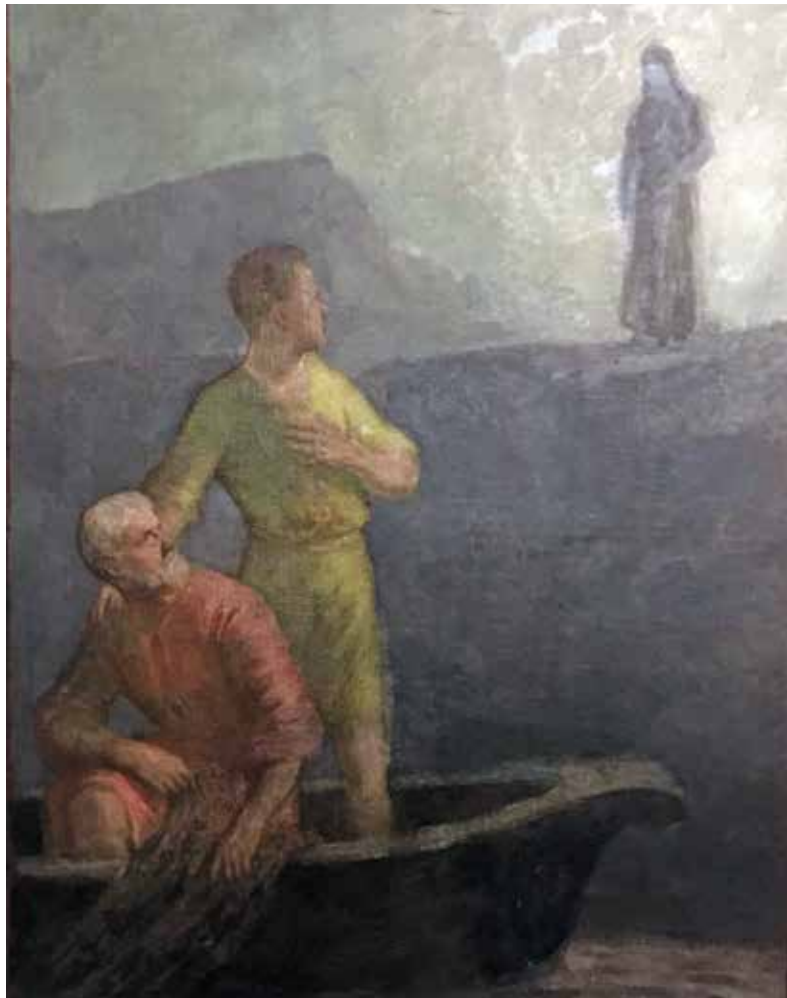
The newly ordained/priested with the Archbishop. PHOTO Randy Murray



Archbishop Skelton leads the applause of welcome for the newly ordained. PHOTO Randy Murray



Rev. Seegers receives a blessing from the Archbishop prior to proclaiming the Gospel. PHOTO Randy Murray



The painting, *Call of St. Andrew*. PHOTO Eric Stroo

The Call of St. Andrew

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

well. Irrepressibly positive and outgoing, it would have been easy for Cameron to keep doing what he was doing in the places that he was accustomed to and among people who knew and loved him. But that darn mysterious figure, the one I described in the painting, kept intruding, saying, come Cameron, follow me, come away from what is familiar to you in your parish, in this diocese, at the Sorrento Centre. Come and leave all those familiar things and come to Huron College where you will, of course, be your affable, gregarious self but where you will also meet people who don't know you, who will question and challenge you, but who will strengthen you for the ministry ahead of you. Cameron Gutjahr.

And finally, Vivian Seegers. The first Indigenous woman (*the Rev. Ernie Willie of Kingcome Inlet was ordained in the 1950s but did most of his ministry at the national church level...Editor*) to be ordained priest in this diocese, Vivian has worked for years at her own cost and then later with the support of the parish of St. Mary Magdalene to serve Indigenous people in the Downtown Eastside. In and through these experiences Vivian, I believe, has encountered that intrusive, mysterious figure I described in the painting. And this is, I believe, what he has whispered to her: "Follow me, follow me into the unfamiliar and the perilous. Follow me more deeply into the very Church that has wounded you and your people. Follow me to become an agent of reconciliation for your people and for the Church. Follow me, sundancer and priest. Become a wounded healer for all the

people I love. Vivian Seegers.

Approximately 50 clergy of the diocese vested and processed, with the priests taking part in the laying on of hands as Rev. Seegers was consecrated.

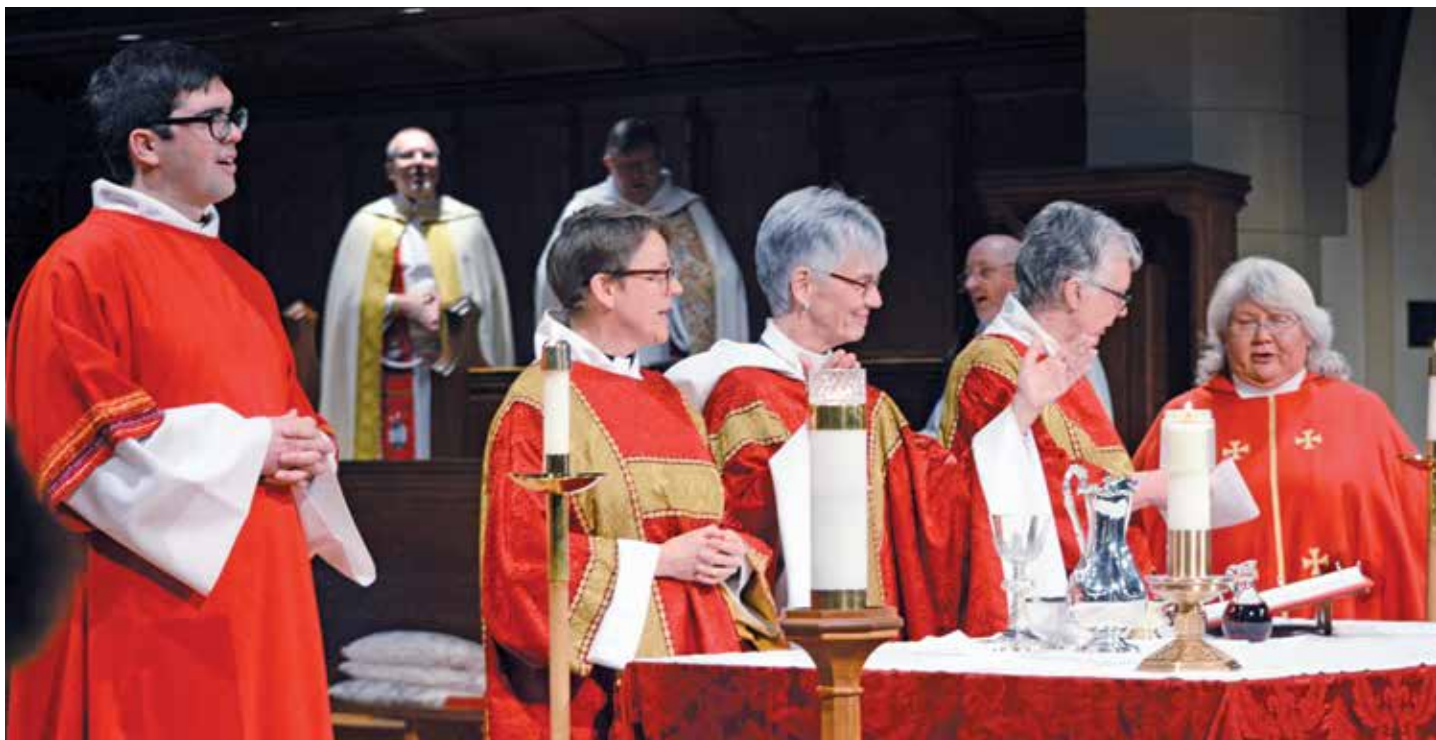
Following the Ordinations and priest-ing, Jerry Adams (AKA Nii K'an Kwsdins),

a long time parishioner at St. James' and the Indigenous Justice Ministry Coordinator for the diocese of New Westminster came forward to read a message from National Indigenous Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Mark McDonald who wrote:

I am writing on behalf of Indigenous Christians

across the land to send our congratulations and happiness to all of you at the Ordination of Vivian Seegers and those she will be ordained with. We have been eager to see this happen and now celebrate this event, promising you our prayers, love, and hope. It is a glorious day.

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The Eucharistic Prayer. PHOTO Randy Murray

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



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Thank you!

The Call of St. Andrew

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“The journey to Ordination was not a straight road. I’m not sure why I thought it would be, and I deeply appreciate the twists and turns that challenged me to deepen my faith and commitment along the way (not that I felt that way at the time).”

The Reverend Tasha Carrothers

Personally, I also send greetings and prayers. It was my great desire to join you, but could not, due to scheduling. I am very happy for you all and promise my prayers. Vivian is a leader among us and a cherished sister of Indigenous Christians across our Land. May God be with you all on this very special occasion.

The offerings received at the liturgy were forwarded to support the ministry of the *Coming Home Society* and totaled \$1,028.40. The Coming Home Society is diocesan affiliated as a Related Group and works to support Indigenous health and healing.

Following the worship, the newly ordained and consecrated stood with Archbishop Skelton for photographs and a festive reception was held downstairs in the hall of Christ Church Cathedral.

The Rev. Vivian Seegers continues in her ministry as Assistant Curate at St. Clement’s, Lynn Valley, and as the ordained leader of Urban Aboriginal Ministries (UAM) that is based at St. Mary Magdalene in the Vancouver General Hospital district.

The Rev. Tasha Carrothers continues in her ministry as Missioner for Congregational Development and Coordinator of the Consultants network at the diocese of New Westminster. She will continue her ministry placement at Holy Trinity, New Westminster under the mentorship of the Ven. Richard Leggett. However, following Ordination she now has the title, Honorary Assistant Curate. When asked to reflect on her Ordination Tasha responded:

“The journey to Ordination was not a straight road. I’m not sure why I thought it would be, and I deeply appreciate the twists and turns that challenged me to deepen my faith and commitment along the way (not that I felt that way at the time).

The most extraordinary part of the Ordination liturgy was being anointed by Archbishop Melissa—it was so intimate. That and giving communion to so many friends and family and beloved church people: I was moved to tears, and had at least two people push handkerchiefs at me to mop my face with, which made me laugh. I wasn’t very solemn, but I was very happy.”

Following his Ordination, the Rev. Cameron Gutjahr returned to his seminary studies at Huron University College in London, Ontario. He is scheduled to graduate in the spring of 2019. ✦



Cameron Gutjahr is ordained. PHOTO Randy Murray

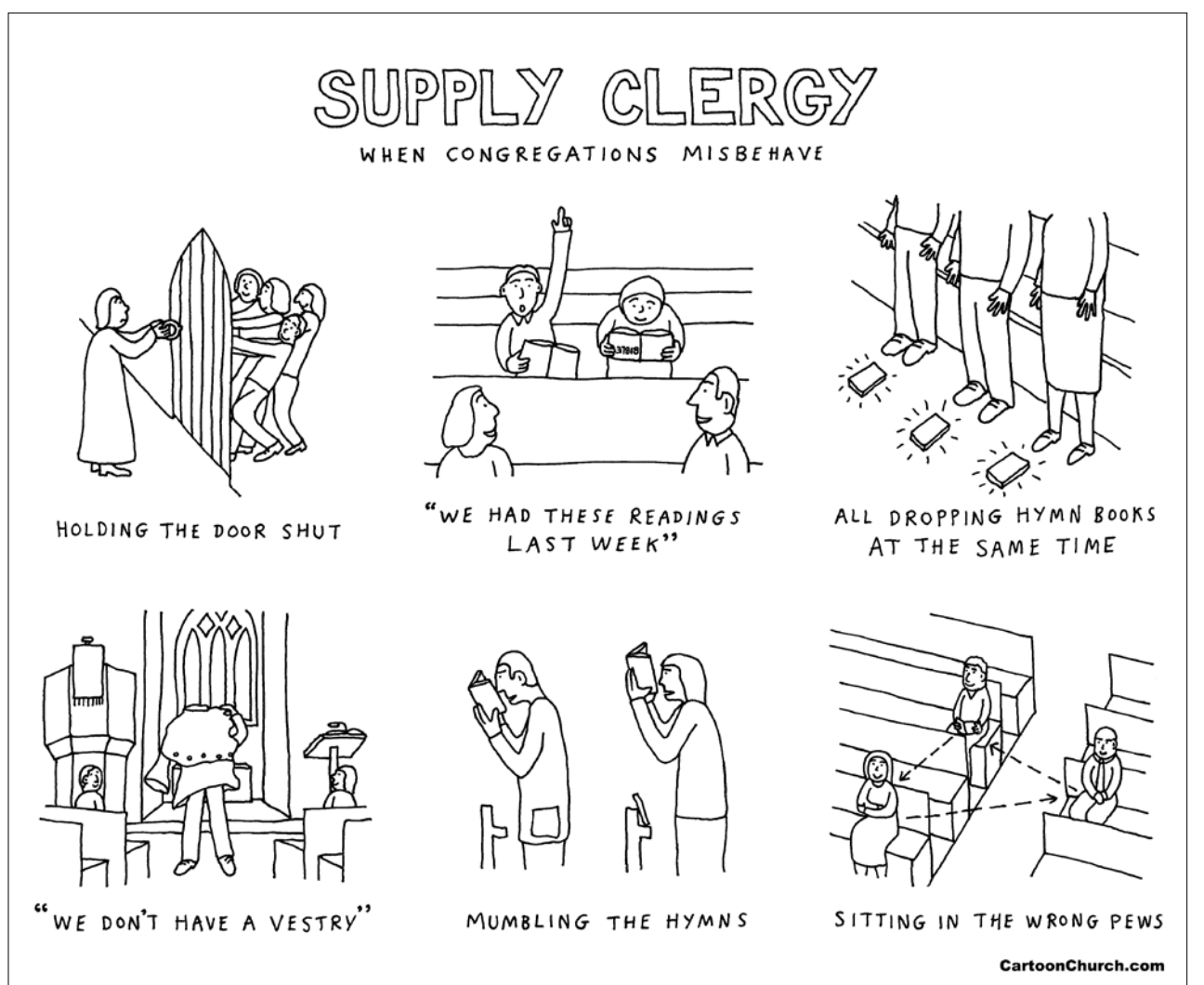


Tasha Carrothers is ordained. PHOTO Randy Murray

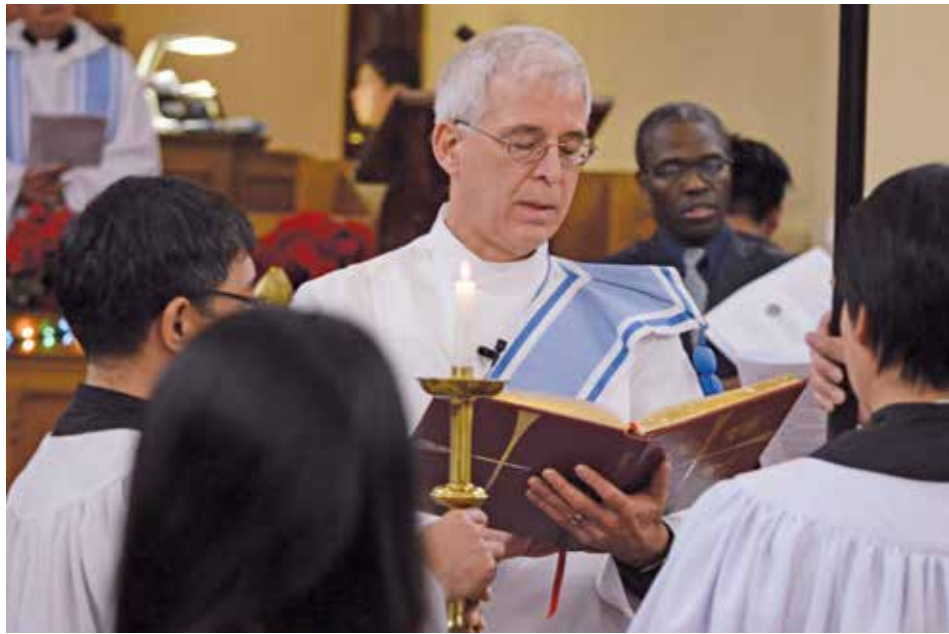


Rev. Vivian Seegers is priested. PHOTO Randy Murray

Archbishop Skelton’s homily is available on the diocesan website at <https://tinyurl.com/y8sk2fe4>



CartoonChurch.com



LEFT Archbishop Skelton asks the younger members of the parish if they know what the wreath made of cedar boughs with candles signifies? RIGHT The Rev. Eric Stroo proclaims the Gospel. PHOTOS Randy Murray

Advent IV at St. Mike's

On December 23, Advent IV, Archbishop Skelton made her final scheduled parish visitation for 2018 and it was to St. Michael's, Broadway/Vancouver, AKA St. Michael's Multicultural, AKA St. MIKE'S. Archbishop Skelton celebrated the Eucharist and was also the preacher.

Under the ordained leadership of vicar, the Rev. Wilmer Toyoken; deacon, the Rev. Eric Stroo and a committed and involved group of parish officers and leaders, "St. Mike's" is one of the fastest growing parishes in the diocese of New Westminster and certainly boasts—if not the largest number of children and youth—one of the largest cohorts of young people.

On Advent IV the focus was very much on Mary the Mother of God with the Gospel reading for the liturgy,

Luke 1: 39–55, the section of Scripture which contains the *Magnificat*, the *Song of Mary*. Archbishop Skelton took the Gospel for her text and made reference to her Christmas message on the front page of the December 2018 issue of *Topic*.

At the conclusion of the Offertory, some of the men of the parish in traditional dress joined the procession of the gifts to the altar accompanying and enlivening the procession with Filipino gongs (gangsa). During Holy Communion, youth of the parish formed in a group at the front of the nave on the south side and sang a medley

of Christmas songs. Following the Dismissal there was an active period of posing for photographs with various groups joining the clergy of the parish and Archbishop Skelton on the chancel steps.

Worship and posing for photos was followed by a joyful potluck luncheon participated in by the majority of the congregation. Following the meal there were a number of intergenerational performances featuring singing and dancing and the members of St. Mike's Anglican Church Women's (ACW) chapter decorating one of their members like a Christmas tree. ✚

The video of Archbishop Skelton's sermon can be viewed online at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/media/2018-12-23-we-are-all-meant-to-be-mothers-of-god> and to the Christmas message <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/news/archbishop-skeltons-2018-topic-christmas-message>.



Archbishop Skelton poses with the clergy, choir, servers and Archbishop's Chaplain following worship. PHOTO Randy Murray



Men of the parish preparing for the procession of the gifts. PHOTO Randy Murray



Youth of the parish lead the singing of a medley of Christmas songs. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Procession of the Gifts with Gangsa (ceremonial gongs). PHOTO Randy Murray



The choir leads the Offertory Hymn. PHOTO Randy Murray



A song is offered by the youngest members of the parish. PHOTO Eric Stroo



Rev. Stroo dismisses the congregation. PHOTO Randy Murray



A member of the ACW gets decorated. PHOTO Eric Stroo



Westside Anglicans Neighbourhood Ministry Gives Thanks

PITMAN B. POTTER

Vancouver Archdeaconry Deacon, Clergy Leader to Westside Anglicans Neighbourhood Ministry

Reflecting on the 2018 activities of the Neighbourhood Ministry is cause for celebration and thanks. *Celebration* for completing a decade of service to our homeless and vulnerable neighbours on Vancouver's Westside. *Thanks*, for the blessings of wonderful volunteers and community partners, as well as many opportunities to feel the power of the Holy Spirit working in us. What follows are some highlights from our year...

Our Street Outreach program saw volunteer teams canvass the Westside neighbourhoods to connect with our homeless and vulnerable neighbours, going out every Saturday of the year, making nearly 1,000 connections. The four Neighbourhood Ministry sponsor parishes of St. Anselm's, St. Helen's, St. John's, Shaughnessy and St. Philip's, provided the Street Teams with robust care packets, fresh food, seasonal clothing and other items for distribution. Each connection was a chance to build trust and relationships, to let each individual know that someone cares. It was also an opportunity to connect people to other Neighbourhood Ministry programs, particularly the Mobile Care Unit (MCU).

The Mobile Care Unit, which is blessed to be supported through the care + share program of the diocese of New Westminster (2018–2019), brought teams of University of British Columbia (UBC) medical residents and supervising physicians, UBC social work students and professionals, and parish volunteers to four field sites and to street camps as well. In 2018, nearly 70 visits were made and well over 200 clients served. Service included medical assessments and basic treatment, flu shot clinics, and helping people with an array of social service needs, such as applying for housing, income assistance, old age benefits, and retrieving lost identification. Of particular significance were the some 25 MCU clients who secured housing in the new Modular

On December 22, the Neighbourhood Ministry held a day of Christmas festivities. It started at St, Anselm's, when and where about 25 volunteers gathered to stuff care packets, then they hit the streets to deliver them to our friends on the street. Following that, another 20 or so volunteers (some overlap) went to the Dunbar Supportive Housing building, where the Neighbourhood Ministry offers seasonal events and where many of our homeless neighbours have been given homes over the years. At Dunbar, they had caroling and a luncheon with turkey, put on by the Neighbourhood Ministry.



Group photo of St. Anselms. PHOTO Submitted

Housing units throughout the city. By all accounts, housing has made a huge and positive difference in their lives, and we continue to reach out and support these newly-housed

individuals. We were blessed with wonderful partners at our MCU host field sites: St. Mary's, Kerrisdale; St.

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Consolidated Trust Fund Information Session 2018

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On Saturday, December 8, 2018, the annual Consolidated Trust Fund (CTF) information session convened in one of the larger meeting rooms at St. Stephen, West Vancouver. Since 1991, the CTF, which consists of both diocesan and parish funds, is managed by Phillips, Hagar and North (PH&N), an investment company founded in Vancouver in 1964. PH&N is currently the Canadian institutional asset management division of RBC.

For the past three years, the two Institutional Portfolio Managers presenting the report to the diocese have been Paul Martin and Graeme Baker. Diocesan Treasurer, Bob Hardy, ODNW and the Director for Finance and Property, Rob Dickson organized the event on behalf of the diocese. Both Bob and Rob were present for the information session and sat with the two Managers as part of the presentation panel. Treasurers and wardens of the parishes of the diocese are invited to attend. However, the presentation is open to all members of the diocese. The invitation to parish officers responsible for the finances of their communities is also an encouragement to invite others in their parish that may have an interest in hearing the annual report.

It is important to keep in mind that this presentation is not an official report—it is for information only. The bulk of the report was a guided look-through a 30-page PowerPoint presentation in calendar sized booklet format.

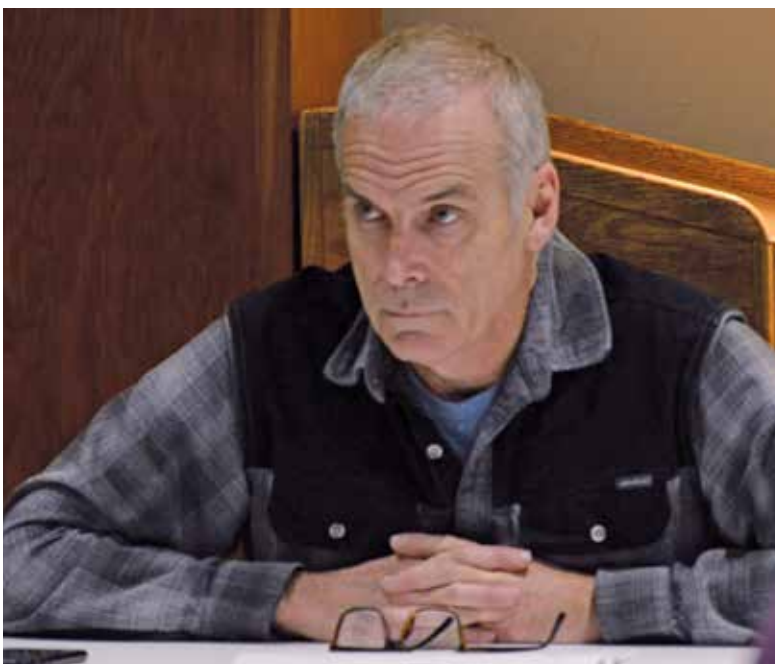
The monthly activities of the CTF reported throughout the spring and summer of 2018, had been lethargic at best, which created more interest in the session than in recent years. The usual attendance at this annual information situation over the past seven years has been in the 12–15 range but for 2018 there were 24 present representing 13 parishes, the Anglican Church Women (ACW) and the Mission to Seafarers (MtS).

There has been an increase in funds, particularly in the diocesan portion of the CTF since the last information session in 2017. The total amount accrued and reported in the 2017 information session was \$47.7 million, with the addition of the proceeds from the sale of St. Edward's later in the fall, the year end total was \$54.9 million. Overall activity in the CTF from the point of view of deposits and withdrawals included: \$19.3 million deposited to the diocesan account from the sale of St. Monica, Horseshoe Bay, St. Margaret's of Scotland, Lockport neighbourhood in Burnaby and St. Mark's, Kitsilano; \$1.4 million was withdrawn for loans and grants primarily funding the St. Hilda's re-build and the St. Thomas, Vancouver renovation. A total of \$1.15 million was deposited by parishes to their accounts with \$1.71 million being withdrawn by parishes from their accounts. The market value of assets in the CTF as of September 30, 2018, was \$73,868,494.

The investment strategy has not changed significantly. The CTF remains strong in terms of diversity, with investments in Canadian Equities and Global Equities as well as bonds, which do not earn the big numbers but are reliable and steady. With the 2018 total performance numbers hovering at around 2% and the increase in mortgage rates over the same period, inflation is also at 2% or slightly higher which has affected performance. However, Graeme and Paul are optimistic and expect a return to the average earnings of 5.5% in the near future.



The panel in place for the presentation.



Diocesan Treasurer, Bob Hardy, ODNW.



Paul Martin of Phillips, Hagar and North.

Socially responsible investing has always been a priority of the diocese and of PH&N. In 2017, there was a change in the fund name. Prior to July 2017, ESG investments (Environment, Social, Government) were called PH&N Community Values Funds. These funds were merged with RBC Jantzi Funds to create the RBC Vision Funds. There were no changes to the teams managing the funds in the diocesan portfolio, no change to the screening criteria, with companies such as Sustainability used in the selection of investments for the diocesan portfolio with the upside a saving in administrative expenses due to the merger that since that time has been passed on to investors.

There were discussions about investments in fossil fuels and fossil fuel related companies. Both Graeme and Paul asserted that in terms of the criteria used to direct ESG investments, these companies have really “upped their game” and are considered a good companies in terms of their corporate culture and practice. Some of these companies have moved to the level of “best of sector”.

If you would like more information about the CTF or any other information about diocesan finances please contact the Director of Finance and Property, Mr. Rob Dickson at rdickson@vancouver.anglican.ca or phone 604.684.6306, ext. 215. ✦

Westside Anglicans Neighbourhood Ministry Gives Thanks

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Augustine's, Marpole; the Showers program at Kitsilano Community Centre; and PHS, operator of the M. Mitchell Modular Homes building at 2nd and Ash; and with our strong collaboration with St. Faith's Community Pastoral Resource Centre.

Through our community-building program at the Dunbar Supportive Housing building, in collaboration with Coast Mental Health, our volunteers continued to bring cheer and companionship to tenants by hosting several seasonal celebrations. A highlight was the 7th annual Christmas carol event, where residents, families and volunteers sang and celebrated together. We are thankful for the community spirit that was so evident.

A highlight of the year was our October benefit concert, held in commemoration of Homelessness Action Week, where guests were inspired by folk, bluegrass and jazz tunes composed and performed by local talent.

Serving our homeless and vulnerable neighbours directly provides an incredible opportunity for each of us to feel gratitude, not just for the blessings we have, but to each of those we serve for letting us into their lives. We feel energized for the year ahead. ✦



Volunteers pose for a photo in the kitchen at “Dunbar” during the caroling and luncheon event. PHOTO Submitted

God is the Power of Love & Energy at the Heart of the Universe

Requiem Eucharist in Thanksgiving for the Life of the Reverend Dr. William Crockett

May 7, 1934 – October 29, 2018

Bill Crockett spoke the words used in the title of this piece. They were shared as a paraphrase by the Very Rev. Peter Elliott near the conclusion of his sermon, offered at the Requiem Eucharist celebrated in thanksgiving for Bill's life at Christ Church Cathedral on November 24, 2018. In the sermon, Dean Elliott was paraphrasing and personalizing the words that Bill had shared during a sermon he was preaching at the Funeral Eucharist for Dean Elliott's brother-in-law, Dr. Christopher Lind. The entire quote from the Dean's sermon is as follows:

"At the heart of reality is a Love and an Energy that is stronger than death. This love and this energy is what Christians call God. God is the power of love and energy at the heart of the universe, and it is into the arms of this love and this energy that both Bill and his family are now enfolded."

Dean Elliott's sermon was built on the foundation of the Gospel reading for the liturgy, *Luke 9: 28–36* and specifically, verse 9:

"And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white."

The Rev. Dr. Bill Crockett was fascinated by the story of the Transfiguration and in his sermon; Dean Elliott came up with a compelling theory about that fascination:

"So what was it in that the weird and wonderful story of the Transfiguration of Jesus that drew Bill in? Well maybe it was the sheer absurdity of it because, after all, we know that Bill loved to laugh. Amongst the many things I'm going to miss about his presence is watching how his face could be transfigured from absolute seriousness to pure joy in just a nanosecond. How many times have I seen him express a theological point with great seriousness and then, watch his face transform as something strikes him as funny — and then that laugh with great joy."

Dean Elliott further explored Bill's relationship with the Transfiguration story but concluded that the transformative experience for Bill was really about the Eucharist:

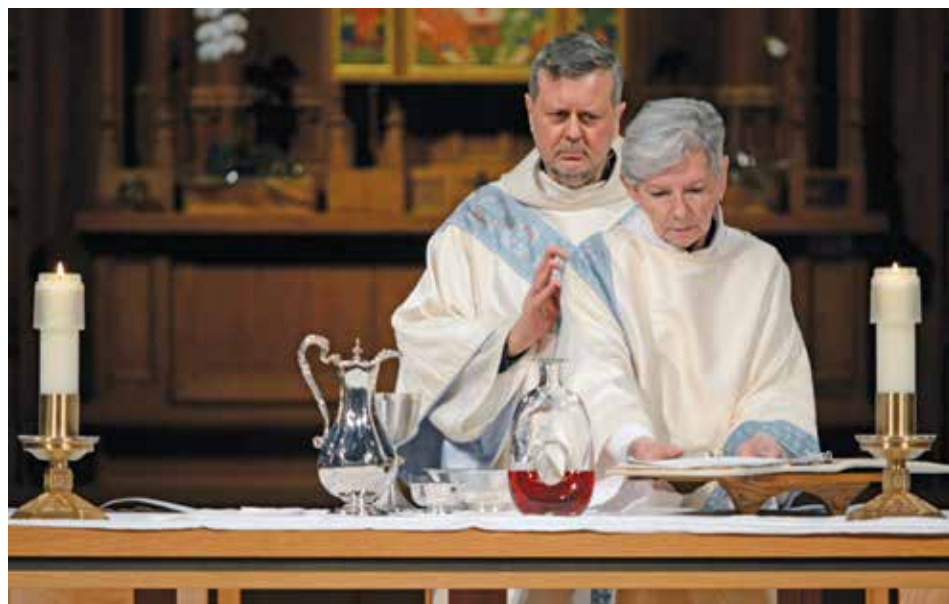
"I think it's about the Eucharist; after all, his book is titled *Eucharist: Symbol of Transformation*; transformation is a synonym for transfiguration, they mean the same thing. Bill's spirituality was centred on the Eucharist, this gathering of the Christian community around bread and wine. From growing up in the Anglo-Catholic parish of St. Thomas Toronto to his deep association with this Cathedral Church and St. James, the celebration of the Eucharist on particularly on Sunday was where he felt most at home."



The Ven. Kevin Hunt, rector of St. James', Archdeacon of Burrard censes the paschal candle and the urn during the Offertory. PHOTO Randy Murray



TOP LEFT The Rev. Dr. Richard Topping, Principal of Vancouver School of Theology reads the Epistle, 2 Corinthians 3 and 4 (selected verses). BOTTOM LEFT Dean Elliott gathers his thoughts before beginning the homily. RIGHT The Rev. Liz Hamel leads the Taizé chant as the Intercession begins. PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT Deacon of the Word and Table for the Eucharist, the Rev. Dixie Black prepares the altar during the Offertory, the Ven. Kevin Hunt looks on. RIGHT Clergy with lit candles during the Commendation. PHOTOS Randy Murray



And the Requiem Eucharist in thanksgiving for Bill held on that cloudy fall day, the day before the Celebration of the Reign of Christ was indeed a fitting liturgy for this much loved: father, grandfather, husband, priest, teacher, mentor, scholar and friend to so many.

There was tradition, innovation, music, prayerfulness and beauty. A component of the worship that few of us in attendance will forget was the Intercession. Six clergy gathered on the west side of the chancel platform giving them each access to the ambo and the microphone. The Rev. Ross Bliss, an accomplished guitarist was situated in the organ and choir loft and he accompanied the Taizé chant, *Confitemini Domino (Come and fill our hearts with our peace)* initially led by the Rev. Liz Hamel but quickly

picked up by the choir and congregation. The eight bars of chant became the *Refrain* sung between each of the prayers spoken by a different priest. Joining Reverends Bliss and Hamel were: The Rev. Dr. Gerald Hobbs, the Rev. Marnie Peterson, the Rev. Jeffrey Preiss, the Rev. Matthew Johnson and the Rev. Helen Dunn.

The music for the liturgy was led by a contingent of Cathedral Choir members under the direction of organist and director of music Rupert Lang. And they sounded particularly fine on this occasion.

The Presider at the Eucharist was the Ven. Kevin Hunt, rector of St. James' and Archdeacon of Burrard. The Rev. Helen Dunn, cathedral vicar, was the Presider for the Commendation and for the Interment of Ashes that took

place in the Cathedral's Memorial Garden immediately following the Eucharist. Deacon of the Word and Table was the Rev. Dixie Black of Christ Church Cathedral and the readers were, Bill's friend and parishioner, Susanne Cruickshank, ODNW and the Rev. Dr. Richard Topping principal and dean at Vancouver School of Theology, the seminary where Bill was a professor for a significant amount of his teaching career.

Letters addressed to Dean Elliott and the Crockett family from the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada and from the Most Rev. Melissa Skelton, Bishop of the Diocese of New Westminster and Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC and Yukon were

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Annual Advent Lunch for Retired Clergy & Spouses

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor



The Rev. Keith Gilbert, kilted, staffs the bar and speaks with the Reverends April Stanley and Helen Tervo. PHOTO Randy Murray

Tuesday, December 11, 2018, was the day that the retired clergy and spouses of the diocese met at the Synod Office for their annual Advent luncheon.

The Advent luncheon is the second scheduled event of the year as the retired clergy and spouses regularly meet in May, usually at a parish church for their spring get-together. This year, 2018, was the first year that the event was organized by the newly appointed Chaplains to the Retired Clergy and Spouses, the Reverends Karin Fulcher and Neil Gray. For the past several years the chaplains were Dorothy and the Rev. John Mash.

The guests at this “by-invitation” event began arriving soon after 11am and with the help of Synod staff and diocesan volunteer extraordinary, Jane Dittrich, the co-chaplains had everything well in hand in time for the arrival of the more than 100 guests. The Rev. Keith Gilbert staffed the “bar,” Fr. Neil staffed the registration table and Deacon Karin kept an eye on the preparations for the meal.

The registration table was also the gathering place where the guests were asked to sign cards to be forwarded to retired clergy and spouses who had sent their regrets and were unable to attend.

After an hour of enthusiastic conversation, the cocktail time concluded and the guests proceeded into the Trendell Lounge to be seated. The Reverends Gray and Fulcher had a few announcements to make before prayers of thanks, the principal one of those being a “Thank You” to Dorothy and John Mash, the outgoing chaplains. Dorothy and John were

presented with a floral tribute gift while their friends and colleagues applauded.

In keeping with tradition, the meal was prepared and served by *The Banqueting Table* caterers. This is a company that has evolved from a positive work program resident at West Vancouver Baptist Church focused on bringing single mothers, victims of abuse and women who have been marginalized and unable to gain re-entry into the work force into a healthy work environment that provides skills and community. In recent years the main course has been ham, however for 2018, *The Banqueting Table* provided a full Christmas turkey dinner with all the trimmings and it was fabulous.

Following the main course, hot drinks were available and the guests were encouraged to visit the desserts table. During dessert, the Reverends Fulcher and Gray asked that *The Banqueting Table* team take a break from their labours to come into the lounge and receive thanks from the group. They also asked that the Synod staff members present stand to be acknowledged and give a brief description of their ministries. There were special thanks given to Bill Siksay and Phil Colvin who work with the co-chaplains to stage this diocesan event.

The after-meal speaker for the Advent version of the retired clergy and spouses lunch is Archbishop Skelton. In a brief, upbeat address, Her Grace touched on a number of topics. She spoke about the staffing of the Mission and Ministry Development Department (AKA Programme) now complete following the 2018 additions of Director for Mission and Ministry Development, the Rev. Dr. Tellison Glover; Indigenous Justice Ministry Coordinator, Jerry Adams; and Missioner for Christian Formation, the Rev. Jessica Schaap. These three have joined Missioner for Congregational Development, the Rev. Tasha Carrothers (Rev. Carrothers was ordained to the transitional diaconate, December 1, 2018) and a lot of good things are coming out of that department which will be of major benefit to our parishes.

Archbishop Skelton reflected on her election May 12, 2018, as Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC and Yukon and she spoke about the busy agenda for that entity, which includes the standardization of “Safe Church” and the formalization of agreements with the British Columbia and Yukon Anglican Youth Movement (BCYAYM).

Archbishop Skelton mentioned the *Topic 50th Anniversary* commemorative edition project and she also spoke about the triennial General Synod coming to Vancouver July 9–16, 2018.

Archbishop Skelton thanked the clergy and spouses for their ongoing ministry, their continuing commitment to, and involvement in parishes and organizations in the church.

Near the conclusion of her address she drew the group’s attention to the pectoral cross that she was wearing. The cross was originally made for the third Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster and second Metropolitan of the Province, the Most Rev. Adam de Pencier, OBE.

Following the Archbishop’s address, the guests began to disperse, bidding farewell to their friends and colleagues and looking forward to the next time they will all meet again in May. ✦



LEFT The Rev. Karin Fulcher presents a floral gift to former Chaplains to the Retired Clergy and Spouses of the diocese of New Westminster, the Rev. John and Dorothy Mash. RIGHT Archbishop Skelton displays the cross worn by Archbishop de Pencier. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Members of Synod staff stand to be recognized by the retired clergy and spouses. PHOTO Randy Murray



Amy Tassinari, the Rev. Ron Wickens and the Rev. Fred Tassinari listen to Archbishop Skelton’s address. PHOTO Randy Murray

Requiem Eucharist in Thanksgiving for the Life of the Reverend Dr. William Crockett

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

read during the service and published in the pew bulletin. Archbishop Hiltz wrote:

“A dear friend of Christ Church Cathedral, he (Bill) is remembered fondly by our entire Church as a respected theologian and fine liturgist. With distinction worth of much gratitude on our part, he served the Doctrine and Worship Committee in a time of much renewal in the liturgy of the Church. We remember his contributions in the development of the Canadian Anglican Liturgical Series (CALS), which would in time be one of the forerunners of *The Book of Alternative Services* (1985).

We all know of his deep love of and appreciation for the Eucharist, that sacred mystery in which we are nourished in our life in Christ and for our labours in His Name.”

In her letter, Archbishop Skelton wrote from her personal experience of Bill dur-

ing the almost five years of her episcopacy. She spoke of Bill, a person dedicated to his family and she spoke of Bill, the liturgist, scholar and teacher, but it is the third paragraph of her shared memory that spoke about Bill the person that many of us in the diocese knew:

“...Bill was a rare combination of humility and assertiveness. Yes, his voice was soft and his laugh captivating in how loud it wasn’t. But I can tell you that when he felt strongly about something, that ‘something’ continued to pop up in hallway conversations, during coffee hour and receptions, on the phone and in email. He just would not give up his advocacy of his point of view. And for that, I am very, very grateful.”

Following the Interment of Ashes all were invited to the hall for a reception. Dean Elliott quoted Jean, Bill’s wife of 58 years, as saying, “It’s going to be a party!” ✦



The Rev. Helen Dunn presided at the Interment of Ashes. The Interment prayer: “Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. We have entrusted our brother Bill to God’s loving care, and now we commit his mortal remains to this resting place: earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust: in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died, was buried, and rose again for us. To whom be glory for ever.” PHOTO Randy Murray

Take Some Risks Together

The Induction of the Reverend James Duckett as Rector of St. Timothy, Brentwood

RANDY MURRAY (PREPARED WITH FILES FROM LYNDON GROVE, ODNW, JAMES DUCKETT & RHONDA WATERS)

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On Monday, December 10, 2018, the Most Rev. Melissa Skelton inducted the Rev. James Duckett as Rector of St. Timothy, Brentwood.

Although the parish isn't that old (60+), St. Timothy's has a unique and fascinating history.

The parish began its life in ministry in the mid-late 1950s as a church plant of St. James' named Christ the King and continued as that for most of the next four decades. When the parishes of St. Nicholas located on Triumph Street in North Burnaby and St. Andrew's near Boundary Road both closed, a contingent of folks from those two communities began attending Christ the King. This took place in the mid-1990s. In order to create community out of the three congregations the parish changed its name to mark the merger and St. Timothy's was born in the early part of this century.

Many thanks to Lyndon Grove, ODNW, *Topic* Editor Emeritus, author of the centennial history of the diocese of New Westminster, *Pacific Pilgrims*, and long term, sometime parishioner at Christ the King/St. Timothy (currently at Christ Church Cathedral) for sharing some information about the parish.

According to Lyndon:

"The first priest I remember there was Bill Lowe, dubbed 'the martini priest' for he was indeed skilled with a shaker. It was during his time at Christ the King that Tom Huntley carved the life-sized impression of Jesus wearing a crown, which hangs now in the balcony. When Stephanie Shepard became priest, she had it moved from the altar area out of fear of having it land on her head. Lowe went to the national office in some financial capacity — his background was in banking — and he was followed by Bob Purdy.

Purdy's period coincided with the great trek to the coast of what people used to call hippies. Bob felt it less than kind that couples that had traveled across the country together were separated into male/female hostels in Vancouver, so he opened the parish hall to them. This was not a popular move, and Archbishop Somerville had to come and moderate an angry parish meeting. I remember all this well, as I was then the rector's rather haphazard and unreliable warden."

Michael Ingham followed Bob Purdy. This would be Bishop Michael Ingham's first ministry post in the diocese of New Westminster and this appointment is what brought about his move from Ottawa to Vancouver. John Charnell followed the priest who would be the next bishop of the diocese, and next came Charlie Lenz and Stephanie Shepard. The Rev. Tim Dutcher-Walls now at St. David, Delta was backup for Stephanie for a while, however, Archbishop Skelton appointed an interim priest-in-charge, Ruth Monette who had recently completed her ministry as Director for Mission and Ministry Development for the diocese of New Westminster. Ruth began her ministry February 15, 2017, and remained in that ministry post until the end of April 2018 when she was appointed rector of nearby St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby. The Rev. Ayoub Adwar was appointed priest-in-charge May 1 and remained until the end of November 2018.

The parish has been well-served over the years by many other interims and supply priests, among them: Ron Barnes (whose son and daughter-in-law are in lay leadership at St. Timothy), Jeanette Stigger and Neil Fernyhough.

The histories of parishes in the diocese of New Westminster are fascinating, and arguably most interesting are the stories of the Anglican parishes of Burnaby over the past 100 years. But enough history, for on December 10, the 2018 version of St. Timothy welcomed their new rector. Raised in Powell River and recently living and studying in Eastern Canada, the Rev. James Duckett returned to the West Coast with his spouse and young daughter and served as interim priest-in-charge of St. Paul's in the West End from October 1, 2017 until November 30, 2018. As a youngster in Powell River he served at the altar both at the Roman Catholic Church of the Assumption and at St. David's and St. Paul's Anglican Church of our diocese. He graduated from Max Cameron Secondary School in 1998, and pursued an undergraduate degree at the University of British Columbia (UBC). While there, James connected to an evangelical church through a roommate. He completed his BA in English Literature (2003) and his BED in Secondary English and English as a Second Language (ESL, 2004). He then moved to Montreal and taught at a Christian school on the West Island while attending an evangelical church near downtown.

Students' existential questions led him back to school



Archbishop Skelton leads the applause of welcome for the new rector. PHOTO Randy Murray

at McGill University where he earned a BTh (2009) and an MDiv (2010) through the Montreal School of Theology—a student first at Montreal Diocesan Theological College (MDTC, Dio) and later at Presbyterian College. He returned to teaching at his evangelical church before leaving both and moving to the public school system and attending Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal where his formal discernment process began.

He met and married his wife, Sacha Bailey and was formally received into the Anglican Church by Bishop Barry Clarke who later ordained him (2015). Their first child, Eleanor, was born three months later. He was priested by Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson in 2016, in the midst of his curacy at St. George's in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue.

James served as priest-in-charge at St. Andrew and St. Mark in Dorval briefly before moving to Vancouver where he filled the same role at St. Paul's in Vancouver's West End until his appointment to St. Timothy, Brentwood (December 1).

The Parish of St. Timothy is a diverse and spirited community. They are intergenerational, they are involved with their community and want to be even more so; they are passionate about Social Justice and committed to building up their parish and the building up of God's kingdom here on Earth.

At the Eucharist on December 10, there was very much a theme of continuity; families, clergy and friends all who had been touched by the ministry at St. Timothy's over the years were present and participated. The guest preacher for the Eucharist, the Rev. Rhonda Waters of the diocese of Ottawa preached a thoughtful and inspiring sermon and her presence was symbolic of the connection that James has to his recent past.

Near the conclusion of her sermon which included a reflection on Advent, on waiting during the season, on taking time for one self, she also included references to the Gospel, *Luke 5: 17–26* and its message of what can be done when people of faith are determined and work together and how that connects with the new rector and those with whom he now shares ministry. Rev. Waters said:

"Are you ready? Are you ready to see the world, to see your community, your very own parish as it really is? To see the need, and the trouble and the dreams; and to step out with boldness of faith to do something; to take a chance; to see what happens?"

One of the drawbacks of being a guest preacher from far, far away is that I don't know the challenges that you are facing, the risks you might be invited to take, the particular "roofs" you may need



The Archbishop's Examination during the Covenant in Ministry. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Regional Dean, the Rev. Eric Mason presents the new rector with a book. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Gifts of God for the People of God. PHOTO Randy Murray



Administering Holy Communion to Clergy Colleagues. PHOTO Randy Murray

to take off... but I do know the priest who has been called to be with you at this time. I am excited for you. You have welcomed a brave and thoughtful and faithful and passionate Christian into your midst. I have known James a long time, before he was a priest, before he was even an Anglican... and I can attest to the fact that he knows something about risky, active waiting in pursuit of Jesus. So take advantage of that, enjoy getting to know each other and Sasha (his spouse) and Elly (their daughter) as well. James will have new ideas for you and you will have new ideas for him... so experiment a little... take some risks together and take risks for the sake of one another."

Please keep the Parish of St. Timothy in your prayers as they move forward in their ministry together. ✠

A Vicar for St. Matthias & St. Luke

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The evening of Monday, December 17, 2018 was a dark and stormy night in the south Vancouver neighbourhood of Oakridge, but the inclement weather did not prevent a good turnout of diocesan clergy, visitors from other parishes and of course members of the Parish of St. Matthias and St. Luke for the licensing by Archbishop Melissa Skelton of the Rev. Marion Wong as vicar of the parish and ordained leader of their shared ministry.

The Rev. Marion Wong, originally ordained in the United Church of Canada was hired as the Mandarin

Minister for St. Matthias and St. Luke in December 2014. Following her ordination to the transitional diaconate in the Anglican Church in June 2017, her ministry title changed to Assistant Curate. Priested in June 2018, Marion remained in her role, serving the Mandarin speaking community present in the Oakridge neighbourhood. When St. Matthias and St. Luke incumbent, the Rev. Vivian Lam answered the call of new ministry opportunities at St. John the Apostle, Port Moody it was agreed upon by all that Archbishop Skelton appoint the Rev. Marion Wong vicar

of the parish.

In the absence of Executive Archdeacon the Ven. Douglas Fenton, the Archdeacon of Vancouver and Rector of St. John's, Shaughnessy, the Ven. John Stephens presided over the Covenant in Ministry and the Rev. Stephanie Shepard still in the first months of her appointment as priest-in-charge at the nearby parish of St. Faith's offered the Regional Deanery welcome to Rev. Wong. This slight irony was not wasted on Rev. Shepard who made a humorous reference that was much appreciated by the congregation.

The preacher for the Eucharist was the Ven. Dr. Richard Leggett, Archdeacon of Westminster and Rector of Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster. The Rev. Chris Magrega of St. Augustine's, also a nearby parish, was Archbishop's Chaplain and Rev. Christine Wilson of St. Faith's was the Deacon of the Word and Table for the Eucharist.

In his homily, Archdeacon Leggett used a compelling personal experience to illustrate his interpretation of the Epistle selected for the liturgy, *Ephesians 4: 1-7, 11-16* and the whole idea of divisions in Christianity. At approximately the 2/3 mark of his homily he connected the message in the scripture with the reality of this beginning of new ministry:

"This 'already but not yet' is at the heart of what the writer of the Letter to the Ephesians is trying to say to the Christians at Ephesus and, some 2,000 years later, to the Christians who gather here tonight to celebrate the new ministry of Marion Wong as Vicar of the Parish of St. Matthias and St. Luke. In the first part of tonight's reading we hear that we are already one because

- there is one body and one Spirit,
- there is one hope of our calling,
- there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and
- there is one God and Father of all.

But this unity is not yet fulfilled because of the divisions that continue to exist not only between Christians and non-Christians and between differing Christian communions. Sometimes divisions exist within congregations and the unity, which is already ours in Christ falls under the shadow of rivalries, hurt feelings and unrealized expectations. Sometimes we fail to know we are one in Christ because we cannot see beyond the boundaries of our congregations and so we cannot see the riches of God's gifts poured out, not only on each one of us, but on our sisters and brothers who are members of the same body and who share the same hope.

Tonight we gather to do something more than celebrate the beginning of a new relationship between Marion and this Parish of St. Matthias and St. Luke. We gather to reaffirm that we are already one in Christ and that, through the gifts that the Spirit bestows on individuals and communities of faith, we are growing into that unity, so that the whole world may see 'that things which were cast down are being raised up and that things which had grown old are being made new, by [Christ] through whom all things were made.' What happens in the days, weeks, months and years ahead here on 49th Avenue between Oak and Cambie matters, not just to this congregation, but to all of us, who strive as disciples of Christ to proclaim the good news of God in a society whose ears are sometimes deaf to our voices and whose eyes are sometimes clouded to the signs of God's kingdom already present among us."

St. Matthias and St. Luke's recently appointed director of music is Dr. Kevin Zakresky who accompanied the hymns on the grand piano and the organ. The music in worship feature was the anthem *Down to the River* sung by the Parish and ESL Choir.

Following a group photo in the chancel, everyone adjourned to the hall downstairs for refreshments and some social time together. ☩



Archbishop Skelton leads the applause of welcome for the new vicar. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Ven. Dr. Richard Leggett was the preacher for the Celebration of New Ministry Eucharist. PHOTO Randy Murray



Receiving the elements of Holy Communion during the presentation of the symbols of ministry. PHOTO Randy Murray



Parish Choir and ESL Chorus sing *Down to the River*. PHOTO Randy Murray



Administering the Body of Christ. PHOTO Randy Murray



The group photo. PHOTO Randy Murray

Christ is Present in this Place

The Induction of the Reverend Vivian Lam as Rector of St. John the Apostle, Port Moody

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The mission statement of the Parish of St. John the Apostle, Port Moody is...

"CALLED to be a Spirited Community at the heart of Port Moody TRANSFORMED through the experience of the presence of Christ and SENT out to share God's Love."

During the evening of December 11, 2018, at a Celebration of New Ministry that marked the induction of the Rev. Vivian Lam as Rector of St. John's, the Community was definitely Spirited, and the presence of Christ was certainly experienced by the parish, visiting clergy, visitors from around the diocese and beyond that constituted the capacity congregation.

The Rev. Vivian Pui Yue Lam arrived in the diocese of New Westminster from the Episcopal Church in the summer of 2012, to begin her new ministry as priest-in-charge of the Parish of St. Matthias and St. Luke on September 1 of that year. St. Matthias and St. Luke is one of the four parishes whose buildings were returned to the trust and care of the Bishop and diocese of New Westminster following the Supreme Court decision of June 16, 2011, regarding ownership of parish properties.

Vivian has many gifts which she not only shared with the parish where she served but also shared and still shares with the entire diocese and the greater community, specifically as a key member of the diocesan anti-racism training and facilitation team.

The Parish of St. John's had been without a rector since the departure of their long time ordained leader, the Rev. Grant Rodgers who resigned in order to pursue his call to be an instructor in Anglican formation at the Vancouver School of Theology (VST) beginning in September 2016. The parish has been well served by interim priest-in-charge, the Rev. Stephanie Shepard and more recently the Rev. Tim Morgan. Both Stephanie and Tim were present at the induction on December 11.

The parish has gone through some changes in recent years, the most significant one being the welcoming of members (non-stipendiary clergy and lay) of the former Parish of St. Margaret's of Scotland, which officially merged with St. John's on February 15, 2014. Although that is almost five years ago it is always wise to remember that sometimes things don't move or change quickly in the Church. However, although there may be bumps along the way this particular merger has been successful and the positive result was on display during the Eucharist celebrated on December 11.

Following the Opening Hymn, *All Are Welcome*, Charlene Aleck, elected Councillor of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation offered the Territorial Acknowledgement and Welcome. Prior to addressing the congregation, Councillor Aleck was the recipient of a blanket knitted for the occasion by Debora Jones-Akiyama and presented by some younger members of the parish. The councillor spoke about the connection that her people have to the land and specifically to the land where Port Moody is located. It is land that provided a rich life due to the abundance of wild life and the mild climate. Councillor Aleck, a direct descendent of Chief Dan George said that it was a "humbling honour" to stand before the congregation and be a part of this Celebration of welcoming a new priest.

The preacher was the Executive Archdeacon of the diocese of New Westminster, the Ven. Douglas Fenton. It was through Archdeacon Fenton that the connection to Rev. Lam was made as he had worked with her during his nine years of ministry in the



Archbishop Skelton leads the applause of welcome for the newly inducted rector. PHOTO Wayne Chose



Rev. Lam's spouse, brother and father. PHOTO Wayne Chose



Charlene Aleck receives a blanket knitted by Debora Jones-Akiyama. PHOTO Wayne Chose



LEFT Receiving a Bible from younger members of the parish during the presentation of the symbols of ministry. RIGHT Receiving a cedar bough in the symbols of ministry. PHOTOS Wayne Chose



Posing for a photo with mom and dad. PHOTO Wayne Chose



The plaque from Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, Brooklyn.

national office of the Episcopal Church located in Manhattan. Toward the end of his sermon he had these words to say about Vivian and how she will relate to her parish:

"I've known Vivian and worked with her on several projects over the past 16 years. 16 years! (I know I don't look old enough to have known her that long — but it's true!) I can attest to you that you have chosen a priest who prays, who has an unwavering faith, and a fearless tenacity. Vivian is a true shepherd, seeking out the least, the last and the lost — caring tenderly for those committed to her care. She is one who listens with intention, calls out the best in others and prods and probes to get to the core of an idea or problem or possibility.

Vivian is one who will insist on collaboration, on partnership and on the entire community's engagement. Just one warning: Vivian does not suffer wallflowers gladly. She will ask you tough questions and remember that when she does, you asked for a priest who would do so. Expect to be challenged — remember, you asked to be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Topic 50th Anniversary

For the past few months we have been promoting the *Topic 50th Anniversary* commemorative publication planned to go to print in the fall of 2019, hopefully in plenty of time for the actual *Topic 50th Anniversary*, February 2020.

In order to assist with the costs connected to publication and distribution, a fund has been established and we invite you to consider making a gift to help with the

project. Financial gifts can be made online using credit cards via the diocesan website by clicking on one of the “GIVE” buttons found in the header and footer of each page of the site, www.vancouver.anglican.ca and selecting *Topic 50th Anniversary*, or send a cheque by mail made out to the *Diocese of New Westminster* with the words “Topic 50th Anniversary” in the memo line. The address is 1410

Nanton Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6H 2E2

Here are two more photographs from the collection of the Ven. Ronald Harrison, retired Executive Archdeacon of the diocese of New Westminster and former associate editor and principal photographer for *Topic* in the 1970s and 1980s. ✦



Archbishop David Somerville (second from right) enjoys a meal at St. Mary the Virgin, Sapperton on November 2, 1980.



Dr. Philip Potter (back left) and Archbishop Ted Scott (right) at the close of the World Council of Churches Vancouver Assembly in August 1983.

Christ is Present in this Place

The Induction of the Reverend Vivian Lam as Rector of St. John the Apostle, Port Moody

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

challenged. She will be persistent. Remember you asked her to be persistent. Expect to be called forth to offer the gifts you have been given. And know this: in doing this work together the Christ on whom we wait will be made present in this place.”

The presentation of the symbols of ministry was a little more robust than at most Celebrations of New Ministry. In addition to: the Bible; water; oils for anointing and healing; Canons of the Diocese; keys to the buildings; Prayer and Hymn Books; the elements of the Eucharist, bread and wine there were also: groceries, cedar boughs for blessings and a Yoga mat. When the 23 members of the parish had each participated in the 11 presentations they all remained on the chancel steps behind the new rector, a striking visual symbol of the formation of this new shared ministry.

The music in worship led by Music Director/pianist, LaRee Mohr with guest flautist, Gay Mitchell and guitarist Shinji Akiyama accompanied the choir and congregation perfectly.

One of the highlights of the liturgy was the presence of, Vivian’s mother, Nancy; father, the Rev. Peter Lam; and her brother Jonathan who had made the trip from New York. Not only were they there to support their daughter and sister, they were also the official delegation from Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, Brooklyn (diocese of Long Island) which is Vivian’s home congregation that sponsored her for ordination. Vivian was kind enough to send in a photograph of the plaque. Vivian explains:

“The Chinese is not exactly the same as the English, but the gist of it is ‘Congrats to Rev. Pui Yue Lam, Rector of St. John’s. May God’s grace be with

you forever.”

The English text reads:

Best Wishes & Love from All Parishioners
Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit
Diocese of Long Island
December 11, 2018

In closing, here are the words that Archdeacon Fenton shared with the congregation when he reminded them about the choice they had made:

“You wrote a parish profile, advertised and got some amazing priests who, together with you, discerned whether they were being called by God to be your next rector. Your profile had a list of ‘Who We Seek’: if you don’t remember the list the keys characteristics are:

1. Not to be afraid to ask tough questions
2. Willing to guide in study, justice and faith

3. Comfortable challenging the status quo
4. Connected with the wider diocese
5. Energetic, persistent, lead and collaborate
6. Experience with capital fundraising

You held the list up against the Rev. Vivian Lam and said — yes, this is an amazing match. You discerned that Mother Vivian had what you wanted, you recommended to Archbishop Skelton that she be appointed and the archbishop agreed.”

Congratulations to the people of St. John the Apostle, Port Moody, guided by the Spirit and with the support of their Archbishop and diocese they have made an excellent choice. ✦

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The Ven. Douglas Fenton’s sermon is available online at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/media/2018-12-11-what-has-gone-before-is-not-lost-but-neither-is-it-where-you-are-now>



Rev. Lam and Rev. Shepard embrace during the Peace. PHOTO Wayne Chose



Administering Holy Communion for the first “official” time as Rector of St. John the Apostle, Port Moody. PHOTO Wayne Chose



The Vita Retreat • A Spiritual Formation Weekend

JESSICA SCHAAP
Missioner for Christian Formation, diocese of New Westminster

People from 26 parishes in the diocese over the last two years participated in a pilot program for a new spiritual formation retreat. Aimed at renewing prayer in daily life and inspiring mission for the life of our communities, the program was named, *Pro Vita Mundi* (For the Life of the World). The pilots saw increasing attendance, each one with more attendees than the last, and people left strengthened and inspired in their daily lives. The thoughtful evaluations after each retreat also helped the project leaders refine and edit the retreat to increase its impact.

“The weekend was life changing.”

Generously funded by the Anglican Foundation and the Anglican Initiatives Fund of our diocese, the pilot program has come to an end and the retreat program is ready for a full launch into the life of the diocese. The program is now called *The Vita Retreat: Prayer that Makes us Whole* and the first one is scheduled for March 22–24 at the nearby retreat centre Loon Lake Lodge, just outside of Maple Ridge, BC. This might be a great way to enter more fully the season of Lent. The weekend explores many and creative ways to encounter the Holy Spirit, through the arts, nature, silence, conversation in small groups, and a regular pattern of Anglican prayer and worship together. The overarching concept of the retreat is an expanded

“[It] presented the depth and width of prayer—many options to explore —a life long journey.”

understanding of the spiritual practice of lectio divina. Lectio divina (holy reading) is an ancient, meditative, and devotional way to read scripture. The retreat takes the basic form of lectio and applies it to many things such as art, being in nature, music, cooking, daily tasks, relationships, and conversation—the stuff of daily life. Participants come away with a sense that prayer can be a continual activity in all aspects of their lives. Life can be lived as a prayer, and God is the one who prays within us. And the depth

“I came to the retreat hoping to deepen my spiritual experience with the Holy Spirit. From the first moments of the weekend to the final ringing of the bell, I felt safe, welcome and enriched...”

of conversation and community that grows is remarkable. Loon Lake and the other retreat location, Camp Elphinstone in Gibsons, BC, are immersed in West Coast beauty, and foster a contemplative yet refreshing experience of prayer and community. Participants reported feeling trusted and valued. The last retreat had a growing waitlist so you may want to register early to avoid disappointment. If you are not able to make it in the spring, another retreat is scheduled for the fall, October 4–6, 2019. There are also bursaries available to cover 50% of the registration fee. Simply email jschaap@vancouver.anglican.ca to receive the bursary form, apply, and register for the weekend. ✦

DATES	March 22–24, 2019
LOCATION	Loon Lake Lodge & Retreat Centre, Maple Ridge, BC
REGISTRATION	https://conta.cc/2Ehjsnl
COST	\$175 (includes 2 nights shared accommodation, all meals, & retreat materials)

“[I received] better insights into quieting my soul before God, to meditate on His love... I feel better equipped to continue this walk and bring God’s love to the world around me.”



Vita Retreat participants on a prayer walk in the forest. PHOTO Sher Saks

All are encouraged to
submit letters, articles,
reports on parish activities,
opinion pieces, photos,
and more
for consideration
as content for Topic

Deadline for Topic Submissions

February 22 for the April issue
& March 22 for the May issue

Please email Randy Murray at
rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca

All contributions are appreciated • Editor

The 9th Investiture of New Members to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster

We sincerely apologize for omitting Susanne Cruickshank, ODNW's name and Citation from the list of recipients of the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster for 2018, published in the January 2019 issue of *Topic*. Please see the photo on the right, taken by Wayne Chose, of Susanne being congratulated by Archbishop Skelton and below is the Citation as read at the Investiture on November 3, 2018. • Editor

Ms. Margaret Susanne Cruickshank
Christ Church Cathedral

Sue honours all women who have worked towards the recognition of women's ministries and the ordination of women, and she was particularly active in this work in the 1970s. At the Cathedral Sue has been on the Programme, Mutual Ministries, and Renovations Committees, and served as People's Warden and Endowment Fund Administrator. Currently she is a Maundy Café volunteer, a Eucharistic Administrator, volunteer receptionist, part of Healing Prayer, and a member of the 127 Housing Society. Sue's greatest joy is as Mom and Granny. ✦



Vancouver School of Theology Names 2019 Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree Recipients

(PREPARED WITH FILES FROM IAN SHEH, CREATIVE OFFICER, COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING, VST)

The Vancouver School of Theology (VST) is delighted to announce the selection of its 2019 honorary degree recipients.

This prestigious degree is open to individuals who exemplify the values of VST, and who have made significant contributions through the integration of theology and practice of ministry in one or more of: theological scholarship, ecumenical dialogue, the life and ministry of the Christian community, and interdisciplinary scholarship involving theology with other fields.

Dr. Kate Bowler of Duke University and Duke Divinity School is a leading researcher in the history of North American Christianity. Building on her research, Kate has authored several books including *Blessed: A History of American Prosperity Gospel*, and *Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I Have Loved*. Originally from Winnipeg, her work is impacted by the terrible irony as a scholar on name-it-claim-it Christianity to fall ill with stage 4 cancer in her early 30s. As a frequent writer for the New York Times and podcast contributor, she addresses the most difficult questions of life. Her voice in these efforts is wise, funny, profoundly moving and compellingly Christian. Without seeking it, Kate has emerged as an essential evangelist for our day.

Trevor Ferguson is an elder in the Presbyterian Church in Canada, an educator at Concordia University (retired) and one of Canada's premier writers. He has received an exemplary critical reception at home and abroad. His novels examine the tragedies, joys and travail of human life, intersecting conflict and sexuality with themes of wonderment and faith. Among his works are *The River Burns* and *City of Ice*, the first of a crime series under the name John Farrow. He is also an acclaimed playwright whose work has been produced in Canada both in French and English and also staged in New York. In his work, the grammar of transgression and redemption form the crux of the story; in this way, he has been the witness to the gospel in the public sphere.

Douglas MacAdams, QC, ODNW has made various contributions to the life



Douglas MacAdams, QC, ODNW being congratulated by Bishop Michael Ingham upon his investiture into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW) in 2009. PHOTO Wayne Chose

and ministry of the Anglican Church of Canada in parishes, in the diocese of New Westminster and throughout the Ecclesiastical Province of BC and Yukon. Provincial Chancellor to three of the Archbishops of British Columbia and Yukon, Douglas has tackled delicate and contentious matters of church jurisdiction, property ownership and canon law. A lawyer since 1974, and Queen's Counsel since 200, Douglas has focused on resolving disputes. At the foundation of Douglas's work both in the church and in his legal practice is his deep commitment to his faith and his seeking to express that faith day by day in practicalities of life in the church and in the rough and tumble of resolving disputes for clients.

Upon receiving notification of his selection late in November, the Provincial Chancellor shared these words with diocesan communications:

"(I am) Honoured. Delighted. Happy to have a formal association with VST. And pleased for the representational nature of this selection. In my view I am receiving this degree as a representative of the many lawyers who faithfully serve the Anglican, United and Presbyterian churches in British Columbia and the Yukon."

VST's primary mandate is to educate and form thoughtful, engaged and generous Christian leaders for the church in the 21st century. Among theological schools, VST is viewed as a change agent and an innovator for the church.

As an affiliated college of the University of British Columbia, VST is now ranked 39th globally and in the top ten of most improved theological schools. The Vancouver School of Theology welcomes students from many Christian communions, other faith traditions and Indigenous communities, while celebrating its core relationships with the Anglican Church of Canada, Presbyterian Church in Canada and United Church of Canada.

The honorary Doctor of Divinity degree will be conferred during the Vancouver School of Theology's upcoming Convocation Ceremony on May 13, 2019 at Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church, Vancouver. ✦

AROUND THE DIOCESE

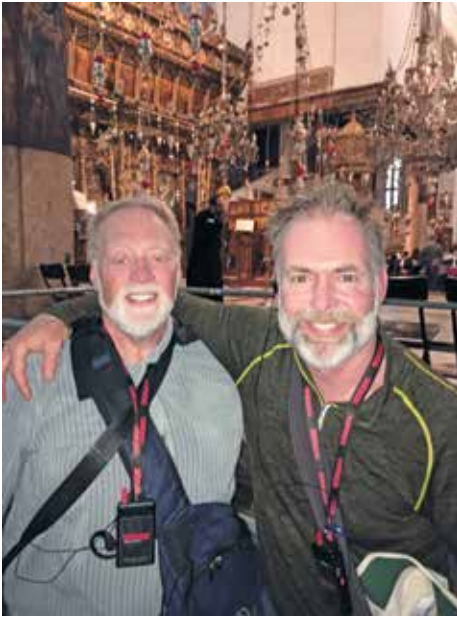
On Sunday, December 2, the First Sunday in Advent, members of the Parish Development Grants Committee: Rev. Dr. Tellison Glover; Rev. Shirley Stockdill; Colleen Butterley, ODNW; and Sarah Andrusco each visited one of four parishes that had received Grants for 2019.

Approximately \$100,000 is made available by the diocese annually to assist parishes in developing their congregations, parish programs and infrastructure. Grants are given to parishes that have come up with and/or established programs that will build, grow and develop their parishes in ways that are exciting, creative, engaging and sustainable.

• Diocesan Priests in the Holy Land •

SUBMISSION Paul Woehrle

Many thanks to the Rev. Paul Woehrle, rector of St. Cuthbert, Delta (on the right) for sending this photo with the Rev. Steve Laskey, rector of St. Helen, Surrey taken at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem on a recent tour of the Holy Land. ✦



Recipient parishes are: St. Mary the Virgin, Sapperton; St. Hilda, Sechelt; the Anglican Parish of the Church of the Epiphany ('Epiphany'), Surrey; St. George, Maple Ridge; St. Dunstan, Aldergrove, and All Saints', Burnaby.

Committee members attended the principal celebration of the Eucharist and in a brief ceremony, presented a certificate and described the process by which the grants are awarded. Members of the parish who had worked on the grant application were invited to receive the award certificate.

In the first photo (*top right*) we see: the vicar, the Rev. Justin Cheng; committee member, Sarah Andrusco a parishioner at St. Francis-in-the-Wood, Caulfeild; and All Saints', Burnaby's vicar's warden, Mildred Johnson. Sarah presented the certificate to Justin and Mildred in recognition of their parish's receipt of a \$4,500 grant to produce seasonal music concerts. All Saints' is very much involved in the community music scene of their South Burnaby neighbourhood.

Colleen Butterley, ODNW, a member of the committee and a parishioner at St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby explained the Parish Development Grant process to the congregation at St. George, Maple Ridge and presented the rector, Rev. David Edgerton with a certificate signifying the parish's receipt of a \$20,000 grant from the diocese of New Westminster. The funds will be directed to hiring a Music Ministry leader/ Youth Ministry Coordinator.

Thanks to Alecia Greenfield for submitting the photo (*bottom right*) of Rev. Edgerton with Colleen presenting the certificate.

St. Hilda's received \$20,000 for a feasibility study related to their property and building and 'Epiphany' received \$5,500 toward contracting a new website and some video production to help communicate information about the building of a new church on the existing parish site. St. Mary

the Virgin, Sapperton received \$8,500 for 2019, which is the second year that the parish has received funding to support their rapidly growing children's and youth ministry programs.

The next week, December 9, Rev. Dr. Tellison Glover attended the principle celebration of the Advent II Eucharist

at St. Dunstan, Aldergrove to recognize that parish's receipt of a \$15,000 Parish Development Grant for their developing Spiritual Renewal Centre. The funds will be directed to this rapidly growing ministry for Christian Transformation, which involves an ambitious number of events and a part time staff component. ✦



PHOTO Randy Murray



PHOTO Alecia Greenfield

• Rector • Traffic Director •

On Thursday, December 20, the southern portion of the Province of British Columbia was rocked by windstorms.

Many thanks to the Rev. Lindsay Hills, rector, St. Mary's, Kerrisdale (SMK) for sending the accompanying photo (taken

by John Taylor, verger at SMK) to diocesan communications.

Rev. Hills had just returned from a graveside service when it became apparent that the church's neighbouring property (the former rectory grounds) had lost a

large tree in the windstorm. Still vested she directed traffic for 30 minutes.

The photo was posted on diocesan social media, *Facebook* and *Twitter* in the afternoon of December 20 and within hours (thanks to many "shares") it had been seen

and "shared" by thousands of people. As of this writing in late December, the *Facebook* post is in the top ten "all time" with over 7,000 views. The photo and the story were also shared on the *Vancouver Sun's* website on December 21. ✦



AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Christmas Outreach at St. John the Divine, Squamish •

Many thanks to Pam Tattersfield of St. John the Divine, Squamish for setting up the second photo connected to this piece, showing knitters: Carol Grolman, Lou Remple and Anne Barnes. Others who made tuques are: Muriel Shephard, Arlene Ingraham, Sue Puchmayr, Barbara Stover and Elaine Graham.

For 30 years, members of Squamish United Church have knitted tuques to be distributed during the Christmas season to folks who visit the compassionate service ministries of First United Church located on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. For 2018, some knitters who are members of St. John's helped out. According to Pam, "Since tuques were not on the list of wished-for-items from First United, it was decided that they (the 180 hand knit head warmers) would be going to the Seafarers this year."

On December 5, which was a couple of days after this item was posted to the diocesan website news pages, Pam contacted diocesan communications to inform us that Arlene Ingraham brought in 17 more tuques that her mother, Leona had knit. This brought the total very close to 200. In addition to the update Pam added that, "Leona is 100 years old and her needles still click!"

Part of the Mission to Seafarers (MtS) Christmas ministry is organizing the assembly of 300+ gift parcels to be distributed to seafarers anchored in various locations around the ports, bays and inlets of Vancouver. The seafarers are far from home and

family at Christmastime.

These generous knitting efforts were very much appreciated by Senior Port Chaplain, the Rev. Peter Smyth, the ecumenical team at MtS and the seafarers themselves.

Advent III, Gaudete Sunday, December 16 was celebrated with flair at St. John the Divine, Squamish.

This traditional Advent Celebration of the Eucharist in the Garibaldi Highlands featured many members of the congregation wearing their "ugliest" Christmas sweaters. Ugly Sweater Sunday is a fundraising event to aid Squamish Community Christmas Care, an initiative for the region now its 38th year. Last year the organization put together 250 hampers for distribution in the area. This year the St. John the Divine contribution was spearheaded by Karen Brumpton (in the photo, Karen is located bottom right in the white sweater with lights). Early estimates of money raised by St. John's for this appeal were in the \$300 range.

St. John's is known all across Canada for the beautiful quilted wall hangings created by the skilled artisans of the parish. At this time of year the "Mary" banner is placed behind the altar. The second photo included with this post shows the creator of the work, Ruth Fenton. On the day that this photo was posted on the diocesan Facebook page, *Anglican Conversation*, it quickly attained 30 shares and nearly 6,000 views, pretty impressive for Anglican Church social media. ✚



Members of the Parish of St. John the Divine, Squamish pose for a photo following worship on December 16, 2018. The vicar is wearing kind of a boring sweater but what is that around his neck? PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Tuques and knitters. PHOTO Courtesy of Pam Tattersfield



RIGHT Textile artist, Ruth Fenton stands beside the beautiful "Mary" Advent banner. PHOTO Randy Murray

• Tuques for Kids in China •

SUBMISSION Al Carson

For six months, from the spring to the fall of 2018, Denise Wells of St. John the Baptist Sardis has been busy knitting 80 tuques (that is the correct French spelling) for an orphanage in China.

Denise is French Canadian and is legally blind. She began to knit the tuques after connecting with An Carson. An was adopted from an orphanage in China in 1999 at the age of 14 months and in the summer of 2013 and again in 2014 she returned to China to help in an orphanage run by International China Concern (ICC).

An's Mom is French Métis so she was educated in the francophone school system and is fluent in French. Denise is delighted to be able to speak her native tongue when conversing with An. An has no grandparents living in BC so Denise has "adopted" her as her granddaughter.

Denise decided she would knit tuques to send to the children in one of the orphanages under ICC care. At first she thought maybe 20 or 30 and asked An to find out how many they could use. She was a bit shocked when An came back with the number 80, but doubled up her efforts. In early November 2018, An delivered the

80 tuques to the ICC office in Burnaby. They are on the way to China to keep the children's heads warm this winter.

An's new "grandma" has caught her passion for orphaned children. Seems to be a passion of our Lord's as well— "What you did to the least of these you did to me." ✚



Denise Wells. PHOTO Submitted



ICC Promo. PHOTO Submitted

• St. Mary the Virgin Mothers' Union Christmas Breakfast •

SUBMISSION Felly Farinas

Many thanks to Felly Farinas of St. Mary the Virgin, South Hill for sending these photos taken by her husband, rector of St. Mary's, the Rev. Fr. Expedito Farinas and also for the captions describing the images that highlight the parish's Christmas breakfast for the community, Saturday, December 8. The breakfast was an initiative of the newly formed Mothers' Union (MU) chapter at St. Mary South Hill.

The Theme was: *God cares about the poor*

and we are to care as well. Inspired by two Biblical verses: "The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor, (*Proverbs 22:9*)" and "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least for these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me (*Matthew 25:40*)."

The meal featured pancakes, waffles, scrambled eggs, hot chocolate and was much enjoyed by parishioners and guests from the neighbourhood. ✚



From left to right: Grefa Pinera (President), Yolly Lumase, Mildred Colobong, Josie Supnet, Felly Farinas, Eva Ayonayon, and Julie Atkinson. PHOTO Expedito Farinas



LEFT Welcome sign in front of the church. RIGHT Parishioners and visitors enjoying the Christmas treats offered by the Mothers' Union. The MU officers and members donated all the foods served. PHOTO Expedito Farinas

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Mission to Seafarers Carol Service •

On Friday, December 21, 35 people gathered in the chapel at Vancouver’s Mission to Seafarers (MtS) on East Waterfront Road for a Service of Christmas Carols and Lessons. Senior Port Chaplain, the Rev. Peter Smyth warmly welcomed everyone, and briefly spoke about some of the seasonal goings-on at and around MtS.

The liturgy began with *Once in Royal David’s City*; the Rev. Wilmer Toyoken of

St. Michael’s Multicultural accompanied those gathered on his guitar. The service was led by and presided over by the Rev. Peter Smyth, and the Mission’s two others port chaplains read lessons; Deacon Dileep Athaide of the Roman Catholic Church, followed by the Rev. Gary Roosma of the Christian Reformed Church.

Rev. Smyth offered prayers for all of those seafarers who have lost their lives

on the sea, and prayed for all of the many seafarers hard at work on the boats and whom are missing their friends and family at Christmastime.

The beautiful and intimate service concluded with *Silent Night*, during which time each person held a candle and sang together in the candlelight of the heritage chapel. A reception with beverages and seasonal goodies followed and friends—old and

new—enjoyed conversation in the main gathering space of the Mission. ✦

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Go online to access the comprehensive article entitled Lighting up the lonely life of seafarers written by Douglas Todd of the Vancouver Sun, published in the December 21 issue at <https://vancouversun.com/opinion/columnists/douglas-todd-gifts-light-up-the-tough-life-of-seafarers-at-christmas>



LEFT Long time MtS volunteer Peter Goodwin, ODNW reads the Gospel. In the foreground is the Rev. Gary Roosma. MIDDLE Rev. Peter Smyth lit the first candle before the Gospel reading. By the end of the final hymn *Silent Night*, all gathered in the chapel had their taper candles lit. RIGHT Tomoko Ito and Jane Dittrich of Christ Church Cathedral beside the Mission’s Christmas tree. PHOTOS Courtesy of Jane Dittrich



Standing (left to right): Rev. Gary Roosma (Port Chaplain, Christian Reformed Church), Deacon Dileep Athaide (Port Chaplain, Roman Catholic Church), Rev. Peter Smyth (Senior Port Chaplain, Anglican Church of Canada) and Peter Goodwin, ODNW (St. James’, Vancouver). Kneeling (left to right): Rev. Wilmer Toyoken (Vicar, St. Michael’s Multicultural, Regional Dean of Kingsway) and Rev. Dr. Tellison Glover (Director for Mission and Ministry Development, diocese of New Westminster) gather in front of the Mission’s Christmas Tree following the service. PHOTO Jane Dittrich

• Milleraires Big Band Concert •

A concert in aid of BC Learning Centres for Children with Dyslexia.

- DATE Tuesday, February 12
- TIME 7pm
- LOCATION St. Catherine’s, Capilano located at 1058 Ridgewood Drive, North Vancouver in the Edgemont Village neighbourhood
- ADMISSION General \$15 Seniors & Students \$10 Pay at the door. ✦



PHOTO Randy Murray

• General Synod 2019 Volunteers •



Anglican Church of Canada

The diocese of New Westminster is pleased and excited to be hosting the 42nd General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.

General Synod will be held from July 9–July 16, 2019, at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre in Vancouver. A youth conference opens Synod on Tuesday, July 9 with the full Synod getting underway the afternoon of Wednesday, July 10, 2019.

As the host diocese, we will be welcoming 300+ delegates and guests to Vancouver. To make this a memorable event for all the delegates and guests, the Local Arrangements Committee is looking for

enthusiastic and committed volunteers. Volunteers will be needed in areas such as meeting participants at the airport, on-site registration, providing local information and directions.

If you would like to get involved and contribute to the success of General Synod 2019, please let us know by visiting the following page on the diocesan website, <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/general-synod-2019>, filling in the contact form on the page or by emailing GS2019LACVolunteers@vancouver.anglican.ca

THANK YOU ✦

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Fellow Members of the diocese of New Westminster

I was very moved by the article in the December issue of *Topic* by the Rev. Bryan Rivers, Anglican Chaplain at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH), where he talks about “bringing the light and peace of Christ.” I have accepted his invitation to invest financially and spiritually in this very important ministry and I ask my fellow Anglicans to do the same. I know that I and my friends and family have been on the receiving end of this ministry over the years and I’m quite sure most of us have as well, either in the past or in the future.

Can we in all conscience let this ministry come to an end because of lack of funds? Surely each of us can come up with something—remember the “widow’s mite.”

Gwen Lamacraft, ODNW
Holy Cross, Vancouver ✦

Donations can be made through the diocesan website or by mail.
Contact the Rev. Rivers at bryan.rivers@vch.ca

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• St. Mary the Virgin, South Hill, Christmas Pageant •

Many thanks to Felly Farinas for sending in the photo of the very compelling street sign positioned outside the church, and for sending the photo of the parish's intergenerational pageant participated in by the youngest to eldest on Christmas Eve. ✚



OPINION

Arm in Arm

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL
Retired priest of the diocese of Calgary, former Dean of the diocese of New Westminster & Rector of Christ Church Cathedral

You know those moments in life when, at the time, you felt nothing in particular was happening, but when you thought back on the moment you realized that a great deal had happened. I want to share two such moments with you. Both took place about 40 years ago. Good heavens, but it must be.

I was driving along Cornwall Avenue in Vancouver. It was about noon on a lovely late fall day. I was driving very slowly because if you can glance between the houses you get ravishing views of the mountains and of English Bay.

I became aware of two people coming down the sidewalk together, obviously out for a walk. Two women, they walked arm in arm. One was in her early 20s, the other I estimated as mid-70s. Just as I passed they paused in their stride, their heads went back almost in unison, and they laughed.

They were obviously of the same family. I'm almost certain they were grandmother and granddaughter. There was the same styling of hair, one dark, the other silver. There was the same face formation, especially in the moment of their laughter. I felt that I had been given a glimpse through a time barrier and had seen the same person alive with laughter at two different moments of her life. All this flashed into my mind as they passed the car.

There looked to be between them an intimacy and an ease that made years and decades seem irrelevant. I was reminded of the beauty and the priceless gift that family at its best can give us. The sharing of laughter, the linking of arms, the similarity of face and stance, all made me aware that affection knows nothing of time. There can be in family ties such unity that when eyes look into eyes, they see neither age nor youth but a reflection of themselves.

The other such moment came at the intersection of Davie and Denman in the



PHOTO Silvia Jansen

West End. It was one of those long evenings of summer that linger in memory. There was a kind of hush in the air that seemed to mute even the engines of the traffic that wound its way slowly along Beach Avenue. The yellow bulbs on the popcorn vender's barrows twinkled through the late evening light.

All around me were people of every age and description. There were family groups, couples, singles, all moving with a kind of weekend relaxation, everyone wishing to savour and to extend this hour before

nightfall.

I became aware of a couple walking together. They were elderly and slightly bowed. They moved slowly but in perfect unison arm in arm. It was a rhythm that came from countless walks together. For a moment the long golden road of the sunset flashed them into invisibility as they crossed between it and where I stood.

They came to a point where the sidewalk ended. For them it was a high step. In their fragility, which they had long ceased to try to disguise, it was a formidable obstacle,

even a moment of potential danger.

As I watched, he very slowly stepped into the roadway. When he was safely down he turned to help her make the same step carefully, gingerly. Together they set out on the journey to the other side of the busy boulevard. Once again he stepped up on the sidewalk, turned and helped her do likewise. Linking arms again, they continued their evening stroll.

Out beyond the bay the sun began to sink behind the islands. Children were unwillingly leaving the softly lapping water of the bay as parents called. It would be important to be home before darkness fell.

Adlestrop is the title of a very well known and oft quoted English poem. It captures perfectly one of those moments where nothing seems to happen and yet worlds happen...

.....

Adlestrop
by Edward Thomas (1878–1917)

Yes, I remember Adlestrop—
The name, because one afternoon
Of heat the express train drew up there
Unwontedly. It was late June.

The steam hissed. Someone cleared his throat.
No one left and no one came
On the bare platform. What I saw
Was Adlestrop—only the name

And willows, willow-herb and grass,
And meadowsweet, and haycocks dry,
No whit less still and lonely fair
Than the high cloudlets in the sky.

And for that minute a blackbird sang
Close by, and round him, mistier,
Farther and farther, all the birds
Of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire. ✚

.....

I Love Advent!

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

For the past six years diocesan communications has made an effort to visit parishes around the diocese in order to share the experience of how different Anglican faith communities celebrate festivals and feast days. For Advent I on December 2, 2018, the Parish of All Saints', Burnaby located in Burnaby's southern neighbourhood agreed to a visit. This was not only a special festival day it was also the Sunday when Sarah Andrusco, a member of the diocesan Parish Development Grants Committee would be worshipping with the congregation, and at the conclusion of worship present a certificate in recognition of the parish's award of a \$4,500 grant to produce seasonal music programming. The Parish of All Saints' has been very involved in its ministry of engaging with the local music scene, producing concerts and welcoming choral and instrumental groups to their buildings for rehearsals and events.

It was also great to see the north side of the All Saints' property being used to host the annual Aunt Leah's Christmas Tree sales outlet. All Saints' has been the Burnaby location for this worthy organization for many years.

Following the Opening Hymn, *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* and the Greeting, the first candle on the Advent Wreath was lit by server/crucifer Leah Skuro, with the prayer offered by the vicar, the Rev. Justin Cheng who was celebrant/preacher for the Eucharist with assistance from sacristan, Ray Duff, ODNW.

The prayer:

"Today we light the first candle as we await the coming our Saviour, we wait in hope for his promise."

Rev. Cheng proclaimed the Gospel, *Luke 21: 25–36* (as we enter a year of St. Luke) followed by a sermon. He began the sermon by saying, "I love Advent!" and repeated that phrase two more times. He went on to reference all that Advent brings, the waiting, the expectation, the lighting of candles, the music and much more. But the focus of his sermon was about bondage and yearning for freedom. A large number of the earth's population lives in bondage, in slavery, and freedom eludes them. Rev. Cheng expanded the metaphor saying that we are in bondage as well, but the Advent, the opportunity to welcome the one who brings the light provides an opportunity for our freedom.

Our anticipation of the arrival of Jesus "causes a swelling of thankfulness and commitment to forward God's cause of freedom... and it will awaken us, as we may actually be in bondage as well, and opens us up to accept the only one who can free us from that bondage, our Lord, Jesus Christ."

The music in worship was led by Director of Music Barry Waterlow supported by soprano, Nellie Porkert, ODNW and baritone, Ray Duff who as mentioned earlier was also sacristan for the Eucharist. Hales Jones, ODNW a lay leader at All Saints' and a leader in our diocese was the intercessor. Following the Eucharist and before the Dismissal, Hales was asked to join Rev. Cheng and server, Leah at the chancel entrance for a blessing and prayers as Hales would leave the next day for Barbados where she will be spending the next few months.

The liturgy concluded with the presentation by Sarah Andrusco of the Parish Development Grant certificate followed by the Closing Hymn, *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*.

Many thanks to the Parish of All Saints' for their warm welcome, their commitment and their faithfulness. ✠



Prayers for safe travels for Hales Jones, ODNW.



Server Leah lights the first candle on the Advent wreath.



The Rev. Justin Cheng says, "I love Advent!"



All Saints', South Burnaby, the church with their annual seasonal guest, the Aunt Leah's Christmas Tree sales outlet.

All are encouraged
to submit letters, articles,
reports on parish activities,
opinion pieces, photos, and more
for consideration as content for *Topic*.

Deadline for *Topic* Submissions
February 22 for the April issue
& March 22 for the May issue

Please email Randy Murray at
rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca
All contributions are appreciated • Editor