





ST. PAUL

ANGELICAN CHURCH

THE CONTACT

Connecting with your parish family • February 2024

Peek Inside

FROM REV. SUSAN	1
FROM REV. VERNON	2
FROM THE PA OFFICE	3
MEET THE NEW FACILITY	
COORDINATOR	3
WARDEN'S CORNER	4
STEWARDSHIP TEAM	5
PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY	5
PWRDF NEWS	6
WOMEN'S GROUP	7
PRAYER/BIBLE STUDY	7
THE ORGAN BENCH	8
TREASURER'S REPORT	9
EASTER SERVICES	10

FROM REVEREND SUSAN'S OFFICE

Dear Friends,

We are in liminal times. The time in between. Moving from the wonderful ministry with The Venerable Clara, now Bishop Clara, to our new ministry with The Reverend Vernon Foster.

We have this time to let go of what wasn't working in the past and opening ourselves to new and renewed ministries and relationships with God and each other.

I invite you to spend time in Lent opening your hearts to the needs of those around the world through our Lenten Study with Primates World Relief and Development Fund. Lent is also a time of healing our hearts and minds and preparing for the Holy Adventure that is about to begin in May with The Reverend Vernon Foster.

I feel so blessed to be on this journey with you.

Peace,

The Reverend Susan Hermanson

CONTACT US

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:
9:30 AM—12:30 PM
Monday—Friday

OFFICE PHONE:
250 753 2523

EMAIL:
admin@stpaulsnanaimo.ca

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Anglican Parish of St. Paul will be held on Sunday, February 25, 2024 at 12:30 pm in the main Hall.

The purpose of the meeting is to review reports for 2023, pass the Budget and elect officers for the 2024 year.

All active parishioners over the age of 16 are eligible to attend and vote.

Joy Adams Bauer, Bishop's Warden Sue Gueulette, People's Warden

A LETTER FROM THE REVEREND VERNON FOSTER...

To the St. Paul's Community in Nanaimo,

I am excited about the opportunity to serve as your rector starting in May. Despite potential bureaucratic challenges, I am looking forward to becoming a part of your community. My partner, Dolph, and I have been exploring your town and the beautiful aspects of the island, which he has eagerly been showing me. While we may not be avid sports spectators, we are interested in learning about Ice Hockey and watching the Nanaimo Clippers play.

So here is a little bit about myself. I am the middle child of a blended family of five siblings. I was born and raised in Pretoria, South Africa. During my high school years, I attended Pretoria Boys High School. Additionally, I was a Sea Scout and later became a Troop Scouter after serving in the South African Navy during my National Service.

I have a love for motorcycles, particularly Triumphs, although I unfortunately had to let mine go. Sailing is another passion of mine, and I am eager to explore the sailing opportunities in and around Vancouver Island. Moreover, I am a self-taught flautist and have a particular affinity for Irish music.

One of my favourite Bible verses is Matthew 10:29-31, which speaks about sparrows and the concept of fear. I have a fondness for "boring" and plain animals like donkeys and sparrows, although I also appreciate the beauty of colourful animals.

Currently, I am serving as the Assistant Chaplain at St. Mary's Diocesan School for Girls in Pretoria. I started in this role at the beginning of 2020, and it has been a journey of learning and adapting to new ministry in a different context. Most of my work at the school revolves around elementary and early middle school students.

Prior to my position at St. Mary's DSG, I held two Rectorship positions. From 2018 until the end of 2019, I served as the Rector of Corpus Christi in Garsfontein. It was an unusual experience as I grew up in that parish, and my parents are still active members. When I mentioned that Jesus said a Prophet is not without honour in their own hometown to the Bishop, he humorously responded, "Don't worry, my son, no one is going to confuse you with a prophet." Prior to that, I had served at Corpus Christi from 2007 to 2008, assisting in the establishment of a new parish in Pretoria East.



My first Rectorship was a nine-year commitment at Trinity Church in Lynnwood. This church plant involved collaboration between Anglicans and Presbyterians, with shared facilities and occasional joint worship services on special feast days. During this time, I playfully referred to myself as an "Anglitarian" or perhaps a "Pranglican".

I hope that this introduction provides you with a snapshot of who I am and my previous experiences. Dolph and I are looking forward to become a part of the St. Paul's Community and getting to know you all.

Yours in our Lord's service,

VERNON

FROM THE PA'S OFFICE

The Prayer for Transition has been printed each week on the Announcement Insert, asking that you pray for the search and now the preparation of a new Priest. Could you add a special prayer as we prepare to get the office in good shape for Rev. Vernon?

There are a number of projects (many computer related) that we would like to accomplish and sort through before May. We know this will be a time of transition for the office and while it will be a challenge, it is also exciting.

We are off to a good start with Sarah coming on staff!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support,

Gillian



MEET OUR NEW FACILITY COORDINATOR

Get to know me: Sarah S.

My family includes my husband Peter, my daughter Chloe and our entertaining cat, Morse (NOT Morris, he is named after Inspector Morse!). My parents live on Gabriola and my sister lives in Daytona Beach, yes, Florida!

My favourite past time is definitely gardening and all things horticulture. I am a trained horticulturist and have taught at Capilano College. Injuries prevented me from staying in the business, but I am still so keen to get out in the garden at ALL times! My husband was the Greenhouse Manager for West Vancouver and that is where we met—in the greenhouse!

My favourite tv shows are often from the UK. Having moved to Canada at an early age, and having most relatives living in England, the draw is still very strong. I love comedies, but I equally love murder mysteries.

The best job I ever had was working for St. Martin's in North Vancouver as a Parish Administrator. Getting to know the people, congregation and renters, the rhythm of the church year, and the wide scope of work was so engaging. I was there for eight years until the church shut down. I have also worked as an ESL teacher in Europe and going waaaay back, I used to work for MacMillan Bloedel in downtown Vancouver.

Food? Well being British, I have a very sweet tooth. I love baking, but it usually has to be for other people otherwise I will eat it all. Unfortunately, my husband and daughter do not have a sweet tooth and I just can't understand why not nor comprehend how this is even possible.

Working in the church again is an exciting opportunity and I am so looking forward to getting to know more of you and getting to familiarize myself with all our renters.

Sarah

FROM THE WARDEN'S CORNER

Your Wardens have been very busy since we last reported in the Fall Contact, our main focus being the selection of a new Rector for St. Paul's. As our Bishop Anna explained in her letter of appointment of the Reverend Vernon Foster, gone are the days of Selection Committees sending out Parish Profiles, and having half a dozen or more priests apply. In those days, available clergy outnumbered available parishes. The reverse is now true. As Bishop Anna said, the Bishops now "work the phones" to find clergy that are available. In our case, she found Reverend Foster in South Africa. She asked the Wardens if we would be interested, We said "yes" and the process began.

We interviewed Reverend Vernon via *Zoom* on two occasions, read his CV, and after careful consideration, decided he would be a good choice for this parish. Immigration dictates that anyone coming to Canada from South Africa be coming to a full-time job. We looked at our finances. There had been talk of seeking a half-time priest. However, other parishes had advertised for half-time and had no one apply. So, we looked to the very generous gift that had been given with the intent of "keeping our doors open." By using the interest generated from investing, and some of the capital, we can subsidize our budget for 4-5 years. Hopefully, in that time we will become financially solvent again. Finally, it is important to note that while the Bishop naturally makes the final appointment, the decision to invite Reverend Vernon to be our Incumbent was made by your Wardens.

We are most grateful that the Reverend Susan Hermanson has agreed to stay on as our interim Priest-in-Charge until our new Rector arrives in May. Please remember that Susan is paid for .4 time, and be ready to help out wherever you can.

The other major event was the Great Flood of 2024, on January 17, when an outside sprinkler head froze and burst, subsequently flooding the St. Matthew Room, the hallway, and part of the Vestry. Unfortunately, the water worked its way down through the floor and flooded the washrooms downstairs. An insurance claim is underway. I would like to thank Brian Humber and Rudi Bigl who spent more than 6 hours mopping up all that water. Thanks to their quick action, the damage to the flooring was minimal.

The next major event on the horizon is the season of Lent, culminating in Easter, the Queen of Festivals. May you and your loved ones always experience the love of the risen Christ.

Sue Gueulette, People's Warden



**CELEBRATING THE ACW
AT ST. PAUL'S
October 15, 2023**

Stewardship is a core element of Christian practice. It is how we follow Jesus in our daily lives and live his mission as a parish. Stewardship is a core Christian practice rooted in Scripture.

St. Paul's began a year-long stewardship campaign in 2023. The campaign started with education, and our "lovely lavender" bulletin inserts during July and August, focusing on sections of the Bible that speak about stewardship. The year continued with "Stewardship Sundays", the first Sunday of each month beginning with the stewardship of creation in September. In October we learned about and celebrated all of our ministries and completed a "gifts inventory" to help inform our work. In November, we listened to stewardship stories / testimonials at both the 8 am and 10:30 am services.

And we had our "Sign Up Sunday" in January where we talked about signing up for pre-authorized monthly givings which really help with our budgeting and finances.

Stewardship is about our own sense of giftedness and what we give back to God. We are asking the following questions:

- 1) Your expenses are increasing, so are the church's. How do we create a spiritual commitment and how do we give back to our church and to our community?
- 2) You are a good steward of your finances; how can you help us all to be good stewards of St. Paul's finances.

Many small gifts are more sustainable and give us more strength as a parish than occasional large gifts.

"It is the duty of every parishioner, to contribute regularly of his substance, as God shall prosper him, to the maintenance of the worship of God and the spread of the Gospel."

(The Book of Common Prayer)

We will hold a three-week giving campaign in March with "kick-off Sunday" on March 3. If you have any thoughts or questions, please feel free to speak with any member of the stewardship team (Joy Adams Bauer, Greg Brown, Julie Foster, Carol Shaw)

Stewardship is everything you do after you say, "I believe."

Joy Adams Bauer, Chair

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

For we walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Compassion and the love of knitting / crocheting have been combined into a prayerful ministry and spiritual practice, which reaches out to those in need of comfort, solace, celebration, and joy. Many blessings are prayed into every prayer shawl. The prayer shawl begins with prayers and ends with prayer. The intentions continue throughout the creation of the shawl. Upon completion, our Rector offers a final blessing before the recipient receives the shawl.

Prayer Shawl meetings are a relaxing time of fellowship and prayer, all while working on your favourite patterns in knitting or crocheting. In 2023, the Prayer Shawl meetings were well attended. It was an excellent opportunity to come together, share stories, and create something beautiful to be cherished.

If you love to knit or crochet with a purpose, join us in St. Mark's room every first and third Thursday of each month. If you have any questions, please contact Yvonne Oliver at 250-754-8614.

Gaza and West Bank Emergency Appeal

"The Al-Ahi hospital continues to be in a grave situation. YN news said December 21st that patients are waiting to die unless they can get to a safer location. Due to the uncertainty of the hospital ability to offer medical services, PWRDF broadened its allocation of funds to include other needs in Gaza and the West Bank as identified by the Diocese of Jerusalem. The Diocese also oversees health facilities in the West Bank and in Jerusalem where needs have also intensified."

News from PWRDF monthly newsletters:

To keep up to date go to website pwrdf.org. Scroll to the bottom and subscribe to monthly newsletter. You will also see the search button to look for any other information about Gaza or countries or programs you are interested in.

Appeal for Gaza and West Bank

Pwrdf.org At top of the page you will see the Heading for the appeal **** to the right you will see View Details. When you click on this you get the form for donations. NOTE: when you click on any of the circles such as amount, donation etc. nothing happens but the computer has your information.

OTHER UPDATES

Ukraine—PWRDF continues to support Ukrainians with disabilities for winter. Praying with PWRDF occurs once (or twice) a month on Zoom. If you subscribe to the newsletter you will get the date each month and the link. If you are not able to attend at 10 AM on the date, a recording is emailed after the service.

World of Gifts keeps on giving all year. They now have an online catalogue. Google World of Gifts or go to pwrdf.org and click on World of Gifts.

Right Relations and Reconciliation

A new Superfriends children's book has been ordered. There is a Lenten resource that is now available, an email is sent for reflections daily.

Thank you to all who bought Christmas cards. \$467.00 was raised for PWRDF program.

Julie Foster, PWRDF Rep

Photo of Julie Foster with Rev. Clara when Julie received the Order of the Diocese of British Columbia at Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria, in October 2023!

Congratulations Julie!



ST. PAUL'S WOMEN'S GROUP

All women of the parish are invited to join the Women's Group which meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 1:00 pm, with the option of sharing a bag lunch at 12:30 pm. Some of the event plans underway include:

1. Serving at the funeral reception for Gerry Yeomans on February 1st
2. Being part of the new Kitchen clean-up matrix. Heather Lester is organizing a list of monthly tasks to keep our kitchen in tip top order. Members will be able to sign up in pairs to do specific tasks..
3. Proposing a Fashion Show by Fig Love Fashions, with appetizers, set for Saturday, April 13 from 1—3:00 pm. Watch for more info and tickets..
4. Possibly having a pancake lunch for the Parish on a Sunday in Lent.
5. Organizing a Games Afternoon after Church on March 3rd.

For more information, call coordinator: *Amy Fleming*

WEEKDAY MORNING PRAYER ON ZOOM

I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

I was no longer alone in a new city. I met Sandra Leigh on line with the Emmaus Community (Victoria) before I came to St. Paul's in October 2020.

At that time reservations were needed to attend Church (COVID) and Sandra ensured I was able to gather with all, the Sunday after Thanksgiving, a week after I arrived. I was also introduced and welcomed by the congregation who attend on line with Morning Prayer, as attending church closed the first Sunday of November that year.

The Morning Prayer group is a small, welcoming, dedicated group. (We have one member who joins us from Newfoundland every day). How wonderful to gather together to begin our day with praise and thanksgiving, gathering together our prayers with those of the church, and with those who have asked for prayer. Time is 8:30 am until 9:00 am., Monday to Friday. Come, all are welcome! Contact Julie Foster for the link.

LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP ON ZOOM

Two of the Lenten Resources available are the PWRDF Study on "Health and Well Being", and the Living Compass "Living Well Through Lent: Forgiveness." There will be a discussion group once a week during Lent, on Zoom, to discuss the week's readings of these two resources. Please watch the Bulletin insert and Friday File for time and dates.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Breaking Bread together Holy reading

This group meets each Wednesday noon to one o'clock in the St. John Room (by the office). Bring a bag lunch; coffee and tea are available. We open in prayer and then read the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday, listening for a word or phrase or question that comes to mind. After discussions, we read it a second time, thinking how it applies to our lives. Come and join us. Be nourished by the Word.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Contemplative Prayer "is nothing less than a close sharing between friends. It means taking time frequently to be alone with Him who loves us."

(St. Teresa of Avila)

Come join us. Tuesday 7 pm to 8 pm in the Church. Resting in God: prayer, Gospel reading, music: 20 minutes of silence. Be refreshed. Please come to the glass doors off the parking lot to be greeted. For more information, contact Julie Foster 250-527-3001.

FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

At the risk of repeating myself, I borrow from my report to the upcoming AVM in February. This year I will become a member of the Over Eighty Club along with Cassie (aka Casavant Op.1694) who joined the Club in 2022. We're both experiencing our respective age related complaints but determined to "carry on" as best we can.

A recent discussion of Hymn Selection brought out the desirability of PIANO leadership for certain types of congregational songs. As a result, the Kawai piano in the Nave is getting new hammers and an action tune-up which is expected to make a remarkable difference in its tone and playability. That work is expected to be completed by Feb.21. Cassie, despite her age and despite dead notes and short circuits, "carries on" amazingly — simply refusing to give in although total collapse could be sudden and unpredictable.

A project which has been slowly underway since last Summer needs a boost — VOLUNTEERS are welcome to help triage thousands of sheets of Choral Music so that they can be efficiently pulled and appropriately used. Triage is currently being done in the St. Luke Room but it is in the process of moving up into the Gallery — hopefully that will become a new permanent home for our Choral Library.

There is a huge canon of Lenten and Easter music which we'd like to consider but there's a Critical Mass of singers needed to pull it off. If you like to sing and can carry a tune (we'll provide the 'bucket') please consider joining us on Thursdays at 6:30 pm. Tenors and Sopranos particularly welcome!

And, of course, if there's anyone out there who'd like to make a lasting memorial, albeit a very substantial one, sometimes a replacement organ is the gift of a music loving single donor, or an Organ Fund gets revved up by the deposit of a substantial donation. The Organ Fund has been in existence for over 30 years but currently holds only about 15% of the money needed to fund Cassie's successor.

Soli Deo Gloria!

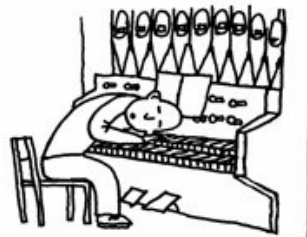
Freeman Dryden

THE LITURGICAL PAUSE

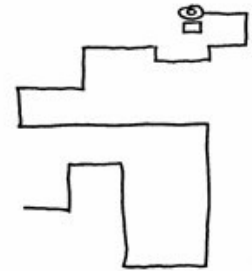
THIS IS ONE OF THE CENTRAL ELEMENTS OF A CHURCH SERVICE.
WE OBSERVE A LITURGICAL PAUSE AT THE FOLLOWING POINTS:



AT MOMENTS WHEN
PONDERING IS EXPECTED



WHEN THE ORGANIST
HASN'T COME IN



WHEN THE READER HAS
A PARTICULARLY GRUELLING
JOURNEY TO THE LECTERN



WHEN AN EASTER FIRE
OR ADVENT CANDLE
REFUSES TO LIGHT



WHEN NO-ONE WILL ADMIT TO
BEING THE PERSON DOWN
TO LEAD THE INTERCESSIONS



WHEN NOBODY HAS A
CLUE WHAT IS SUPPOSED
TO HAPPEN NEXT

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

	December 2023	Year to Date
Income	\$29853	\$290214
Expenses	<u>19346</u>	<u>376193</u>
TOTAL	\$10507	\$ (85979)

December was a very good month because we ended it with a modest profit of \$10,500.00. Our Income, Regular/Christmas offerings were both over forecast including all other operating income, which pushed our income to \$5K over forecast. The Expenses were well under the monthly budget by \$6K. This happened because Rev. Clara came off our expenses, resulting in payroll being under budget by \$6,646. It is interesting to note that the \$20,000.00 that we brought over from CIBC Wood Gundy earnings in October saved us from ending the year with a \$105,000.00 deficit. As this is my last report in the Contact, I would like to say that it has been my pleasure and honour to be your Treasurer for the last three years. I wish Susan well as she picks up the Treasurer's role in March.

Don Gillett

On Sunday, November 12th, we had a special lunch to say Farewell to our Rector Clara, as she left to assume Bishop duties in the Territory of the Peoples.

The Wardens put together a special "kit" consisting of a Purple HOB (House of Bishops) T-shirt, a purple boa for dress occasions, and a pair of reindeer glasses to be worn when preaching her Christmas sermon.

A good time was had by all.





FINAL NOTES

LENT & EASTER SERVICES AT ST. PAUL'S

ASH WEDNESDAY	February 14th	11:00 am
	Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes	
PALM SUNDAY	March 24th	
	8:00 am	BCP Eucharist
	10:30 am	BAS Eucharist
MAUNDY THURSDAY	March 28th	7:00 pm
	BAS Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar	
GOOD FRIDAY	March 29th	
	10:30 am	Solemn Good Friday Worship
EASTER SUNDAY	March 31st	
	8:00 am	BCP Eucharist
	10:30 am	BAS Eucharist

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Check out our website!
stpaulsnanaimo.ca



Join our email list!
Email:
admin@stpaulsnanaimo



ONGOING WORSHIP

Morning Prayer:
Monday-Friday 8:30 AM — Zoom
**excluding stat holidays*

11 AM Mid-Week Service—BCP
Wednesday — *in person only*

8 AM Holy Communion—BCP
Sundays — *in person only*

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—BAS
Sundays — *Livestream & in person*

After-Service Fellowship
Sunday after each service
socializing downstairs in the hall

We welcome you to join us !