

Rector's Wardens of St. John the Baptist

- Peter Holmes, 1987 - 1991
- Robert Weston, 1991 - 1995
- Alex Brown, 1995 - 1996
- Bryce Page, 1996
- Newcomb Bloomer, 1996 - 2000
- Ken Conrad, 2000 - 2005
- Adrian Rees, 2005 - 2010
- Jim McBride, 2010
- Ken Norton, 2010 -

People's Wardens of St. John the Baptist

- Charles Phillips, 1986 - 1991
- Carol Smith, 1991 - 1996
- Mary Jickling, 1996 - 2000
- Barb Norton, 2000 - 2005
- Lorraine King, 2005- 2007
- Janet Power, 2007 - 2010
- Tony Turner, 2010 -2011
- Jean Van Dyk, 2011 -

Treasurer, St. John the Baptist

- Robert Weston, 1987 - 1990
- Robert Nicholson, 1990 - 1991
- Peter Owen, 1991 - 1994

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Who's Who, 1988 – 2012

Bishops of Diocese of British Columbia

The Rt. Rev. Ronald Shepherd, 1984 – 1992

The Rt. Rev. Barry Jenks, 1992 – 2003

The Rt. Rev. James Cowan, 2003 -

Rectors of St. John the Baptist

The Rev. Barry Wyckham, 1986 – 1996

The Rev. Canon Bill Morrison, Interim, 1997

The Rev. Scott Pittendrigh and

The Rev. Susan Pittendrigh,

Co-Rectors, 1998- 2001

The Rev. Deborah van der Goes, Interim, 2001

The Rev. Scott Pittendrigh, 2001 - 2012

Associate Priests of St. John the Baptist

The Rev. David Peterson, 2005 - 2011

Honorary Priests of St. John the Baptist

The Rev. Lou Thornton

The Rev. Dr. David Rolfe

The Rev. Michael Piddington

The Rev. Canon Horace McClelland

The Most Rev. Andrew Hutchison



*An In-Between Place as we
Hope for the Future:*

*Greetings and Remembrances
from the Rector*



As I write this, I realize that both you and I are in a similar place – a place which theologians call “liminal space.” “Liminal” is from the Latin word *limen* which means *threshold*. At the end of this 25 year period – a period ably laid out for us to read in this excellent booklet covering the historical highlights of the past quarter century – we both stand at the threshold of a new beginning – I am about to bid you farewell and enter a new and unfamiliar ministry and you are about embrace an unknown future with hope and excitement. We both seem to be in this “in-between” place.

The threshold in our lives is “the room in-between.” It is uncomfortable at times because it is so uncertain, but it is a place where tremendous growth occurs. In liminal space we let go of our certainties and our need to always be in control. We enter into a time of “not knowing” – a time when we listen more than we speak. It is a time of discernment. And because this feels so uncomfortable we are often tempted to do

one of two things: run back to the past and “the way we have always done things,” or push too quickly into the future, making decisions in haste that might not be wise or prudent.

This booklet not only describes the various activities, projects and personalities that have made St. John’s a family of faith for the last 25 years, but it points to the strengths and qualities that will ensure that this parish continues to flourish in the years to come. As I read through this booklet I found myself laughing, crying and fondly remembering the blessings that I have received in my time with you as your Rector. I am certain that it will delight and warm your hearts as well as you read through its pages. I am very grateful that I was able to spend fourteen of these last twenty-five years with you and I will hold you in my prayers as you move beyond this important threshold into your future. The generosity, kindness, dedication and faith of the people of St. John’s will carry you into the next 25 years, as you welcome a new Rector, new parishioners, new ideas, projects and commitments.

I sincerely thank *Sandy Austin* and *Ken Norton* for their hard work in creating this booklet, and commend it to

community served by St. John’s has changed significantly. It has moved from being primarily a rural, agricultural community to one serving as a bedroom community for many whose lives are shared between the Cowichan Valley and the larger centres on Southern Vancouver Island. The valley is also home to a number of retirees, many of whom spend only part of the year in the community between trips to warmer climates.

A significant number of the present congregation are seniors with few younger families being regular worshippers, thus the directions taken over the next few years to “grow the congregation” will be critical. It will be essential for the church to reach out to the broader community and serve as a spiritual centre which meets the needs of a generation with very different expectations of organized religion than has been the case with the older, long term families in the Cowichan Valley.

How the parish will re-shape itself to meet the changing demographics will be the basis of discussions and decision making during the first years of the next quarter century.

Introduction

The first one hundred years of the Anglican Church of St. John the Baptist is well described in a publication written and published in 1988 to celebrate the Church's centenary year. It was entitled "One Hundred Years - 1887-1987", and was ably compiled by Marion Ovans, Janet Farris, Peter Waldin and Charles Phillips.

We have now moved into the second century in the life of our church, and on June 24, 2012 we celebrated 125 years of a committed Christian community within the South Cowichan area. With this milestone, this book covers 1988 – 2012, twenty-five years of growth and change, challenges and triumphs. It chronicles the distinctive spirit that is St. John's.

soon after its appearance in June 2011, and what follows is a partial excerpt from the notices:



St. Andrew's altar after its placement at St. John the Baptist

"One is glad that the altar from St. Andrew's is again being given life (here at St. John's). It hearkens back to our close relationship with St. Andrew's over many years and is, in itself, historical with roots back to the very beginning of St. Andrew's in 1906.

The altar was given by Thomas Dutton in the seventies in memory of his wife Fran, and was carved locally by John Rodd, one of three brothers living on south Vancouver Island who were into ship building. It cost at the time \$420. Thomas wanted the gift to be anonymous but the news soon got out."

The Future

What does the future hold?

It is significant that over the last quarter century the leadership of St. John's has been under the continuing ministry of but two clergy - Rev. Barry Wyckham (1986- 1996) and the Rev. Scott Pittendrigh (1998 - 2012). In addition, Rev. Canon Bill Morrison served as Interim priest during 1997 and Rev. Susan Pittendrigh as co-rector during 1998 - 2001. Interim ministry was also provided by Rev. Deborah van der Goes and Rev. Canon John Williams, both during 2001.

Rev. David Peterson contributed significantly to parish life over a period of six years supporting children's and youth ministries and serving as Priest Assistant.

The end of Rev. Pittendrigh's incumbency will coincide with the end of this quarter century at St. John's and thus the parish will begin its next twenty five year period with undertaking a search for a new incumbent. The Rev. Philip Wadham will serve as Interim to guide the parish through this beginning of its next quarter century.

During this last twenty-five years the

your reading enjoyment. And may God continue to bless us all.

*Let us build the City of God
May our tears be turned into dancing
For the Lord, our Light and our Love
Has turned the night into day...*

(From the hymn City of God by Dan Schutte)

May God's peace and blessings be with you

The Rev. Scott Pittendrigh
Rector: 1998-2012



St. John's 125th Anniversary Parish Photo

altar steps. 40% also wanted some change to the arrangement and type of seating in the worship area.

In accordance with the above results, two experiments were conducted in Lent 2010 and in Lent 2011. The altar was brought down onto the dais for the five Sundays in Lent 2010, providing a new way for us to conduct the Eucharist for a short period of time. In a follow-up questionnaire to measure reaction to the Lenten changes, the majority of respondents favoured moving the altar forward onto the dais. In addition, a significant percentage indicated that they wished to have the option to kneel during communion and to have an altar rail. The Lenten 2011 experiment was similar to that for 2010; however, the front pew was removed to facilitate people gathering at the step of the dais for communion. The reaction to this second experiment was positive, and the altar has remained on the dais since that time. Discussions are still ongoing regarding the reconfiguration of the former sanctuary, the steps leading up to it, and installation of an altar rail. Financial considerations in the Parish have slowed this process considerably.

Altar

An event of great significance in the life of St. John's is the arrival of the altar from St. Andrew's, Cowichan Station. Our wardens requested the transfer of the altar to St. John's after the closure of St. Andrew's. Jenny Balme sets out a brief history of the altar in the weekly notices,

125 Years of St. John's

Our Beginnings

Founded in 1887, this newly-created parish was rural and family-oriented and became known as St. John the Baptist, Cobble Hill. The parish boundaries extended from the coast in the east to the west shore of Shawnigan Lake and from Cousins Hill in the south to Bench Road in the north. John Nightingale donated the land, and was the moving force behind the construction of a church building, completed in 1889. He conducted services as the lay reader for the next 20 years.



John Nightingale

The first ordained priest was the Rev. Frederick G. Christmas, known affectionately as "Father Christmas". He arrived in 1907.

Our Relationships

In 1910 St. John's became affiliated with All Saints, Shawnigan Lake and this, through a succession of rectors, continued until 1965 when St. John's became separate from All Saint's, with each parish having their own resident priest. A memorial of this relationship is the cement font which sits at the entrance to the Church grounds at the front. This font came to us after All Saints closed and the building was sold.



All Saints Font

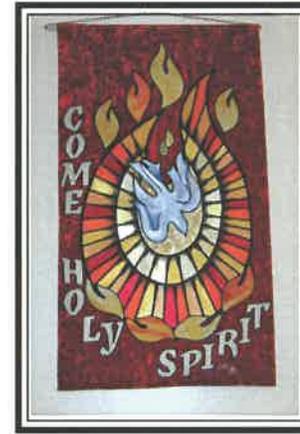
In 1979, St. John's was amalgamated with St. Andrew's, Cowichan Station after the clergy position at St. Andrew's became vacant. The



Rev. Lou Thornton

Rev. Lou C. Thornton was the rector of this two-point parish from 1979-1981; however, a formal relationship between the two parishes continued until 1988 when they were separated. A memorial of this relationship has come to us in 2011, following the closure of St. Andrews, in the form of the St. Andrew's altar.

Carved locally by John Rodd, it now graces our dais. And to quote Jenny Balme in an article she inserted in the June 2011 weekly notices about the altar, it "is again being given life" (here at St. John's).



from a Vancouver distributor by Faye and Velma. Faye and Velma donated the time it took them to make all of the banners and vestments in exchange for a tax receipt. And so, the only cost was that for the materials, for a total of \$3,300! Plans are for the Memorial book to record the list of the sponsored items, the names of the sponsors, and the intention for their gift.

Reconfiguration of the Worship Space

In August 2009, a committee called Buildings for Ministry was established with a mandate from Parish Council to "consider how we configure our worship space that best reflects our liturgy and our theology".

Initially, the Committee conducted a survey of the congregation in December 2009 to gauge what each parishioner liked about the current worship space, and what they would like to see changed. The results were tabulated, there was an excellent representation from each of the services, and it was very encouraging to learn that there were no deep seated dissatisfactions. In terms of what parishioners liked about the current worship space, overwhelmingly the response was the warmth and welcoming atmosphere and the country feel. In terms of changes, 50% of the respondents wished to bring the altar down onto the dais or raised platform below the

later evolved to a one-day community fair with multiple venues offering food, books, clothing, treasures and a silent auction. It is the one day of the year that St. John's is on display to the Cowichan Valley and surrounding areas – and the community comes! And St. John's gives back a percentage of the proceeds each year to local charities and beyond.

Community outreach, near and far, defines the spirit of the St. John's people. Because of this spirit of giving, Christmas and Easter offerings are completely devoted to outreach programs supporting the needs of local, regional, national and international organizations. This parish has been a strong supporter behind the development and operation of the Cobble Hill/Mill Bay/Shawnigan Lake (CMS) Food Bank and for several years volunteers worked cooperatively with other parishes to operate the G.I.F.T.S. fair trade store in the pre-Christmas periods. We have a dedicated Outreach Committee. As well, many of our Church committees, as well as individual parishioners, are or have been involved in outreach activities.

Our Church Campus

By the early 1930's the congregation was on solid footing and growing slowly, but the church building itself was now nearly 50 years old. A heavy snowfall in the winter of 1937 rendered the building unsafe due to severe damage to the roof and one wall. However, through fund raising efforts and use of their

stitched by Susan and June Tillinghast. The July 2001 issue of *Parish the Thought!* mentions that *"Of particular interest is the reflection of Christ in the water as the material came from our Companion Province of Myanmar in Burma"*.

The green liturgical banner "Taken, Blessed, Broken and Given" with the communion symbols of the communion



St. John's Patronal Banner



The Communion Banner

bread, cup, wheat and grapes, was designed and made by Faye Muscoby for Scott Pittendrigh and Sarah Donnelly as a wedding present. Scott and Sarah decided, instead of hanging it in their home, to share it with St. John's, and so this beautiful banner is on loan to us. As described in the Advent/Christmas issue of *Parish the Thought!*:

"The chalice you see in this banner, is the same one we use here every time we celebrate the Eucharist at St. John's (it was designed from a photo of our chalice). The wheat and grapes speak of the transformation (by human hands) into bread and wine, just as they speak of the prayer during the celebration of the Eucharist that God will send the Holy Spirit upon them "that

they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant" (B.A.S., Eucharistic Prayer #3).

The letters that these symbols are laid over are the two Greek letters. They are not the "X" and "P" of our alphabet, but the letters "Chi" and "Rho" which are the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ (ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ), so it is a monogram for Christ."

And so, with the two Greek letters, there is a connection to the same letters in the centre of the processional cross described above.



New hanging for the lecturn

And finally, there was a project initiated in 2005 by Sarah Donnelly which came to fruition in 2009 with the commissioning of liturgical banners and vestments for all the seasons of the church year except for Advent. These replaced a set of seasonal banners that had been prepared by Sunday School families in 1996. All items were sponsored

by members of the congregation. The liturgical banners – the wall and lectern hangings and the altar frontals were made by Faye Muscoby (from Calgary and a friend of Scott and Sarah's). Velma Krott of Okotoks, AB, a friend of Faye's, made the vestments, stoles and burse/veil set. The vestment fabric is high quality wool specially ordered

The parish members have developed and maintained a close relationship with Camp Columbia through the years as well as the Sorrento Retreat and Conference Centre in the interior of the province.

In March 2002, discussions were initiated with Sylvan United Church towards considering a cooperative venture which would involve the contribution of property on the St. John's site and financial contributions from Sylvan to develop a single facility which would meet the needs of both congregations. Following a year of discussions and the preparation of draft plans for the joint facility, St. John's decided not to move ahead with the project. A relationship with Sylvan United, however, has been maintained and has also been fostered and celebrated annually in September with a softball game affectionately called the World Series of Church Baseball.

The Spirit of Our People

We, at St. John's, are a people known for our dedication and perseverance to ensure that this parish church not only survives but flourishes. It is the spirit of the people of St. John's that has made this so with their financial gifts and their labours of love.

The September Festival has become a well-loved and well-attended community event for some 27 years. The event has evolved over time. It began as a St. John's oriented two-day dinner and show affair and

been donated to the Church through the years. The list was included in the autumn issue of *Parish the Thought!* and identified the gift, the donors, the approximate date of the gift and in whose memory it had been given. Corrections or additions to the list were requested. Plans call for an illuminated page to be prepared detailing each of the gifts with as much information as can be obtained along with an illustration and then placed in the memorial book in the Church narthex.

Banners, Vestments and hangings

Susan Keane and June Tillinghast were responsible for the designing and sewing of the paraments for Advent. They were prepared and first used in Advent 2001. Susan later made and donated the new chasuble which was dedicated on December 1, 2002 and matches these Advent paraments.

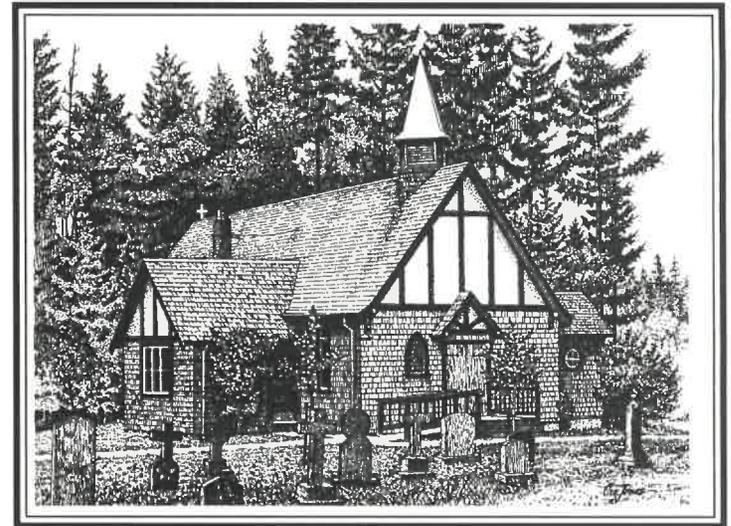
In 2003, a gift of new choir gowns was donated in memory of Clifford Norton with interchangeable tabbards of red, gold, purple and green to accommodate all seasons except Advent.



St. John's Choir - 2012

At our Patronal Festival in June 2001, a banner depicting St. John the Baptist at the Jordan

River was dedicated by Bishop Barry Jenks. This banner was again designed by Susan Keane and Claire Hart, and



own labour (a strength which has become a hallmark of St. John's spirit), the determined congregation built a new church. It was completed in 1938 while The Rev. Eric M. Willis was rector (1936-1951). And so an era of physical change to the church property began.

The new rectory was the first building after the new church and it was completed in 1952, again during the ministry of Rev. Willis. The first resident of the new vicarage was Canon Ralph K. Sampson (1952-1957), who led the effort to build a parish hall. Fund-raising and the in-house talents of parishioners resulted in the completion of the hall in 1956.

In the late 1980's, the Pastoral Centre was built and funded with the support through pledges, bequests and legacies of parishioners with the Rev. Barry Wyckham as rector.

In 1993 the church itself was enlarged to accommodate the growth in the congregation. This was an expensive



St. John's Pastoral Centre



Original interior of St. John's

undertaking that was made feasible, in part, with the support of a building loan from the diocese. This ten year loan was repaid speedily through parishioners' support for the building fund and from the return on the

investment of a trust created by a parishioner, the late Cyril Giesen.

The church as it stands today incorporates as its core the original building erected in 1938, but is more than twice its size.



Present interior of St. John's

thus the font or place of baptism, is often placed at or near the entrance to the church's nave as a reminder to believers of their baptism as they enter. St. John's font, crafted of beautiful turned and carved wood, was donated by Newcomb Bloomer, as a memorial to his wife, Florence.

Aumbry & Sanctuary Lamp

In 2007, through the combined efforts of a skilled craftsman and a generous parishioner the sanctuary of the church received a Sanctuary lamp donated by Joy Phillips in memory of Newcomb

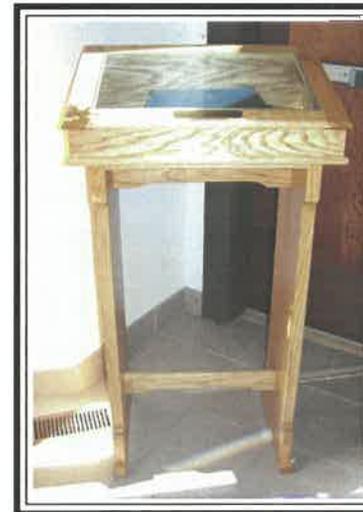


Aumbry and Sanctuary Lamp

Bloomer, former warden at St. John's. Arie van Dyk constructed the aumbry, a cabinet for the safe storage of the reserved sacrament.

Memorial Book

The Memorial Committee (comprised in 2009 of Shirley Hardy, Jim McBride, Ken Norton and Ken Conrad) researched parish records to develop a list of gifts that had



Memorial Book and Cabinet - in memory of Alex Brown

panels of Pau Ferro (a very dense tropical hardwood); the trim of the arms, the central pole element and the foot is rock maple. The pole itself is Honduras mahogany. None of the woods were stained thus leaving their natural colours. The mid-section of the pole is of carved maple featuring a wrap-around carving of an “enlaced Celtic cross”.



Hand crafted “comfortable pews”

New Chair Covers

In December 2001, new chair covers were dedicated for the two chairs at the prayer desk. It was reported in the December 2001 issue of Parish the Thought! That the “Rector and Lay Assistants now each have a more “comfortable pew.” The covers were embroidered by Susan Keane and June Tillinghast. The needle work was done by Elizabeth Chanter and Carol Smith (the chair backs) and Ethel Heans and Shirley Jones (the chair seats).

Baptismal Font

The rite of baptism serves as one’s initiation into the Church



Memorial Font donated by Newcomb Bloomer

A beautiful stained glass window created by Alison Marshall in memory of her mother was installed in the narthex. However, the essence of the old church, both in appearance and feel, has been retained. It has been said that it ‘kept its soul’. The interior has been further changed with the moving of the altar, initially out from the rear wall and finally down onto the dais in 2010 and recently the addition of new altar hangings and vestments. Recently, a few pews have been removed and other side pews have been angled in to provide a more inclusive worship space. The parish hall and kitchen were extensively renovated and enlarged in the summer of 2006, with volunteer labour led by David King.

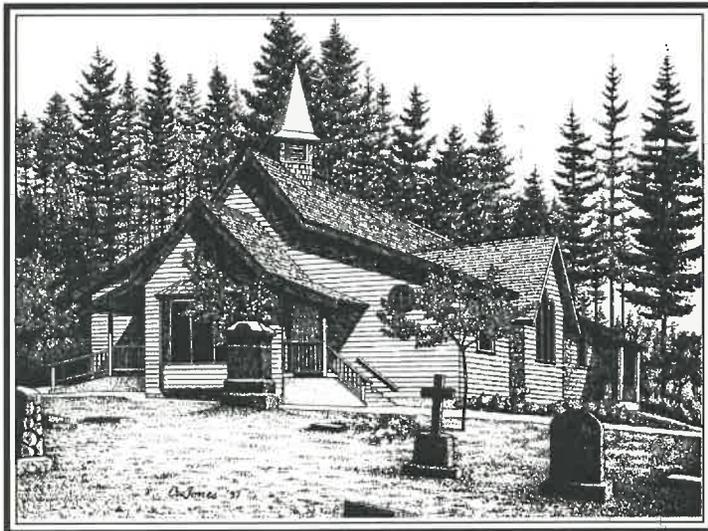


Memorial stained glass window in the Narthex

It has been 125 years of ongoing changes, always improving and expanding our mission to the wider community of the South Cowichan.

Today

Our present church, a re-creation of its smaller predecessors, and all of its related buildings are a tribute to the dedication and enthusiasm of St. John's parishioners from 1887 onwards. The history of our church is an unbroken thread of commitment by Christian people who for over 125 years have given continuously of their time, labour and money to ensure that St. John's will endure as a place of worship. And endure we have. Through 125 years, we have found that we are stronger together!



HOW WE HAVE CHANGED:

Inside Our Church

There have been major additions within the worship space of the Church. All have a story to be told.

Processional Cross

Bill Jones who designed, made and installed the memorial doors on the west entrance to the Church is also responsible for the processional cross. Its basic design elements are those of the historic Celtic Christian cross. As Bill Jones describes it in the September 1991 issue of the Parish Magazine –



*Processional Cross
created by Bill Jones*

"The brass circle {unfortunately, no longer part of the cross} represents eternity, and the highly ornamented panels of curved lines and interlaced ribbon are typical of the Celtic art form. The use of the Chi Rho symbol at the centre of the cross, derived from the first two letters of the Greek name for Christ, was often so placed by the early Irish and Welsh Christians. "

The cross is made up of four types of wood – the centre circle is of end-grain walnut; the dark wood of the arm

In 2002, thanks to Arie Van Dyk, there were renovations in the Pastoral Centre – to install a window in the Rector’s Study door and changes to the secretarial office door. Arie was also responsible for the building the wheeling platforms for the new chairs in the Hall.

In 2004, the nursery was completely refurbished. In addition to being completely repainted, new flooring was installed as well as new cupboards and shelving also built by Arie van Dyk.

2008 was a year to re-paint the exterior of the Church, the Pastoral Centre (including the Rector’s Study) and the Church steeple. All of the painting was performed by parishioners with the exception of the Church steeple. A contractor was brought in to clean and treat the Church roof cedar shingles. One wall of the Church Hall was sound proofed to do away with the echoing effect, and heat pumps were installed for the Church and Hall reducing energy costs and adding air conditioning. All in all, a huge effort was undertaken, much of it by parishioners performing labours of love.

Who We Are

Who We Are

As a parish community, there are several perspectives which have defined us through the past 125 years, and in particular the last 25 years. First and foremost, we have always been a church to “do it ourselves” as labours of love on behalf of a place of worship which was and remains an integral part of our lives. This will become more apparent as we describe in a subsequent section how our church and its environs have changed. We have used professional help where it was necessary, but it was more often our own time, effort and love that saw the Church building expanded to twice its original size, the Hall completely renovated, and the storage shed built in behind the Pastoral Centre. There will be more about this later.

September Festival

September Festival has played a major role in defining us as a Parish and as a part of the South

Cowichan community. Beginning life in 1983/84 as a St. John's event, it has evolved into a community event focusing not simply on fund raising for St. John's but also for donations to designated local, regional and national organizations. In the past, local organizations such as the CMS Food Bank and Community Kitchen have been regular recipients. Diocesan organizations such as Camp Columbia have also benefited. Farther afield, the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund has also received direct support from the festival proceeds. It has become the one event of the church year that showcases St. John's in this community and beyond, demonstrating in a very real way who and what we are.

The Festival began life as a two day event – a dinner and show on Friday and Saturday nights, the ladies of the Parish and the Good Companions, with an all-day Saturday Festival as well. This first iteration of the



St. John's volunteers awaiting instructions for September Festival activities

became a reality.

And in 2011, a project to "Adopt-A-Plot" was initiated with a kick-off on Saturday, October 29th. The intent is to adopt a memorial stone in the cemetery, clean it up and maintain it in perpetuity. There was keen interest to carry the project forward.

Other Physical Changes

In 1989, as the Pastoral Centre neared completion, new entrance doors, a porch and a wheelchair ramp were installed at the west end of the Church with dedication on Sunday, May 28, 1989. Bill Jones, a gifted parishioner, designed, made and took charge of the installation of the doors. The Rev. Kim Murray from Victoria, himself physically handicapped, performed the dedication. The source of funding for this renovation, according to the report in the Parish Magazine in May 1989, was "from gifts to the Memorial Fund by, or in memory of, the late Major Frank Greenhouse, the late Group Captain Joe Fall and the late Colonel and Mrs. R. F. Worsley."



Construction of the Garden Shed by Bill Jones and Don Pite

and Jean Van Dyk constituted a four-person committee to visit Island cemeteries for ideas, develop the plans and make a presentation to Council in April 2007 to proceed with the Garden. Funds were available in the cemetery

accounts to accomplish this objective, and Council gave their approval. In September, with the assistance of a contractor,



Dedication of the Garden of Remembrance by the Primate, Archbishop Hutchison

the pathways were developed. The walls were completed with volunteer help, including Len Fraser and Uli Steinerstauch. With the completion of the

Garden, a place for cremated remains to be interred in the ground in a communal area or in areas purchased by the family



Remembrance Day, - 2011

Festival cleared approximately \$1,000. Within two years, the focus shifted to the Saturday Festival itself, and has expanded from yard sale, craft/bake sale and divine desserts to include a silent auction by 1991 and to activities for the children, books, clothing and a country store. Food offerings expanded to include the



The Country Store at September Festival

now famous Bishop's Burger and related snack foods! In recent years an art display has become a part of the Festival day,

featuring local artists. It is remarkable to watch the community arrive the day of the sale, and line up outside the gates patiently waiting for the official opening. This Festival has become a community event not to be missed!

Net of expenses, the amount of money raised has steadily increased. By the mid 1990's, the final financial results were just over \$11,000 with a significant portion going to designated outreach organizations. The 2000's have seen the proceeds steadily increase, thanks in part to good weather and excellent organization, to peak in the mid \$20,000

range. In the past two years, results have decreased slightly due to unfortunate weather, but are strong for not only our benefit but that of the community.

As the Festival has evolved over the years, the volunteer support need has gone from a handful to over a hundred – indeed, a substantial portion of the congregation. Its long term success was the result of the tireless efforts of parishioners such as Paul Baal (taking over from Peter Holmes), Allan Pollard, Ken Norton and his daughter, Colleen and Peggy Tyler. In 2005, Peggy Tyler, the organizer extraordinaire, identified the need for an overall Festival Coordinator (a Coordinator of coordinators as she termed it!) to handle the planning and organizing efforts from May of each year up to and including the Festival and its subsequent cleanup activities. Bob Dowker initially took on this role and recently a year-round committee has assumed responsibilities for overall planning.



Children's toys' sales at September Festival

No account of the September Festival would be complete without a reference to Grubby Sunday, the Sunday just prior to the Festival. The Church



Hall renovations

storage and cupboard space, and a pass through from the kitchen into the hall. This brought to a close years of frustrated false starts and delays, and demonstrated

what a tremendous group effort by parishioners could accomplish – a definite labour of love.

The Cemetery

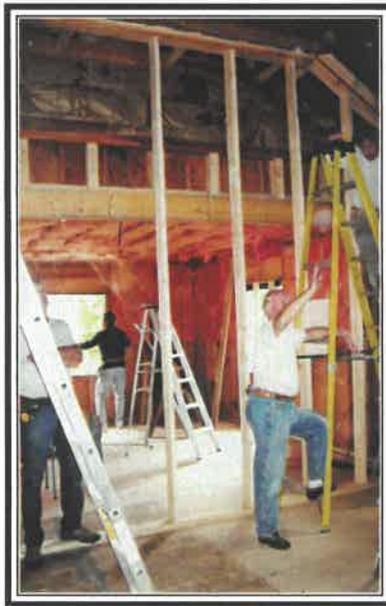
In the early 1980's, an accumulation of \$12,000 in the cemetery maintenance fund was used to upgrade the cemetery area – specifically to level the grounds and straighten the headstones into straight lines to facilitate the mowing of the grass. In 1996, the Cemetery Committee revised the Funeral and Burial Policy which had not been revised since 1984, including rate changes which took effect on September 1996.

The cemetery was well cared for under the leadership of Alex Brown and John Cook and in 2007, Granville Fountain took on the responsibilities of Cemetery Superintendent. The previous Superintendent, John Cook had made a presentation to Parish Council to develop a Garden of Remembrance in the cemetery. Granville, along with Elizabeth Coulter, Lorraine King

adequate source and supply of fire protection water. With the cost to provide water storage space estimated to be considerably more than the construction of the storage/janitorial area itself, the phase 1 plans were put on hold and thus the badly needed storage space never materialized.

By Easter 2006, it is reported that the decision was made to proceed with phase 2 – specifically the badly needed hall/kitchen renovations and roof repairs. Funds were included in the 2006 budget, approved by Vestry, to proceed with these renovations and the plans were updated to incorporate suggestions from parishioners. Work by a team of about 30 parishioners

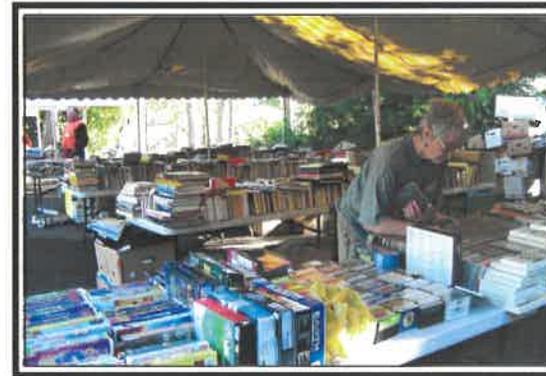
(and even non-parishioners, it is reported) with David King as project coordinator began in June 2006 and was completed by the end of that summer. It included the proper insulation of the Hall and modernization of the kitchen with a cooler, two new stoves, a larger hot water heater to support the dishwasher, more



Interior of the hall under renovation

basement, for a number of years, has been the

recipient of the yard sale items. Items are dropped off at any time during the year. On Grubby Sunday parishioners are encouraged to “dress down”



and a human chain is formed from the Church basement into the Parish Hall to move the yard sale items in preparation for sorting and pricing. And the week of Festival preparation begins in earnest!!

September Festival



2009

Outreach

We are a Parish community that has always reached out beyond our walls to provide financial (and volunteer) support locally as well as to church and/or church-related organizations in the province, nationally and internationally.

➤ A dedicated Outreach Committee has kept this Parish focused, for the past 25 years at least, on the needs of others. The mandate of this Committee as adopted by Parish Council on 11 November 1986, and reported in the September 1991 issue of the Parish Magazine, is to:

- *Support the weak, suffering, lonely and victimized people of the parish area with place and food, advocacy, financial resources and representations on their behalf in the corridors of power.*
- *Encourage the parish to include a minimum of 10% of our income for mission beyond the parish.*
- *Increase the levels of financial support to Third World countries through diocesan, provincial and General Synod apportionment and The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund.*
- *Better communicate what we are doing and why.*
- *Use existing secular and church structures rather than creating new ones.*

Some renovations were completed by the end of 2003 which included painting and the installation of a new floor in the hall; however, the major renovations remained on hold for the time being.

At the Annual Vestry meeting in January 2003, a new plan of action for hall and kitchen renovations was presented and approved. A Project Committee, with Ted Barnett as the Chair, was formed to deal with the implementation of the Plan. The Committee investigated various possibilities for major renovations to both the hall and kitchen, including potential funding sources, and reported back to Vestry in 2004. Conceptual plans called for an expansion to accommodate an upgraded kitchen; however, the plans were again put on hold after discussions with the Building Inspector indicated that the plans might trigger extensive and expensive changes to the septic system and washrooms as well as other facilities. The Committee also encountered major difficulties in obtaining quotes for the work to be done due to the building boom in the area.

A new proposal in 2005 called for a two-phased project, with special vestry approval in 2005 for the construction of phase 1 – construction of a storage and janitorial area between the Church and Hall to be completed by the fall of 2005. Again, plans were thwarted when it was deemed unrealistic to attempt to obtain the necessary building permit due to the parish being unable to fulfill a requirement to provide for an

It was determined to establish the Church narthex at the new main entrance as the “memorial hall” for these existing and any future tablets with two exceptions – the brass memorial commemorating the benefactor of St. John’s, Cyril Giesen, was mounted on the side wall towards the back of the Church and a memorial for St. John’s founder, John Nightigale is mounted on the rear wall.



It is also noteworthy that Parish Council, at this time, also established a policy with regard to the windows in the Church worship area – that they remain as clear glass to “preserve the brightness of the church interior and to bring the beauty of our natural setting into the building.....”

Renovation of our Parish Hall, 2001 – 2006

The Parish Hall was originally built in 1956 and extended in 1979 to provide additional kitchen space. In 2001, the Property Committee chaired by Ted Barnett, developed preliminary plans which included expanding the washroom facilities, constructing a new and larger kitchen, completing a basement area under the hall expansion, and upgrading the hall including the roof and furnace. The price tag was estimated to be in the order of \$100,000.

The Parish has designated the Christmas and Easter Offerings as well as a percentage of the September Festival funds raised to be given to those who have a demonstrated need – and that need may be support money for food, heat, clothing or funds to allow an organization to carry on. The Outreach Committee makes recommendations to Parish Council with regard to the distribution of these funds. The recipients are varied and have included the local CMS Food Bank, Parents in Crisis, Community Kitchens, Camp Columbia, Council of the North, Somenos House (Duncan), African Communities Technical Service (ACTS) as well as organizations farther afield.

But our outreach activities extend beyond the Committee’s efforts:

➤ The St. John’s Anglican Church Women (ACW) raises funds that are often earmarked for the general and/or building funds of St. John’s. The ACW provide refreshments for events such as weddings and funerals and organizes the Jingle Bells Sale at Christmas which is well received.



However, this group of women within our Parish also engage in outreach. In the early 1990’s, they sponsored a foster child through the Foster Parents Plan of Canada - Miguel-Angel Amador Perez from Guatemala. They have also supported Camp Columbia, other local organizations such as Parents in Crisis, as

well as the Precious Jewels Mission in Manilla, Phillipines, a mission devoted to helping children described as “unlovely and unlovable”.

➤ Another strong and very active women’s group at St. John’s, the **Mother’s Union**, has been in existence in Cobble Hill since 1923.

One of the five objectives of this group is to “*help those whose family life has met with adversity*”. They have been actively involved with organizations such as the Compassionate Warehouse in Victoria, BC whose focus is to reach out to the lost and needy – locally and around the world. In early 2010, Mother’s Union, in conjunction with the Compassionate Warehouse and Canada Comforts (also from Victoria) helped to fill containers with clothing, basic toiletry, medical and school supplies and bedding for those affected by the devastating earthquake in Haiti.



At the parish, the members have provided Christening Cakes to help the parish celebrate the important event following each baptism service.

December 1992 issue of the Parish Magazine, Leigh Hirst wrote the following which beautifully sums up what the sentiments of the entire congregation of St. John’s surely were at this momentous time:

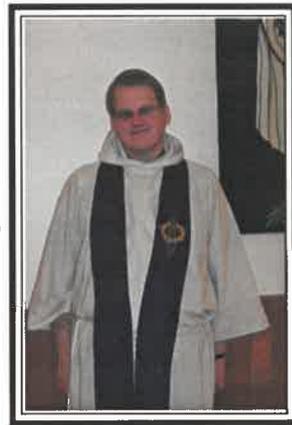
“The new church, a recreation of its smaller predecessors, is a tribute to the dedication and enthusiasm of St. John’s Parishioners going all the way back to 1887. The history of the buildings of the parish including the vicarage, the hall and the pastoral centre is an unbroken thread of commitment by the Christian people who for over 100 years have given continuously of their time, labour and money to ensure that St. John’s Cobble Hill will endure as a place of worship. They can be proud.”

These massive changes to the Church had necessitated the removal of the memorial tablets and plaques within the church. Following completion and dedication of the expanded Church, Parish Council was tasked with the decision on how/where these tablets were to be re-hung. As reported in the June 1997 issue of the Parish News, Parish Council had to balance two perspectives:

- Ensuring that the memorial tablets had an appropriate place in the Church
- Maintaining the “simplicity and plainness of the worship space”.

Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse ministry. This involved gift-filled shoe boxes to children across the world, bringing messages of hope, joy and love. The entire parish now contribute to this Shoebox Ministry at Christmas, recently under the direction of Shirley Hardy.

► The **Saint Nicholas Project** was a creation of The Rev. David Peterson in 2009 when he was our Priest Assistant. It is a short-term month-long charity drive starting from December 6th (St. Nicholas Day), when parishioners are encouraged to donate their "gold" coins to raise funds for *World Vision Canada*. Proceeds are specifically targeted to redeem children who are being sexually exploited.



Rev. David Peterson

According to the legend of St. Nicholas, in Turkey, in the fourth century, a desperately poor family was forced to sell their three daughters into slavery which meant the girls would inevitably be forced into prostitution. The Bishop of the area, Nicholas, became aware of the plight of the three girls. It is said that at night, he crept to the window of the poor family and threw in three gold coins. This story is one reason that St. Nicholas is known as the patron saint and protector of children. And so, the request is to deposit a modern gold coin, a loonie, into a specially designated

family and the communities in our geographical parish". He also describes it as having "the characteristics of warmth and cosiness of a home". Clearly, its completion was considered to be a wonderful addition to the Parish.

Expansion of our Church, 1990-1993

While still paying off the loan for the Pastoral Centre, plans began towards increasing the size of the Church. At the Annual Vestry meeting in



The nave before the expansion

February 1990, a Building Committee was appointed to investigate alternatives to increase the seating capacity of the Church, make recommendations to Parish Council and then to a Parish General meeting. Three

alternatives were proposed - increase the width of the Church building; lengthen the Church to the east; or, build a new and larger Church. The architect, Don McPherson of Victoria was recommended and hired. His proposal was to widen the present Church building, and it was determined that this was structurally feasible. In addition to almost doubling the seating capacity of the Church, the architectural plan would also provide access to the parish hall through a new entrance lobby which would join the

two buildings. The existing west door and its wheelchair ramp were to remain, with the addition of an enclosed lobby. This would now become the main entrance to the Church. With input from parishioners under the leadership of a Design Advisory Committee, revised architectural drawings were presented to and approved by the Annual Vestry meeting of 1993.

Capital funds to accomplish the expansion were approved in 1992 in the amount of \$268,500. There was approval to use a substantial amount of funds from the Capital/Reserve fund (close to \$95,000) which had built up over time from legacies such as the Giesen Trust, specific donations and the proceeds from several September Festivals. A Diocesan loan in the amount of \$75,000 was secured from the Church Sites and Parsonages (CS & P) Fund at a rate of ½% over inflation. The remainder was made up by an overdraft on the operating account through favourable arrangements made possible through the Diocese with the CIBC. The overdraft was finally retired; however, the proceeds from subsequent September Festivals had to be used to cover operating deficits. The Diocesan loan repayments were met from the Giesen Trust interest income and individual's offerings. The loan was officially retired on December 10, 2000!

The Service of Dedication for the expanded facility was held on Advent Sunday, December 1993 with Bishop Barry Jenks officiating. The present steel support posts mark what had been the exterior walls. In the

► Our own Betty Halliday spent 3 ½ years nursing in the Diocese of Eldoret, in rural Kenya in the early to mid-1990's. She was at the Kimng'oror Health Centre which is dedicated to providing health care, hope and encouragement to a surrounding population with poor health, primitive living conditions and a 50% infant mortality rate. As a result of Betty's inspiration, the parish has raised funds to support a full time nurse at that same Health Centre. Money is raised annually for the nurse's salary and much needed medical supplies. The project is high-lighted during an evening featuring a simple African meal prepared by the Outreach Committee, including Betty.

► St. John's also supports El Hogar Ministries in Honduras and specifically the Home of Love and Hope for abandoned, orphaned and hopelessly poor boys. The source of this connection was Barry Wyckham, a former rector of this Parish, and his wife Kay who were co-directors of this ministry in Honduras. In the early 2000's, a number of members of this Parish supported two boys – Heber and Leonardo-Celin, providing education, food and clothing for them and, subsequently, this support was continued for other students. Linda Hills, a former parish secretary also supported the project by undertaking a mission trip to work at the school.

► The Sunday School began to sponsor a foster child, Summati, from India (lower Himalayas) in the mid 2000's. They also initiated support for Operation

With an estimated total cost of \$93,000 for the Centre, a Diocesan loan of \$55,000 was approved in November 1988. The first \$1,000 was offered interest free, with an interest rate of 6% for the remainder. Plans for the remainder of the money owed included \$10,000 from the Building Fund, \$20,000 from the Trinder legacy, and the rest from Parish family pledges and fund raising events.

Events moved quickly in 1989 with the sod turning ceremony of February 26th, commencement of site clearing on March 13th, and pouring of the foundation on March 23rd. The official opening was August 6, 1989. Over 60 families made pledges of financial support, and the September Festival proceeds for 1989 – 1991 were put towards the building loan, which had been reduced to \$5,854 by November 1991!

The Rev. Barry Wyckham, rector of the Parish, noted in the December 1990 issue of the Parish Magazine *“our new building has become the focus of the delivery of pastoral ministry and education to our parish*



St. John's Pastoral Centre

Christmas stocking that has been placed in an accessible and prominent place in the church.

➤ And last, but not least, there is the contribution of funds and many hours of volunteer work undertaken by parishioners. The Cobble Hill, Mill Bay, Shawnigan Lake (CMS) Food Bank is a major recipient of this time and effort as well as Sen Dial at Thrifty's in Mill Bay. Many who have a long standing tradition with Camp Columbia and Sorrento Centre volunteer their time and energy each year to help to maintain these vital Anglican centres. And not to forget the handmade teddy bears, known as Superteds, made lovingly by ladies in the Parish for children in destinations such as Kenya, the Phillipines and Haiti.

Over the last ten years (2002 - 2011) approximately thirty-five recipient organizations have shared in \$300,000 in financial support from St. John's through parishioners' regular offerings, special appeals and Christmas, Easter and September Festival contributions.



Rev. Scott Pittendrigh and Dudley

Children and Youth

St. John's Sunday School was bursting at the seams in 1988 at the beginning of the parish's second century. There were 50 children in five classes – Preschool, Kindergarten, Grade one, Grades 2-3, Grades 4-7 – as well as a Nursery for those three years and under. This trend continued through to 1993/94 when attendance was reported as very low; however, there were 43 children registered for Sunday School in 1995.

Numbers have fluctuated into the 21st century. However, the tradition of Sunday School continues



The Sunday School Christmas Pageant

as does the annual Christmas pageant for which the children (and their teachers) spend hours in preparation. However, maintaining a viable Sunday school program with ever diminishing attendance has been a challenge.

In an attempt to meet changing needs in this area a Saturday afternoon gathering known as 4:45 Connect was started in 2011 to meet the needs of busy families

How We Have Changed

Our Church Property

There have been massive changes to the Church property in the past 25 years – both inside and outside. But the changes have only added to the inherent beauty of the entire property, including its cemetery. In fact, Front Street Pictures found St. John's absolutely "picture-perfect". In August 2011, they asked for and obtained permission to shoot scenes for part 3 of "The Note," a popular saga scheduled for TV release on the Hallmark Channel in 2012.

Our Pastoral Centre (1987-1989)

The approval to proceed with the building of the Pastoral Centre was given at the 1987 Annual Vestry meeting, in order to provide a much-needed rector's study, meeting rooms for small groups and secretarial facilities. In 1988, a Building Committee was established to plan for and construct the Centre. The architectural plans were presented to and approved by Parish Council in June 1988.

Although the principal was to remain invested in the fund, the allocation of the interest was the focus of the plan to be considered by the January 2001 meeting of Parish Council. It was agreed that proceeds should be directed towards the building (Capital) fund. In 2011, based on an approved motion from Parish Council, the Diocesan investments (Giesen Trust and other funds) were moved back under St. John's direct control and invested through a local financial investment firm. An Investment subcommittee of Parish Council oversee the funds and make recommendations to Parish Council regarding the investments.



Church Growth workshop 2007

who want to maintain their opportunity for worship and participation at St. John's.



This experiment which includes, fun, music and learning for all family members is ongoing.

In 1987/8, a youth group, affectionately known as the Cobble Hellians was formed, intended for ages 13 and up. Apparently, boys showed up regularly, but girls were a scarce commodity. There was also a junior youth group for ages 10-12 begun in 1988. Details of a youth group were not reported again until 1996 by Janet Curtis, the Parish Youth Leader, who worked with youth in both St. John's and Sylvan United church in a cooperative shared program. Under her leadership, two groups were formed – Senior (grades 9-12) and Junior (grades 5-8). In the early 2000's, Janet and her husband George Power ran a youth group not only geared to youth at St. John's but reaching out to youth in the South Cowichan. More recently, the Rev. David Peterson had taken on the youth group coordination role for a group in their early to mid-teens, meeting occasionally for pizza and movies as well as group activities such as bowling and mini golf.

Social Events in our Parish

As Anglicans, we love to eat and yes, occasionally imbibe a glass or two of wine! Our ACW have featured an annual Fowl Dinner, now called Fall Dinner, with a menu that traditionally offered a turkey dinner. And in 2008, 2009 and 2011, Christmas dinners have drawn a number of people who would otherwise have been on their own for a variety of reasons. In January of each year, we have in recent years celebrated Robbie Burns Day with a dinner and entertainment.



*Bill Robinson - Address to a Haggis
Robbie Burns Night*

And we have been delighted in the emcee role by stalwarts such as Sam Smith and Jim McBride. Shrove Tuesdays have also been a favourite among parishioners with pancakes and sausages cooked by the men of the Parish.

Every year we celebrate the anniversary of our Parish on the Sunday closest to June 24th (St. John the Baptist Day) with a picnic – an intergenerational celebration that draws most parishioners for an afternoon of good food, socializing and good fun. These events have

see what message the series might have for Christians and Anglicans. These mini-series have been well attended and duly appreciated by parishioners.

Giesen Trust

No account of who we are as a parish would be complete without a nod to Cyril and Peggy Giesen, parishioners from 1953. Cyril worked quietly and tirelessly around the Parish. It was noted that his car always seemed to be in the Church parking lot first thing in the morning. In the December, 1997 issue of the Parish Magazine, in a tribute to him, there was a quote from his 1982 biography which had appeared in the December 1982 issue of the Parish Magazine. He is reported to have said ...“If I have done anything for St. John’s, it is quite insignificant in comparison with what St. John’s has done for me”. Upon the death of Cyril in 1988, St. John’s became the recipient of a large donation to be established as a trust fund according to the stipulations of Cyril’s will. Proceeds from this fund have made possible the development of the Pastoral Centre (20% of the total cost) and to make the major renovations to the Church (making monthly payments of \$768.37 on the mortgage for the Church expansion). This fund has been called the cornerstone which has made possible the development of our Church campus in the last 25 years. At the 1999 AGM, Parish Council was requested to provide a plan for the future revenue resulting from this trust, invested through the Diocese.

15-20 members. In the mid and late 2000's, both *ALPHA* and *Living the Questions* have been offered at St. John's. Initially, Alpha was presented in 2006 as an evening session with dinner, moving in 2007 to an afternoon session. It offered the opportunity to introduce Christianity to people who were



The ALPHA participants- Fall 2006

interested in learning more about their faith, and drew in people from outside the immediate congregation. *Living the Questions*, a 21-week DVD and web-based small group study was offered in 2009/2010. This series provided a safe environment for people to ask questions they have always wanted to ask but have been afraid to do so for fear of being thought heretical. With the arrival of The Rev. David Peterson in 2005, various mini-series for adult spiritual formation have been offered from time to time. Sometimes the focus was a book to read, ponder and review as a group – for example, *The Hole in the Gospel* by Richard Stearns, and the *Shack* by Wm. Paul Young. Sometimes the focus has been a TV series such as *Little Mosque on the Prairie* – to

traditionally had a social purpose only. However, on occasion we have combined socializing with fund raising as with the Back to the Fifties evening and the Blooming Brunch, both of which occurred in the spring of 2011. In the '90s many "Spaghetti dinners" were held accompanied with light hearted



*Parish Picnic
Our Patronal Festival*

entertainment coordinated by Connie Lewington and Peter Holmes with strong back up by Charles and Betty Phillips and Jean and Frank Gilraine.

For several years members celebrated New Year's with an evening's socializing following by a brief worship time to welcome in the Year. Other seasonal activities which have included both social



120th. Anniversary cenebration - 2007

and religious aspects have been the Sedar Supper to mark the Passover and the children's Easter Egg hunt on Easter morning.

Parish Events

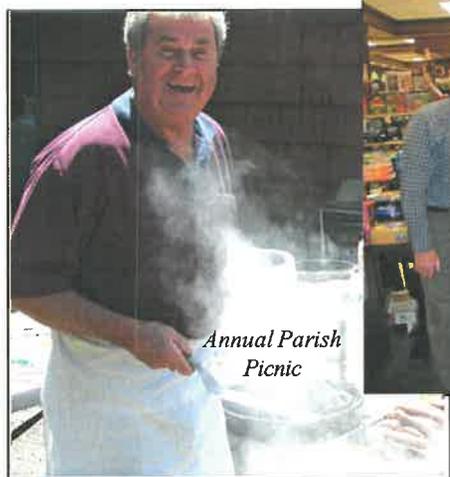
125th Anniversary Gala Dinner



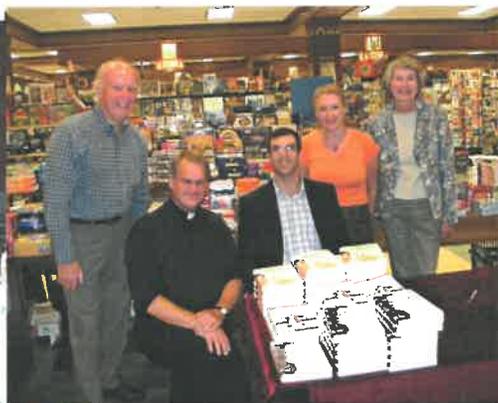
Pub Night entertainer
Doreen Hogben



Rev Scott's 10th Anniversary



Annual Parish Picnic



Study group with A.J. Jacobs

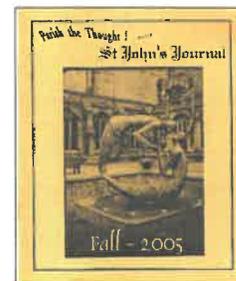
Communication in our Parish

A parish magazine had been our primary means of communication within the Parish during the past 25 years until fairly recently.



Peter Holmes was the editor of a bi-monthly publication until 1994/95. It came to life again as the quarterly *Parish News* with David and Angie Brockhurst as the editors until the fall of 1998.

Re-surfacing again as the *Parish Magazine* in 1998/99 under the editorship of Joel Perry and Elizabeth Hargreaves, it became *Parish the Thought!* with Ken Norton as editor until the Autumn of 2009. More recently, paper has been replaced by a



comprehensive website that describes us and provides the latest information on service times, news and events. It is supplemented by weekly electronic notices emailed to all parishioners that highlight happenings at the Church in the upcoming week as well as community and regional events of interest.



Spiritual Education

A adult Bible Study has been a weekly mainstay of St. John's for the past 25 years with a core group of