Green Note October 27th, 2023: Good News!

Dear All,
1. We have some great news to share about greening the parish buildings.

• **Insulating the "Tiffany" windows**. The two "Tiffany" stained glass windows at the north end of the Sanctuary were originally part of the first St Hilda's church (dedicated in 1936), and were a gift from Major Harold Brown, on behalf of the Union Steamship Company, of which he was then general manager and later president. As you see in the photo below, the windows were oriented differently in the old church ("landscape" rather than "portrait"), and they were prominently situated on either side of the altar. When the old church was dismantled in the mid-1980s, they were saved and incorporated into the new building, a lovely reminder of the church's history. However, when Bruce Pond took some infrared photos of the church last winter it was clear that they leak heat. To help with the cost of insulating these windows, Bruce applied for a Climate Emergency Grant of $1,000 from the Diocese of New Westminster—our second application for such a grant (we acquired the rainwater tank with our first grant). We are delighted to say that the application has been successful, and Insta Glass is installing double-pane insulating windows outside the stained glass this week. Congratulations and thanks to Bruce for overseeing this project!

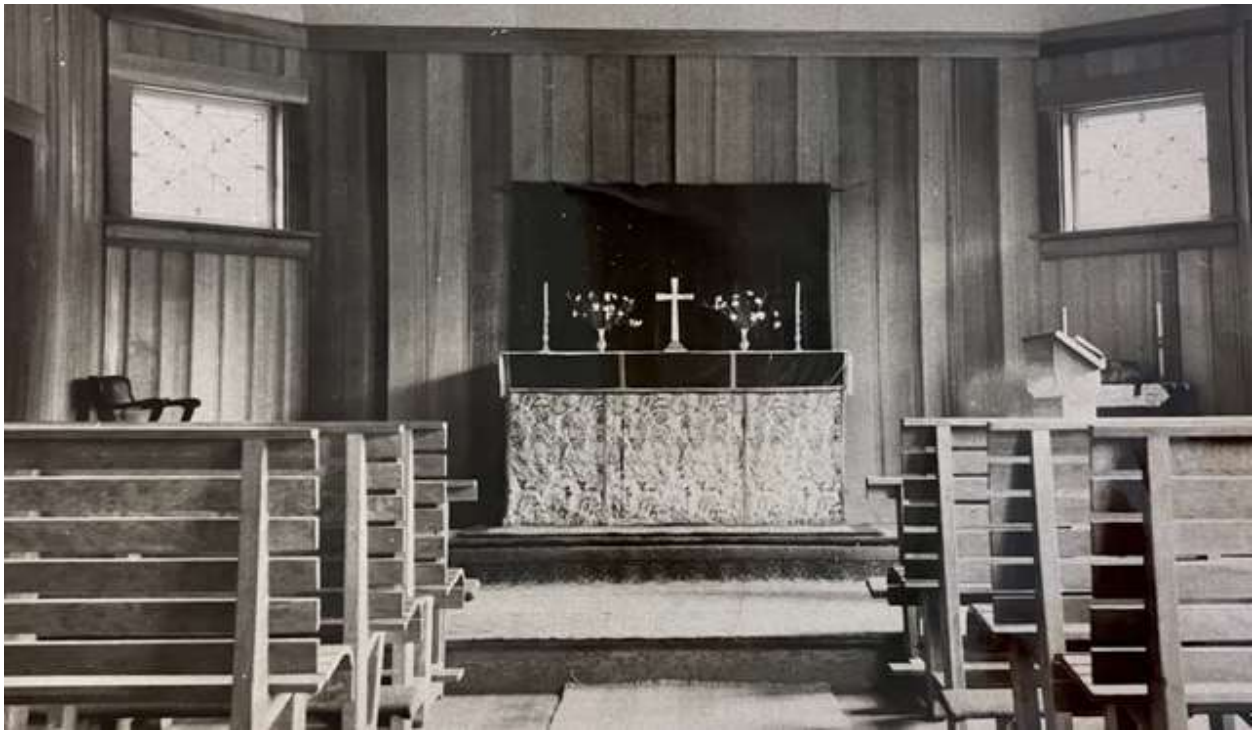
Photo by Helen McCall, n.d.

• Our second insulation story concerns the **roof of the Hall**. Janet McIntosh and Mike Starr have arranged with Solutions Based Contracting to blow loose fill fibreglass insulation into the roof of the Hall, which should raise the R value (a measure of how well the insulation can resist heat travelling through it) from about R8 to

R40. As a result, less of our high-priced heat will be flowing out to the wide world beyond, and we should feel warmer in the Hall this winter. The insulation may also help with the acoustics in the Hall. Many thanks to Janet and Mike for seeing this project through!

• Our final green buildings story concerns the **rainwater tank**. As a result of the recent heavy rainfall, the rainwater tank is full, and that water is now being used for toilet flushing. Last winter there was a problem, you may remember, when the sediment trap plugged up, resulting in frozen and burst pipes. This year we hope that maintenance of the sediment trap will prevent it from getting blocked will also prevent the pipes from freezing and breaking. Managing the tank is a learning process! We are very happy that it will be helping us conserve precious resources this winter, as well as in the summer.

2. For those following the **Sue Big Oil** (SBO) campaign we have some updates. You will probably remember that SBO aims to recover some of the costs of infrastructure damage due to extreme weather from the big oil companies that are currently earning huge profits from the high price of greenhouse-gas-producing fossil fuels. SBO's plan is to launch a class action suit funded by BC municipalities who agree to donate one dollar per resident to the legal fund paying for the law suit. Gibsons and View Royal have already signed up, and now Squamish has also joined. More information is available at the Sunshine Coast SBO webpage, https://www.scsbo.ca/squamish-council-takes-a-step-toward-joining-the-sue-big-oil-campaign/. Canada's parliament is also asking questions about the moral and legal responsibility of big oil companies to help mitigate damage and fund a transition to clean energy. See https://www.scsbo.ca/is-it-canadas-turn-to-hold-big-oil-accountable/.

3. **Mapping the Garden.** Now that the summer is really over, we are starting to work on this project again, prioritizing creating a guided walk for visitors to the grounds. I will say more in the next Green Note, so please watch out for updates on this.

Thank you for your love and concern for creation!

Christine