

CONNEXION



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Anglican Parish of Central Saanich

Number 56



St. Mary Church

1973 Cultra Avenue,
Saanichton, BC V8M 1L7



St. Stephen Church

7921 St. Stephen Road,
Saanichton, BC V8M 2C3

Check your email or the Parish Website for service updates and changes. As health restrictions relax, please practice protocols that make you feel comfortable.

Worship Services

Sundays

- 9:00 am Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays

- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist
(September-June)

Office: 250-652-1611

Email: stmarys.saanichton@shaw.ca

Web: www.ParishCS.ca

Worship Services

Sundays

- 11:15 am Holy Eucharist

Office: 250-652-4311

Email: admin@parishcs.ca

Web: www.ParishCS.ca

September 2025

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Incumbent: Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

Honourary Assistant: Bishop Logan McMenamie

Associated Clergy: The Ven. Bob Baillie,
The Rev. Dr. Brett Cane
Rev. Paul Schumacher

Deacon: The Rev. Gil Shoesmith



www.ParishCS.ca

Anglican Parish of Central Saanich

St. Mary Church

St. Stephen Church

Please check the church website and other electronic sources for updates over the next three months. The following are the events which are planned at this time.

- **The Summer Schedule of joint services has been extended for two more weeks.** The Sunday service on September 7 will be at St. Stephen at 10:00 a.m. and the Sunday service on September 14th will be at St. Mary at 10:00 am.

Regular Services

- **Sunday services** at St. Mary at 9:00 a.m. and Sunday services at St. Stephen at 11:15 a.m. resume starting September 21st.
 - Wednesday morning services at St. Mary begin on September 10th at 10:00 a.m. with a **Morning Prayer worship**.
 - Weekly Wednesday **Eucharist services** at St. Mary at 10:00a.m. begin on September 17th.
 - **Bible Study** will resume on Wednesday, October 1st at 10:45 a.m. following the Eucharist.
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- **Saturday, September 6th:** Celebration of Life Service for Mike Dyer at 2:00 p.m. at St. Stephen.
- **Saturday, September 20th:** A Fall Family Party for the communities of Saanichton and Brentwood Bay at St. Stephen's from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. rain or shine. Admission by donation. Bouncy castle, games and crafts for the kids, heritage tours and refreshments. See page 5 in this issue for further details.
- **Friday, September 26th:** St. Mary's Fall Feast Fundraiser at 5:30 p.m. \$25.00 Meal includes pulled pork, baked beans, salads and desserts. Gluten free and vegetarian options available. Please buy tickets before September 21st. See page 9 in this issue for further details.
- **Wednesday October 22nd at 7:00 p.m.:** 'Copenhagen and Danish Castles' Slide Show & Dessert Evening with Brett Cane at St Mary's Hall. Please bring a small dessert item for sharing.
- **Saturday November 22nd:** Holly Fair Sale at St. Mary from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please see future communications for further details.

We acknowledge that we gather to worship on the traditional lands of the WSÁNEĆ and Coast Salish peoples

The Parish of Central Saanich gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance provided by the District of Central Saanich by way of its Permissive Property Tax Exemption Program

From the Pastor's Pen

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego



Celtic Christianity, Iona and Year Eight begins!

Greetings everyone. By the time you read this, God willing, Marian and I will have already toured the Isle of Skye and been to the Island of Iona for a few days and spent time in the 12th Century Iona Abbey. I look forward to the opportunity for prayer and reflection.

What is Celtic Christianity all about and why do I find it tugs at my heart and grounds me in my faith? A great read on Celtic Spirituality is “Listening for the Heartbeat of God-A Celtic Spirituality” by J. Philip Newell.

At the core is John chapter 13, Verse 23: ***“One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining close to his heart”***. This disciple, believed by many to be John is so connected and so close to the living Christ that it defines and directs what is foundational to his and to our faith, love. To quote retired presiding bishop of the USA, Michael Curry in his eloquent language, ***“if it ain’t about love, it ain’t about God”***.



Abbey at Iona

Many alternatively use or have used the Matthew scripture from chapter 16, verse 18: “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.” This too is a beautiful piece of scripture. St. Augustine used it to justify his thinking that Christ built his church upon power handed from him to St. Peter who has transferred it down through the ages.

As Christians and Christianity has so often done, various ways of thinking were placed in adversarial positions. Things culminated and a Synod was called in Whitby in 664. It was ruled by King Oswiu that the date of Easter and the style of haircut (yes, believe it or not this was an issue), would be as per the Augustine teachings. This was the moment in history where the Irish Monks of Iona were no longer recognized as teaching an authentic faith, that of early Celtic Christianity. They never vanished but really went underground and Celts continued to worship and live as they had been doing for centuries.

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“I invite you to listen carefully for the heartbeat of God in your lives.”



Celtic Cross

The practices from the Abbey in Iona were raised up into more public acceptance and view in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. Celtic Christianity and Spirituality once again has risen and spread. This is a very abbreviated history. I feel nourished and connected to God when I visit Iona and the Abbey and when I enter that space in my mind and prayer life here at home. You experience Celtic influence in our music, prayers and worship.

One of the views that I hold as sacred is that God created us humans as inherently good and blessed. I only need to peer into the eyes of a baby or look at their little feet and hands to see it. A similar thing can be seen in cats, dogs, sheep, cattle and we are not so sure about mosquitoes but clearly in nature itself.

Look to a beautiful cloud formation, the ocean, or a blowing storm and we can see God in action. Just as the church has disclaimed the doctrine of Original Sin, when I baptize a baby, or child I see and speak only of God's Original Blessing. At some point in our lives, we find the messiness of sin and need to turn to God to walk with us through the dark valleys and out the other side, both daily and over the course of our lives.

As I begin year eight in the Parish of Central Saanich, I thank each of you for your deep and ongoing participation, stewardship of talents, time and treasures financial. I look to the rest of 2025 and into 2026 as a time of transition and growth. The revival of Christian faith around us and in our parish continues. The time for theological scarcity is behind us. Managing growth with God's help is the new plan. Let's do this together as a parish family.

I invite you to listen carefully for the heartbeat of God in your lives.

Lon+

Note: More questions on Celtic Faith? I have only skimmed the subject. You can speak to Logan McMenamie for more insight into the subject. We will have missed him and Marcia being with us on this trip.

St. Stephen Fall Family Party

You Are Cordially Invited to
A Fall Family Party
For the Communities of Saanichton & Brentwood Bay

Saturday, September 20th, 2025

11:00 am to 2:30 pm, rain or shine

St. Stephen Heritage Site

7921 St. Stephens Road, Saanichton



■ **Bouncy castle**

Sponsors: Kattia's Kitchen, Western Coast Insurance Services, Horizon Signs

■ **Fire truck**

Sponsor: Central Saanich Fire Department

■ **Games & crafts for kids**

Sponsors: Friends of St. Stephen Church

■ **Heritage Site guided walking tours**

11:30 am, 12:30 pm, 1:30 pm

■ **Adult historic trivia quiz**

■ **Hot dogs, chips, iced tea, coffee, tea & bottled water**

Sponsors: Brentwood Bakery, Fraser Orr's Butcher & Deli, Prairie Inn, Thrifty Foods

■ **First Aid volunteers**

Sponsor: St. John's Ambulance

Donations are gratefully accepted in the Memorial Hall and on the guided walking tours. All funds raised at the party will be used to restore the Church stained glass window.

Cane's Corner: If I get Dementia...

By the Rev. Dr. Brett Cane



In the light of not having any travels so far this year to report on due to my operation for lung cancer in January and subsequent chemotherapy treatment, I thought I would share an intriguing list posted by one of our parishioners on Facebook entitled, “If I get dementia...” which I found most helpful and thought it good to promote as widely as possible.

First, though, as an introduction I would like to share some teaching on the three kinds of language we use throughout our lives because it applies to how we relate to people with dementia. It comes from the great Bible commentator, Eugene Peterson, and I use it as part of the introduction whenever I give my Bible study series on the Psalms. He points out that in life, we learn and use three languages:

- **Language 1** is the language of intimacy and relationship. It is our primary language which is at first inarticulate speech - the coos and cries of a baby and its parents, which is rich in meaning but not very coherent. But they are ways of building up trust and relationship. It develops in adolescence and in courtship – teenagers can converse on the phone or over the internet for hours, but when the parent asks what they have just been talking about, the reply is, “Oh, nothing.” Then in old age, when you visit an aging loved one or friend and they tell you the same old story over and over again – don’t say, “Oh, I’ve heard that one before,” for the telling of the story is not primarily a means of conveying information but of building up and living out relationship.
- **Language 2** is the language of information. Here we have facts and names and everything which defines our objective environment. This is the major language of school and exploration.
- **Language 3** is the language of motivation. Here we use words which have the power to make things happen and get people to do things. An infant wails to bring food and a parental command stops a childish tantrum; we learn how to get people, who are often more intelligent and bigger than ourselves, to do things for us. This is the predominant language of politics and advertising.

In society, it is clear that we major on the latter two and minimize the first. We are the poorer for it because we allow the language of intimacy, the language that develops relationships of trust and hope and understanding, to languish. Petersen points out that this language is also the language of prayer – we use it to establish relationship and intimacy with God. As such, like a baby’s cooing or teenager’s telephone call or senior’s anecdote – it may often be repetitive or incoherent,

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poetic or exaggerated – such as in the Psalms. It is also the language we need to be using when engaging with people with dementia.

With that in mind, here is the list I found so helpful:

If I Get Dementia

If I get dementia, I'd like my family to hang this wish list up on the wall where I live. I want them to remember these things:

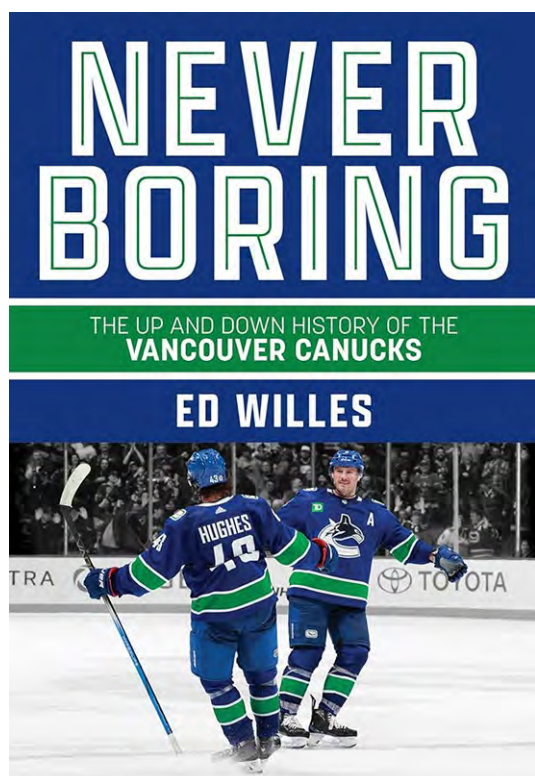
1. Every time you enter the room announce yourself. "Hi Mom- it's Margaret." – never ask, "Do you know who I am?" That causes anxiety.
2. If I get dementia, I want my friends and family to embrace my reality.
3. If I think my spouse is still alive, or if I think we're visiting my parents for dinner, let me believe those things. I'll be much happier for it.
4. If I get dementia, don't argue with me about what is true for me versus what is true for you.
5. If I get dementia, and I am not sure who you are, do not take it personally. My timeline is confusing to me.
6. If I get dementia, and can no longer use utensils, do not start feeding me. Instead, switch me to a finger-food diet, and see if I can still feed myself.
7. If I get dementia, and I am sad or anxious, hold my hand and listen. Do not tell me that my feelings are unfounded.
8. If I get dementia, I don't want to be treated like a child. Talk to me like the adult that I am.
9. If I get dementia, I still want to enjoy the things that I've always enjoyed. Help me find a way to exercise, read, and visit with friends.
10. If I get dementia, ask me to tell you a story from my past.
11. If I get dementia, and I become agitated, take the time to figure out what is bothering me.
12. If I get dementia, treat me the way that you would want to be treated.
13. If I get dementia, make sure that there are plenty of snacks for me in the house. Even now if I don't eat I get angry, and if I have dementia, I may have trouble explaining what I need.
14. If I get dementia, don't talk about me as if I'm not in the room.
15. If I get dementia, don't feel guilty if you cannot care for me 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It's not your fault, and you've done your best. Find someone who can help you, or choose a great new place for me to live.
16. If I get dementia, and I live in a dementia care community, please visit me often.

“*...treat me
the way
that you
would
want to be
treated.*”

17. If I get dementia, don't act frustrated if I mix up names, events, or places. Take a deep breath. It's not my fault.
18. If I get dementia, make sure I always have my favorite music playing within earshot.
19. If I get dementia, and I like to pick up items and carry them around, help me return those items to their original place.
20. If I get dementia, don't exclude me from parties and family gatherings.
21. If I get dementia, know that I still like receiving hugs or handshakes.
22. If I get dementia, remember that I am still the person you know and love."

Book Review: *Never Boring - The Up and Down History of the Vancouver Canucks* By Ed Willes

Review by Leslie Pedlow



"Faith means believing in advance what only makes sense in reverse." (Philip Yancey)

With apologies to our friend, the Rev. Dr. Brett Cane, for stealing his quote!

Like a congregation of faithful Canucks fans who are always on the bandwagon, win or lose, this quote reflects the unending hope that one day the Stanley Cup will be brought to B.C. It's not something an Edmonton Oilers fan can relate to but possibly a Toronto Maple Leaf's lifer?

This entertaining book is written by Sports Journalist, Ed Willes, who has over 40 years of experience as a reporter and analyst. He gives a concise, often humorous inside look at the Vancouver Canucks from their inception through the 2023-24 season, including the good, the bad and, more often than not, the ugly! It reads like a good novel with intrigue, plot twists and unexpected turnabouts. It contains glimpses of the history and inner workings of not only the Canucks through ownership, management and other personnel and players but also the maneuvering of the NHL, municipal and provincial entities.

For those, like me, who particularly enjoy going down the rabbit hole, the title of each Chapter begins with "What if"!

The Refundable Recycling Program for the Parish

By Ken Pedlow

As a number of parishioners know, the Parish of Central Saanich has a refundable recycling program which raises funds for projects in the parish. The items which are included in this program are beverage containers for which a deposit has been paid at the time of purchase. This comprises glass, plastic and metal beverage containers (both alcohol and non-alcohol) and cartons. Items not included are milk products greater than 3%. The program operates differently in each of the two churches. Below are the details of how each is undertaken.



At St. Mary, the items are brought to the church, and they are collected by me, sorted at home and taken into the Return-It Depot in Sidney in batches. Over the last three years, over \$600 per year has been raised and all of these funds have been allocated in support of our \$1,000 annual scholarship for Indigenous students at Stelly's Secondary School.

At St. Stephen parishioners may return their bottles directly to any Return-It Bottle Depot and give them the church number, which is 213, in order for their refund to go to the church account. Or bring beverage containers to the church. This money has been going to help recoup the cost of the work to repair the stained-glass window in the church. The intention is to continue to build the Church Restoration Fund back to where it was prior to the work being done.

We offer our thanks to all those who have already made use of these stewardship opportunities and encourage as many parishioners as possible to participate in this activity if they find this an environmentally responsible and financially beneficial way to support various parish initiatives.

Fall Feast Fundraiser

Join us for pulled pork, buns, coleslaw, potato salad, baked beans and fruit and light desserts. Gluten-free and vegetarian options available.

Date: **September 26**
Time: **5:30pm**
Location: **Cooper Hall at St. Mary**
Adult: **\$25**
Child under 12: **\$10**
Tickets available until September 21 from
St. Mary's office, Monday-Thursday,
9:00am-1:00pm or
call 250-889-4461



Recipe Page: Applesauce Cake

Submitted by Nancy Choat

I have a copy of The Laura Secord Canadian Cookbook, produced in 1966! I found this recipe for Applesauce Cake, officially called Rougemont Apple Sauce cake, Rougemont being located east of Montreal. This cake has a delightful spicy flavour. You may consider making an extra one or two and freezing them for the Holly Fair Bake Sale table.



- Preheat the oven to 350F.
- Grease a 9-inch square cake pan or loaf pan.
- Line the bottom with parchment paper or dust lightly with flour.

Sift together:

- 1-3/4 cups of all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1-1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp ground cloves
- 1 tsp allspice

Cream:

- 1/2 cup shortening

Blend in, beating until light and fluffy:

- 1 cup of lightly packed brown sugar

Beat in:

- 2 eggs
- 1/2 tsp vanilla

Stir dry ingredients into creamed mixture alternately with:

- 1 cup sweetened applesauce, combined lightly after each addition, making 3 dry and 2 liquid additions.

Turn into prepared pan:

- Bake for 40 to 45 minutes until cake springs back when lightly touched. Let cool 10 minutes before turning out onto a rack to finish cooling.

Who's Who in the Pew? *or guess who is sitting in the pew next to you ...*

By Marcia McMenamie

The following is a new column for ConneXion. In each issue Marcia will provide information about one of our parishioners and in the following issue she will tell you who it was if you haven't already figured it out. Thanks, Marcia for this new contribution to the newsletter!

1. **Place born?** *I was born in Lactate, Quebec.*
2. **Your favourite childhood memory?** *My grandmother's visits and us playing the piano together.*
3. **Your proudest achievement?** *Each of my children.*
4. **Your favourite colour?** *Blue.*
5. **What is your current passion?** *Crafting using mediums that are new to me. e.g. water colour painting.*
6. **What is something that few people know about you?** *I used to love racing go carts.*
7. **What is your favourite hymn?** *"To God be the Glory."*

Identity to be revealed in the December ConneXion.

Puddleglum and Pascal – Faith and Belief

By Greg Robinson

I would like to begin by saying that these are my personal understandings of the Christian faith and there will be those who might see things differently.



Puddleglum is a marsh wiggler. We don't hear or see marsh wiggles often, largely because they are fictional. The only written record we have of them is in CS Lewis' Narnia series, and specifically in "The Silver Chair." In that story Puddleglum is trapped in the underworld along with Jill and Eustace. The witch, or the ruler of the underworld, has been skillfully weaving a web of lies to Jill, Eustace and Puddleglum. She tells them that the overworld, which is Narnia, doesn't exist, and that neither does Aslan, the Christ figure in the Narnia tales. After hearing what she has to say Puddleglum responds with this:

"Suppose we have only dreamed, or made up, all those things-trees and grass and sun and moon and stars and Aslan himself. Suppose we have. Then all I can say is that, in that case, the made-up things seem a good deal more important than the real ones. Suppose this black pit of a kingdom of yours is the only world. Well, it strikes me as a pretty poor one. And that's a funny thing, when you come to think of it. We're just babies making up a game, if you're right. But four babies playing a game can make a play-world which licks your real world hollow. That's why I'm going to stand by the play world. I'm on Aslan's side even if there isn't any Aslan to lead it. I'm going to live as like a Narnian as I can even if there isn't any Narnia."

I think of Puddleglum's statement as a wonderful example of how our Christian faith should be held in our lives, which is not to say that Jesus and His resurrection aren't immeasurably important. The point is simply that it is a belief, and as Christians we are called to live by faith in that belief.

I want to contrast that with a famous quote by Blais Pascal, a French mathematician, philosopher and theologian who was arguably the greatest mind of the 17th century. In his book *Pensées* he wrote the following which has become famously known as Pascal's wager.

"Belief is a wise wager. Granted that faith cannot be proved, what harm will come to you if you gamble on its truth and it proves false? If you gain, you gain all; if you lose, you lose nothing. Wager, then, without hesitation, that He exists."

To paraphrase, he is simply saying that you should hold the Christian faith because if it is true you can gain a life of eternal joy but if you lose you have lost very little."

Incidentally Pascal also wrote that *"If I had more time, I would write a shorter letter."* I will try to keep that in mind."

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Puddleglum and Pascal – Faith and Belief *continued*

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets”

I suggest that a message similar to this is what we have been hearing from some Christians over the last few centuries, (although I see this as being less and less the case). Some have tried to scare people into accepting Christianity by selling it as a way of escaping hell. Others have at least taken a more positive approach by suggesting that if you sign on to Christianity there is a great next world in store for you. That makes it, in my view, not about our neighbour, but about ourselves, and turn Christ’s message on its ear.

In fairness to Pascal, his statement is not about trying to convince atheists to believe, but it’s a statement which he then goes on to dispute to say that religious belief, or lack of belief, cannot be conclusively proven one way or the other and that religious faith has to be gained through other means. Pascal later writes that, “we know the truth, not only by the reason, but also by the heart.”

However, I’ll use “Pascal’s Wager” as it stands to outline how I contend we should understand the terms belief and faith.

I contend that we too often use the term “believe” in Jesus to mean giving intellectual assent. When we say that we believe in Jesus, the Biblical message is not that we simply believe that He lived, died and was resurrected. What we should mean is much more than that. I believe those things to be true, but more importantly I am saying that I have faith in and trust in His message. So, when we read John 3:16 we read about those that believe in Him, we should understand that not only do we believe in His existence and that He is part of the Trinity, but that we have faith and trust in His call of love on our lives.

Matthew, (vs.7:12), quotes Jesus saying: “*So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*” That isn’t a statement of giving intellectual assent, but a statement that goes beyond head knowledge and is about knowing and trusting the message of Jesus in our hearts.

Here is a quote from St. Augustine: “*So, our faith has to be distinguished from the faith of the demons. Our faith, you see, purifies the heart, their faith makes them guilty. They act wickedly, and so they say to the Lord, “What have you to do with us?” When you hear the demons saying this, do you imagine they don’t recognize him? “We know who you are,” they say. “You are the Son of God” (Lk 4:34). Peter says this and he is praised for it; 14 the demon says it, and is condemned. Why is that, if not because the words may be the same, but the heart is very different? So let us distinguish our faith, and see that believing, as in giving intellectual assent, is not enough. That’s not the sort of faith that purifies the heart*”.

Aristotle in the 4th century before Christ said that, “*Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.*”

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Puddleglum and Pascal – Faith and Belief *continued*

“Jesus
taught us
to pray
for God’s
Kingdom
to come
on Earth
as in
Heaven”

What I have tried to show here is what is often translated in the Bible as “belief” is actually clearly not just about intellectual assent, but about faith and trust. Also, of course Christians should understand and be grateful for the faith and courage that Jesus showed by going into Jerusalem, knowing what the corrupt Temple authorities and the Romans did to those who stood up to them.

I’d like to get back to CS Lewis’ Puddleglum and his statement of faith in that which he cannot know. So, the question then is why should I base my life on a belief that I cannot have absolute evidence for? Why do I believe that God as seen in Jesus loves me and cares about my heart beliefs, and that He cares about the way I live my life? Why do I believe that He loves all life and even all of creation? Why do I, (like Puddleglum believing in Narnia), believe in a world that ultimately is eternal, not subject to decay and is free from suffering? Why believe that when I live in a world that is often a very dark place, and where everyone has times where they suffer, and where death seems to be the ultimate destiny of all life?

I started this off with a quote from CS Lewis’ “the Silver Chair”. I want to requote that statement by Puddleglum the Marsh Wiggle, but I want to re-write it in the context of what I have written about here.

“Suppose we have only dreamed, or made up, all those things- love, peace, true joy without suffering and God as understood through Jesus. Suppose we have. Then all I can say is that, in that case, the made-up things seem a good deal more important than the real ones. Suppose this black pit that this world can often be is the only world. Well, it strikes me that sometimes it is pretty poor one. And that’s a funny thing, when you come to think of it. We’re just babies making up a game, if this is all there is and there’s nothing more, and nothing to be done about it. But four babies playing a game can make a play-world which licks this world hollow. That’s why I’m going to stand by the play-world. I’m on God’s side even if there isn’t any God or Jesus to lead it. I’m going to live as like a Christian as I can, even if there is no point to life, and no “renewed creation to come.”

Jesus taught us to pray for God’s Kingdom to come on Earth as in Heaven. God calls us to be the agents to make that happen in the here and now. We do that by spreading His unconditional love into this world, in anticipation of the time when God will fully complete the task. When, as Paul tells us in Ephesians 1, that all things on Earth and In Heaven will be summed up in Christ. That is the ultimate call on our lives that leads to a fulfilled life in this world and the next.

Around the Parish

by Ken Pedlow

Here are some of the significant events of the past three summer months in the parish.



Nancy Jackson (centre) at her 90th birthday

On June 13th, **Nancy Jackson** celebrated her 99th birthday at her residence at Amica on the Gorge. In attendance were **Lon Towstego, Irene Feir** and **Nancy Finlay** among others. Nancy J. has been a very long-time member of St. Mary's and by all indications thoroughly enjoyed her birthday celebration. Congratulations and the 100th is next.

On June 19th, the St. Mary's choir, family and friends were invited for a lovely potluck lunch at the home of **Joanne Lambert**. All in attendance enjoyed the hospitality of the Lambert family and it was a fitting way to wrap up the season for the choir members as they have a well-earned break over the summer. We look forward to their return in September.

Also on June 19th, the retired RCMP group had a barbecue lunch on the grounds of St. Stephen's. Our Rector, **Lon**, is the chaplain for the group and was in attendance for the event. **Maria King** gave those who were interested a nice tour of the church.

On June 22nd, The Indigenous Day of Prayer Sunday services saw **Ken Pedlow** and **Gary Moss** share duties leading Morning Prayer worship at both churches. Our incumbent, The **Ven. Dr Lon Towstego**, was in London, Ontario as a delegate for our Diocese to General Synod. This Synod saw the election of **Archbishop Shane Parker** as the new Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.

June also saw the completion of a new set of concrete steps and side railings for the entrance to the church at St. Stephen's. This improvement provides for a safer and more accessible access to the historic building. Thanks to the wardens, contractors and others who saw this project through to completion.

The months of July and August have seen our summer service schedule of one 10:00 combined worship alternating each week between St. Stephen and St. Mary. This has provided those who have availed themselves of this opportunity the experience of a larger congregation, an expanded repertoire of musical styles and a chance to build stronger bonds between the two church groups. The one disappointment was that the move of **Gary Moss** to St. John the Divine in Victoria, as part



St. Mary's choir



The new steps at St. Stephen's

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Around the Parish *continued*

of his postulancy training, precluded holding two of the planned services at St. Stephen outdoors.

During the course of these joint services, **Marcia McMenamie** has spearheaded the St. Mary's Market table at coffee time and **Don Wilson** has done the same at St. Stephen's. This is an opportunity for parishioners to buy and sell a variety of products during the Parish fellowship time. Thanks to both for initiating and overseeing these activities.

The weekend of August 22-25 saw the annual Island Star Party, sponsored by the Victoria Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, held on the grounds of St. Stephen. The weather was ideal, and the event was a success for all who attended.

On a sad note, we report on the passing of **Michael Dyer** on July 8th. **Mike** and **Josie** were long-time members of St. Stephen and Mike served for many years as a Lay Reader among many other activities in support of this church. His Celebration of Life will be held at St. Stephen's on September 6th at 2:00 p.m.

On another sad note we report the passing of **Ronald Heaps** on July 7th. Ron's wife **Marie** has been a long-time member of St. Mary's and a recent attender of our Wednesday morning services. Ron's Celebration of Life was a small family service on July 18th at St. Mary.

A third sad note was about the passing of **Brett Cane's** sister **Melanie** on July 31st. The funeral will be held in Quebec on September 21st.

Our prayers go out to the family and friends of all three of the individuals above.

Ian Stuart continues to deal with significant medical challenges at this time, and our thoughts and prayers go out to him, **Jill** and the rest of the family at this very difficult moment.

A number of our associated clergy have been dealing with medical issues over the past while and we are pleased to report that **Brett, Logan** and **Paul** are all at this time on the road to recovery. Our prayers continue for each of them.



Mike Dyer



Brett at the conclusion of his cancer treatment

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Around the Parish *continued*



Melanie Ihmels and Richard Routledge

In other more positive news, we are very pleased to welcome **Melanie Ihmels** and **Richard Routledge** to the parish. Melanie is a minister with the United Church of Canada who is considering ordination in the Anglican Church. Richard is a Seminarian/Postulant, like Gary Moss was before he was approved to be a Postulant of the Diocese. Both have been taking on roles in the worship life of the parish as part of their training. It is wonderful to have their assistance with our services and a delight to get to know them as new members of the congregation. We hope that your time with us will be fruitful and that we will also learn from you.

Finally, congratulations to **Jordin Harry** and **Sienna Campo** the recipients of the St Mary and Lily Shields bursaries for Indigenous students at Stelly's Secondary School. The \$1,000 bursaries were presented at the school awards ceremony on June 25th.

Anglican Parish of Central Saanich Directory

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego 250-208-9949 ltowstego@bc.anglican.ca

Parish Council: Ex Officio

Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

Rev. Gil Shoesmith

Rector's Wardens: St. Mary
St. Stephen

Ken Pedlow, ken.pedlow@shaw.ca
Robert (Bob) Buchanan, rjbuchanan6201@gmail.com

People's Wardens: St. Mary
St. Stephen

Vacant
Maria King, rociok@shaw.ca

Members: St. Mary
St. Stephen

Lynn Fallan , Becky Lowe, Marcia McMenamie
Lynda Clifford, Terry Hartley

Youth Representative:

Jacob Shoesmith

Synod Delegates: St. Mary
St. Stephen

Karen McColm, Ken Pedlow, (alt)
Don Wilson

Parish Treasurer:

Lynn Schumacher

Leslie Pedlow is primarily at the St Mary's office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm.

At the St. Stephen Church office, **Lon Towstego** will be in the office on Fridays from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon.

Please call or email your respective office for the most up-to-date information on their availability and access to the office.