

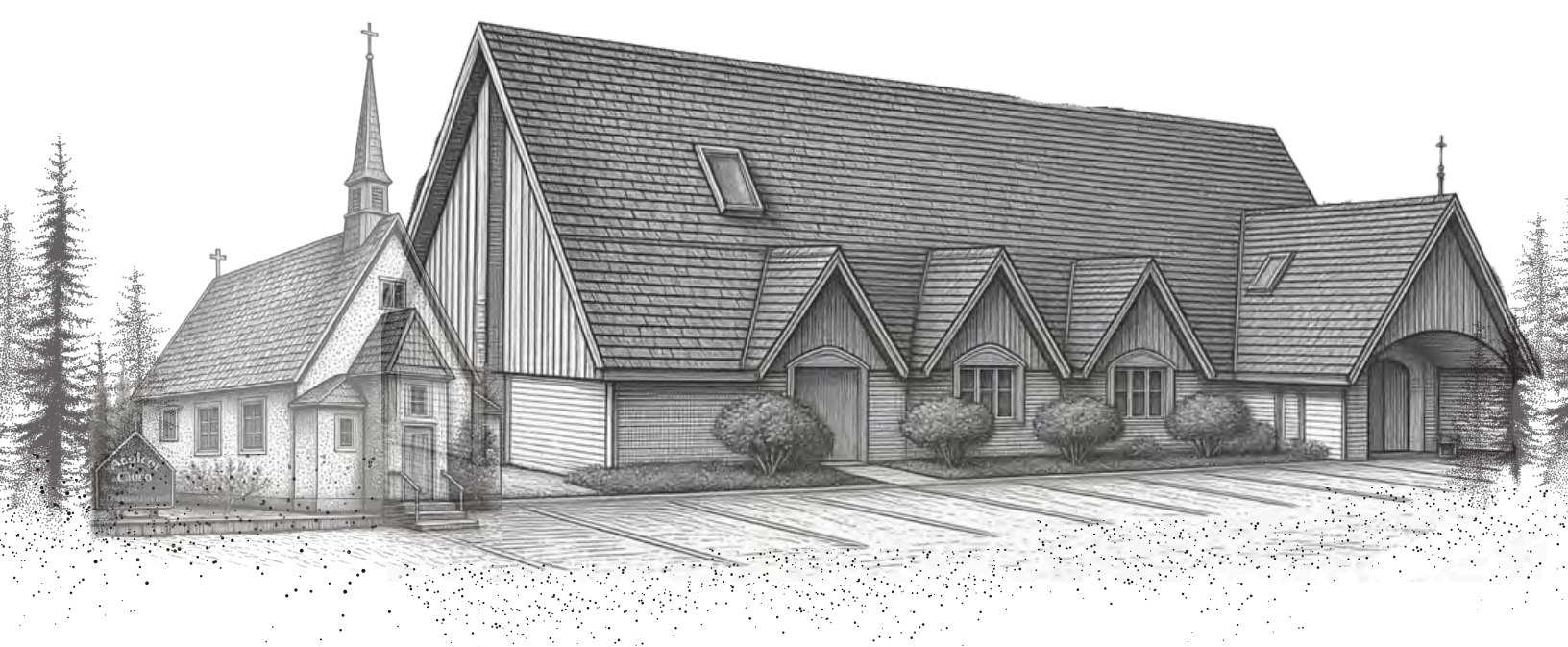
SPIRIT

MAGAZINE

FALL EDITION
2026
Issue 2



REFLECTIONS
REFLECTIONS



Spirit Magazine

St. Peter Anglican Church

228 South Dogwood Street

Campbell River, BC V9W 6Y7

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Notes From the Editor

Welcome to this Spirit of Reflection. Thank you so very much for all the articles you have submitted to make this a memorable issue. When coming up with a theme for this issue of Spirit, I hoped you would join me in celebrating Stephanie with reflections of your time with her. You spoke with courage from your hearts of your experiences and relationship with Stephanie.

"I had a wonderful parish of people I could love on." A quote from Stephanie's Stories you will read below. Love on. I heard Stephanie say these words many times. And wasn't that her final charge for us? When I reflect on my time with Stephanie, I realize that is her gift. She loved on me through our interactions, A hug, always available for a quick conversation or a longer listen, a quick question while standing in the coffee line, "What's going on?" Did my facial expression really give it away? Somehow, she knew to ask, and so she did!

Enjoy this issue as you reflect on your time with Stephanie.

With love, *Jane*

Our History



Pre 1930 Mission Ships



1931 1st Church is Built



1989 New Church

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Stephanie's Stories

Three Years at St. Peter

When Bishop Anna first approached me over three years ago to consider the incumbency at St. Peter's, Campbell River my initial gut response was "Ummm, I'm pretty happy being the priest associate at St. John the Divine, thank you very much!" Yet God has a way of working through those I encountered while praying about this new incumbency. My colleague and mentor at St. John's, Alastair, said to me that he told the bishop, "I'd be lying to you if I said she didn't have the traits and skills of an incumbent." Another colleague, Clara, now Bishop of The Territory of the People said to me, "They are such a lovely congregation, you would love it up there!" Those were just a couple of examples of my hearing the voice of God working through my friends and colleagues, calling me to consider strongly this new incumbency. "Okay, okay," I said to myself and God, "I'll apply."

So, I did, and not without reluctance. I was very happy being the priest associate at St. John. I was renting out my parent's little white house for half of its worth and loving every minute of being there. I now had more money in my pocket because my rent was low, I had a yard and a garden that I loved taking care of, and Pat, the love of my life, and I, were within fifteen minutes of each other. Plus, my folks were just a short walk through the field if I wanted to visit them. Things were pretty darn good!

Thus, when I received the call from Bishop Anna that I had an upcoming interview at St. Peter I felt a mixture of delight and some sadness. That sadness didn't last, however. When I arrived for my interview, I was welcomed with warmth by the search team and the beautiful church and her grounds! The interview didn't feel like an interview at all! It felt like a bunch of friends getting together to explore what we could do together to build up the body of Christ. By the end of the day, as I was driving home, I realized I was smitten! I wanted so badly to be the incumbent of this wonderful parish. The following Monday I received the good news from Bishop Anna. Two months later I packed my bags and found the best little condo I could ever hope for, located by the ocean, on the first floor, with natural air conditioning (bonus for me!), in a lovely, quiet building.

My new life in Campbell River quickly found a stable and predictable rhythm. Things were pretty darn good! God was



Stephanie's Stories

Three Years at St. Peter

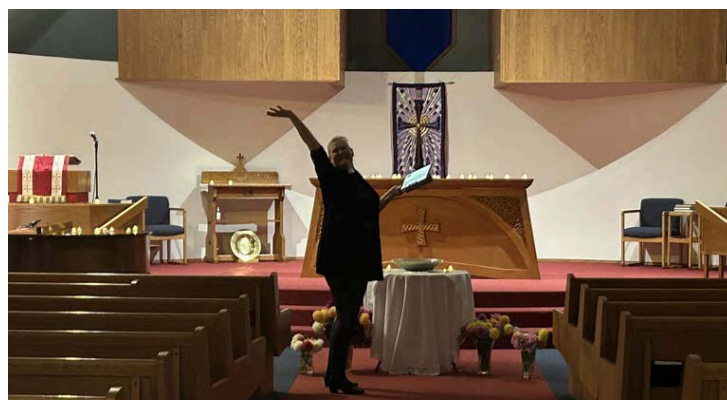
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certainly providing me with all the love and support a brand-new incumbent could ever pray for in the people of St. Peter. Any admin skills I was lacking were quickly responded to, and I was given the best gift any priest could ever hope for, the gift of having the time to serve the pastoral offices. I wasn't bogged down with paperwork and that is the inner workings of parish responsibilities. Instead, I was free to visit my new parishioners at home or in hospital, while planning the liturgy and setting up new midweek services. I was bouncing into my office daily and couldn't believe I was getting paid to do this work!

As the years went on it only got better. Trust built up between me, the wardens, and the parishioners. The word was getting out that St. Peter's was the place to be! Our church was growing, as were our ministries. I was happily serving as the padre on Remembrance Day for the Legion and regularly going to Yucalta to bring the residents communion. Although Pat and I were now several hours apart, we were certainly making the most of it. I would drive down on Thursdays following Meditative Eucharist, which gave us some time together. My time down island also quickly found its own stable and predictable rhythm. Things were pretty darn good! I had a parish of wonderful people I could love on. Pat, living in Duncan, gave me much comfort knowing he was close if my folks in Cobble Hill needed

anything, especially with my mom living with cancer. What more could I possibly need? Nothing, I needed nothing at all. I was so at peace and content with life. Yet life has its way of ebbing and flowing.

I realized I wanted more of life with my lovey, Pat. I wanted to visit with my folks and my sister, Kim and her partner, Roy. I wanted to enjoy having more meals with all of them. Thanks be to God my mom is doing remarkably well with her chemo treatments, and I am so grateful I get to spend time with this sassy and hilarious lady! So sometimes, God calls us out to journey differently, even when things are going pretty darn good! Sometimes God has other plans, and if we listen to our hearts and to those voices of God all around us, those people who God is working through, we will find God's plan for our lives. So, I end this journey in Campbell River with the same emotions for how it began; with a mixture of delight and also some sadness, but all in all, things are pretty darn good! And thanks be to God for that!





Warden's Words

Reflections of the Rookie Years

...from the Rector's Warden, Tony Smith

When our Spirit editor, Jane Monchak, announced recently in church that the next issue of The Spirit would have a theme of Reflections, I perked up to listen to the announcement. As only a retired and patient teacher can, Jane explained what she was looking for. Jane's explanation immediately struck a chord with me. For the past three and half years, I have been our incumbent's warden. If that wasn't something to look back on and reflect upon, then I really don't know what is.

When Stephanie came to us, I had been warden for about a year and was just getting the hang of the job and doing my best to follow in the footsteps of the previous warden, Lois Tirebuck. Lois had done a superlative job leading us through the uncharted events of the COVID years. This was a tough act to follow.

Then word came from the Diocese that after almost three years they had a possible rector for us. I, along with the rest of the congregation, was

delighted to see our long wait finally over. Then I took a deeper dive into Stephanie's resume and realized that our new priest was a rookie. Newly ordained, her clerical experience was as a curate at a long-established large church in Victoria led by a very experienced and long-standing priest. (For those of you who aren't sure what a curate is it is Anglican Speak for a priest's assistant.)

At our first meeting, I was delighted with Stephanie's enthusiasm and sense of humour. As always, her laughter was infectious. But then she said administration and organization were not her strong suit. However, as Stephanie said, enthusiasm, energy and spiritual leadership were there in abundance. I don't think Stephanie noticed the roll of my eyes, but I knew immediately what my role as warden for the next year or two would be.

Bishop Anna and others have mentioned on numerous occasions that St. Peter, Campbell River

Warden's Words

Reflections of the Rookie Years, continued

...from the Rector's Warden, Tony Smith



is a very busy place. Keeping all the various parts working and not colliding with each other is a major task. If you don't believe me then have a word with our office manager, Trina. The comparison of herding cats has been mentioned by numerous people on several occasions. Needless to say, the first few months were a confusing challenge for Stephanie. However, the challenge was also on the congregation to keep up with Stephanie's energy and enthusiasm.

To her credit (and my relief) Stephanie is a quick learner though I suspect she did get a little tired of my repeated cliché that the devil is in the details. At first, Stephanie relied heavily on her experience in Victoria but as she came to know our parish she also came to realize that Campbell River was not Victoria. My role as warden was to provide guidance without prejudicing her and letting her come to her own conclusions. And, praise God, we had a good supporting cast in parish council and other church leaders.

In three and a half years, Stephanie and this parish have come a long way. This was readily apparent when the wardens and assistant wardens went to revise the parish profile and found that we essentially had to rewrite the whole thing. Saint Peter has changed significantly in three years.

Stephanie has grown tremendously in her role as parish priest. She has provided the spiritual leadership needed by the congregation and has been visible in the greater community. Stephanie has enjoyed spreading the liturgy holding worship services during the week which are faithfully and well attended.

I, too, have grown in my role as warden. There is an old saying that the best way to learn something is to teach it to some else. Teaching Stephanie about our parish of St. Peter has greatly increased my knowledge and sense of Christian community. I will conclude this reflection by looking at how we have grown together as a faith community in the past three years. Our rookie priest is a rookie no longer. To the good people of St. John, Cobble Hill, there is no need to thank us for prepping your new veteran priest. It was our privilege and pleasure.



Warden's Words

Reflections on Prayer and Presence

...from the People's Warden, Pauline Woods



A Prayer by Jean Blomquist

In the midst of reflection, prayer gathers us into a posture of yearning for truth about ourselves, others, the world, and God. Its focus is on being, becoming, blessing – not on having, possessing, consuming. In prayer we encounter God intimately and God gently reminds us, “You are precious in my eyes, and honoured, and I love you” (Isaiah 43:4). Prayer not only provides solace in our pain but quiets our spirits so we may move past surface answers and self-deception to hear the heart of our deepest desire, the heart of God within us.

Prayer draws us into the sacred truth – which often runs counter to what we are told by the world – that we are loved and accepted, that our sense of meaning and purpose grows out of our sacred connection with God, life and all that is, and that the Spirit within us, a presence and power that is gift, a presence and power that the world cannot remove.



Many many thanks to our hard working wardens Tony Smith (Rector's Warden) and Pauline Woods (People's Warden) who worked alongside Reverend Stephanie managing the daily operations, property, and community life of our church. Their tasks continue to include the following: Building and Property care; management of finances, oversight of financial health and legal assets, stepping in to keep the church running in the absence of a minister, and providing a welcome to all who are parishioners or visitors to our church. We also give thanks to our Deputy Warden, Preston Brown and our People's Deputy Warden, Rick Monchak.

"Your dedication often goes unseen, but its impact is felt in every corner of our church. Thank you for everything you do to keep our doors open and our community connected."

Spirit of Finance...

...from the Treasurer, Holly Finn



As I take off one hat and put on another – here I am as your Treasurer. After a chaotic summer for my husband and myself, life is slowly getting back to normal.

Stephanie was a magnet for those looking for a church to call home. I have to say that I am a bit concerned about how our offerings will be affected by her leaving. However, I saw new faces in the congregation this morning and that makes me very happy, so maybe all will be well.

While I was on vacation in August, Tony and Pauline went to the bank and cashed in the GIC which we bought when we got the bequest from Connie Burns. We will be keeping \$18,000 of that generous bequest and will send the other \$27,000 to the Diocese for them to put into the long-term fund that they have. This will provide us with some quarterly interest income.

We have a deficit balance on our Income Statement of \$-26,415.81 compared to what we budgeted to the end of July (\$-10,438.11). We have a couple of fun fundraisers coming up and I hope that you will attend to show your support.

KEY FIGURES

Bequest retained	\$18,000
Sent to Diocese fund	\$27,000
Deficit vs. budget	\$-26,415.81
Budgeted to July	\$-10,438.11

The days are shorter and the mornings cooler. Is Fall arriving so soon – I am not ready, are you?

God bless, Holly



*Grateful,
Thankful and Blessed*

*Thankful and Blessed
Church*

OUR MINISTRIES



Healing Support Group

Everyone is welcome to attend our Monthly Healing Support Group, especially if you would like prayer for your health concerns or for someone you know who is ill. We will be discussing ways to cope with illness from a spiritual viewpoint with a different emphasis each month. The topics will be posted monthly. In August, the topic was "Saying Goodbye" and was very well attended. Our Support Group meets the third week of each month.

Support for others



The 'Noisy Church Offering supports people in our community who are less fortunate. Each Sunday, we collect spare change at church, along with clothing and personal essentials, and donate them to those in need. This year, we have donated to 'Second Chance', the Food Bank, and the Rector's discretionary fund account which allows the rector to give help where it is needed.



Prayer Ministry

...Prayer Chain Requests

Let the Prayer Chain know if you have a prayer concern. You may contact the church at 250-286-1613 or email the office at prayerchain@stpeterscampellriver.com. There is also a box in the Narthex where you may leave a prayer message. Prayers will be offered for one month, if you wish longer, please contact the Prayer Chain. The prayer chain meets the first Wednesday of every month at 10:30 a.m.





Sunday morning coffee hour ...by Jennifer Coolen

Like a ball of wool careening across the floor, the Sunday Morning Coffee Hour has gathered strength and numbers since we first shared a mug of coffee, post-Covid. There are teams of volunteers who prepare coffee, tea and treats for each Sunday after Church. This is a wonderful time to sit and visit with someone you might not yet know. The number of people staying to chat, creates quite a noise level each Sunday. The average is 40 people. I like to think it means the effort is successful. Thank you for making it so.

I wish to thank the teams in the kitchen and those who willingly set up the tables and those who take the tables down each Sunday. This requires a bit of muscle, so all volunteers are welcome on Sunday mornings. If you would like to be involved with the preparation of food and coffee/tea, please feel free to contact me, Jennifer, through the Church office.



Monday Morning Coffee Hour

The Monday Morning Coffee Hour continues as it has since August 2020, when the idea was first put into place. It is a casual gathering of parishioners, who bring a cup of coffee or tea to the St. Matthew Room, opposite the Church Office, each Monday morning at 10 AM. The group can vary from 5 to 10 people. The conversation can cover topics such as the news, the health of your pets, memorable life experiences.

New people to the group are always welcome; new people, new interests, and new topics are all encouraged. If you can't attend in person, most Mondays I have my laptop with me, and you could join in with a Zoom connection. Come and check us out some Monday morning!
(Editor's note - Thank you Jennifer!)

Mindfulness - Meditation Practice Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.

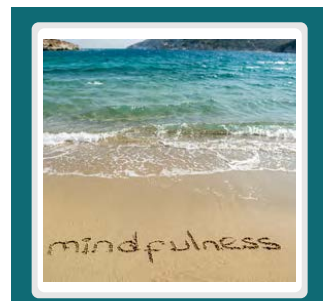
Jane Jennings, our wonderful mindfulness leader had a nasty fall and broke her leg in February which put her in the hospital not once, but twice; first to heal the break and second, to heal an infection in the break.



We found ourselves without our mindfulness guide. After a few of us took turns leading the group for a few weeks of meditation, Stephanie stepped up to lead. She took the task on with her usual enthusiasm. We so enjoyed our months with Stephanie presenting meditations each week.

Surprisingly, mindfulness did not skip a beat, or a week, when Stephanie left as Jane made a miraculous recovery, was discharged from hospital and we welcomed her back with our enthusiasm. Thanks be to God!

We meet on Wednesdays, 3:30 – 4:15 p.m. in the garden or the library. Come and join us!



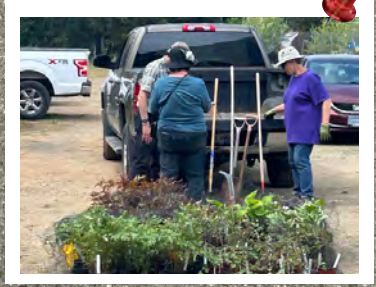
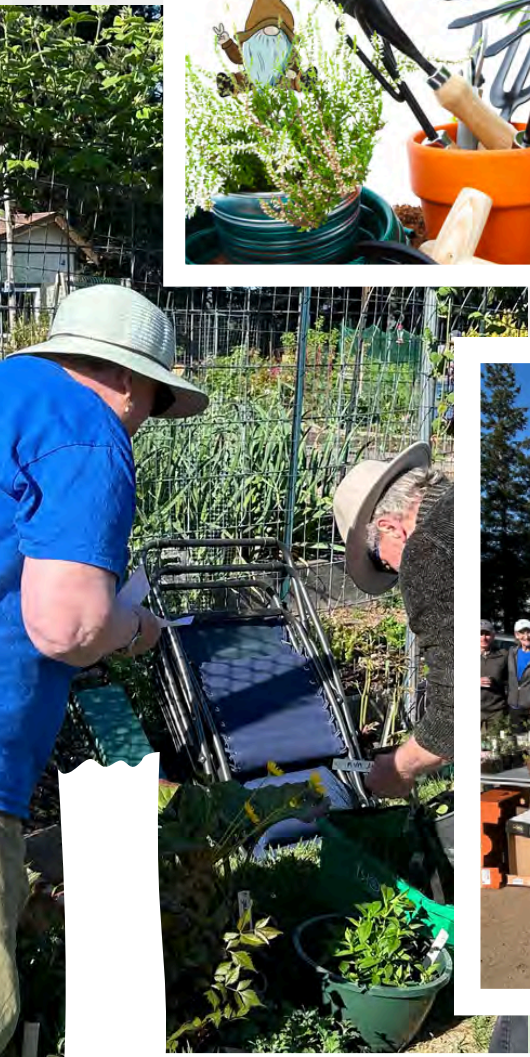
St. Peter Anglican Church 65th. Annual

PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 2, 2026
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

An amazing selection of plants, tubers, flowers, trees, berry plants, ferns, shrubs & garden tools, veggie starts and lots more!!!

What a Team!
Plant Sale 2026



Interest & Reflection...

...Our Three Years with Stephanie



Written By:
Georgia Smith & Toby

Reflections from Miss Toby



My Mum and Dad adopted me about the same time that Stephanie was adopted by St. Peter. We both came from slightly different backgrounds and so needed to be trained for our new homes. When I first met Stephanie, I was scared of her and barked really loud. But she would laugh and give me hugs and scratches (otherwise known as "schnooglies"). She also called me the Booglie which I guess was her special name for me. Now when I see her, I just bark because I am excited to see her.

Stephanie welcomed me in the church, even though I wasn't baptized. Oftentimes I would just leave my Mum (she was busy praying, playing piano, stuff like that anyway) and go and visit Stephanie in her office where she lived. She had a neighbour next door named Trina, and I would go and poke my head in to make sure she was OK. Because Stephanie invited me to church so often, I got to meet other people. They were really nice and gave me scratches, too. I got to go to special services that my Mum called healing services and Blue Christmases. It seemed to help people to give me scratches. Fine by me! Then I met Pat! I think Pat and Stephanie adopted each other, so we were all adoptees. Pat was really good with the scratches, and he let me sit on his lap at church. I think I helped Pat too. I think I like helping people!



A big moment came one year when someone named "Bishop" came to bless me and all the other friends. She looked friendly, but she carried a big stick. I learned that was really meant to keep me and people safe when we wandered away.

Stephanie has now been adopted by another group. They are so lucky to have her, and I hope they have a church dog, too! But I will miss her schnooglies and laughter, and I am a little fearful. I hope St. Peter people will adopt someone that will love them, and me, too. In the meantime, I'll love my friends at St. Peter, and I hope they love me too.



My big moment with the Bishop!

Interest & Reflection continued...

...Our Three Years with Stephanie

THE 'JOY' CLUB

Written By:

Pam Hedderson

From the JOY Club's inception in June 2025, Stephanie has been one of its biggest, supportive, enthusiastic and competitive participants. Her laughter and enjoyment at many of our events epitomizes the JOY Club. She will be missed.

On behalf of the JOY club, Pam



MONDAY COFFEE HOUR HAS NEVER 'BEAN' THE SAME

Written By: Jennifer Coolen

I come from the old school. An Anglican minister was to dress in a suit (preferably black), was expected to be involved in all things in the Church (e.g. fund raiser and Bible Studies), and oh, yes, he was to be a man..." a man of the cloth" who was solemn and quiet and sometimes sleep-inducing, when giving the Sermon.

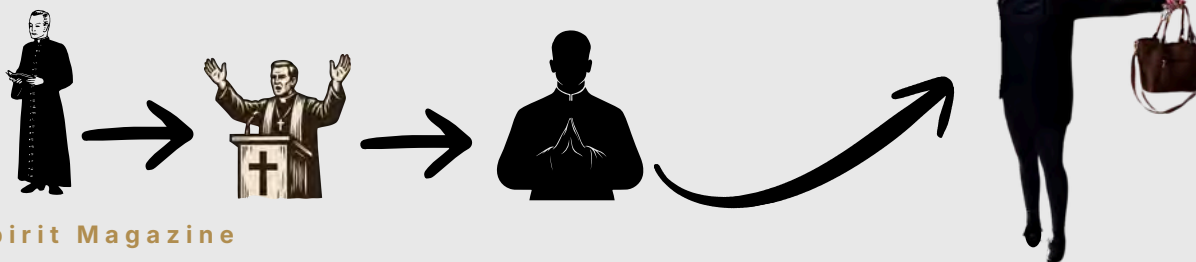
Over the years, delegation according to talents discovered amidst the congregation, saw Bible Studies led by the lady who was little Johnny's Mom, the Liturgical Assistants could be little Susie's Mom. My whole concept of what is proper and expected, had been damaged, roughened around the edges, and totally thrown out the window. Change was on the horizon. First Covid, and then ...

Stephanie arrived. A lady with a presence, a cheerful countenance and positive personality. She laughed

when she made mistakes during the Service. She demonstrated her personal cooling fan when the symptoms of menopause became an issue. Stephanie was real.

My thoughts about what the clergy should be and could be were shattered many times...such as when a parishioner, with permission, arrived for Monday Morning Coffee with her Bishon Frisé. I think the Coffee Hour might have been its normal hour, but Stephanie was so excited at seeing the dog, that the dog became excited and they chased each other throughout the Church, amidst sounds of pure unfettered by convention, joy and fun!

Stephanie, you will be a hard act for anyone to follow. I thank you for sharing your genuine self with us. All the best in your future.



Interest & Reflection continued...

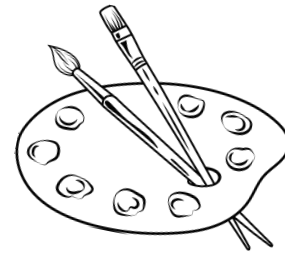
...Our Three Years with Stephanie



ST. PETER - A NEW CANVAS

"A picture is always worth a thousand words."

Written By: Glenna Armitage



We all begin with a blank canvas in time.

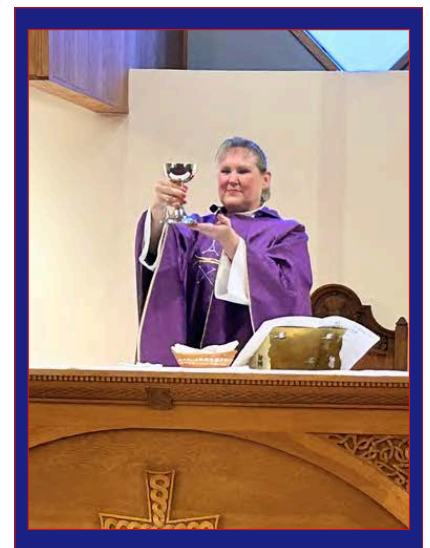
At St. Peter our new canvas was filled by our Rector Stephanie Wood. A beautiful soul teaching us through her ministry. She entered our Parish and the Campbell River community with purpose, commitment and love. Her brush strokes with warm colors washed over our Parish.

Rector Stephanie shared God's word and teachings in her Sermons. In Communion. You could feel her brush touch the canvas as she raised her arms to the Lord and blessed us with his gift. Our canvas was washed in golden light with each brush stroke. Hanging out with us and in Campbell River she became part of our Church family. This I believe is the most precious part of ministry. Being part of the soul of our Church family & community. Our Church grew.

Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Matthew 18:20
If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship, one with another. John 1:7

Stephanie is an open-hearted person, whom you could easily talk to and share stories with. She told me once of her rescue of a little lamb when she was out on a trip. It had fallen to an area it couldn't get out of. She saved it. Gently returned it to the field it came from. Her brush touched the canvas telling her story. Special moments to share with brush strokes of cool and warm colour. Stephanie was always ready with a smile and blessings. She painted us through ministry and dedication. Ministry with words, joy, smiles and hugs were always the gifts of her presence.

St. Peter's family canvas was always blessed with her brush strokes. Thank you, Stephanie. God Bless.



Interest & Reflection continued...

...Our Three Years with Stephanie



GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

Written By: Mary White

When Stephanie came to St. Peter's, I had recently found myself unable to come to church due to mobility challenges. I was really pleased to find Stephanie at my door one afternoon after only ever seeing her on Zoom.

Her exuberance made me smile and brought me joy. We had a good visit talking about my early life in England and later in Canada. She shared a bit about her growing up years and how she was finding Campbell River. By the end of our chat, I knew this was someone I wanted to see more of!

After that Stephanie would come on a regular basis bringing a group of friends with her. We would celebrate the Eucharist and have a visit. A few months later I suffered a fall, but Stephanie and friends followed me from hospital to hospital to the rehab unit and on to several care homes, even when they were in the Comox Valley!

As I recently told her these sessions made me feel like part of the congregation again. I will miss Stephanie but wish her all the best in her new parish. They will soon find out how lucky they are!



The 'God box' that Stephanie always carried for home communions.

THE LAST THREE YEARS

Written By: Jan Haylow

The last three years have been a blur of extreme challenges not just for me, but many others as well. Personally, the fear of a diagnosis of a deadly disease more than once. The loss of good friends. The chaotic world that we used to be able to trust turned upside down. Then throw in Life's aging and the complexities that accompany it. But then there is a kind word, a lovely gesture, a beautiful smile, a hug so full of love that you know you are not alone.

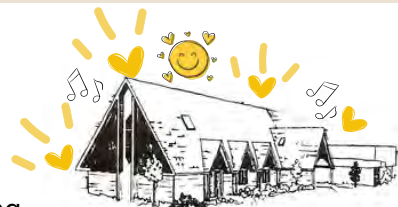
Life comes with its ups and downs, the good, bad, and ugly but how we face what is thrown at us is what God is watching. I'm so thankful for this church and so many amazing people within it. Count your blessings my friends and know God is watching over us even though some days you have to think, "what the frig!"



OUR CALLING

Written By: Judy Antonelli

One day recently while I was working in the library, I heard Stephanie laughing, greeting people in the hallway and inviting someone to come and check something out. Smiling to myself I realized that, for me, this is what Stephanie, by her example, has led us to create - a warm, welcoming, friendly place in which to worship, learn, discuss, solve problems, celebrate, mourn, work, play and have fun! An environment I look forward to being in. Through this interim period (and beyond) let's strive to support each other as we come together to ensure St. Peter continues to worship, work, and grow, joyfully!





STEPHANIE'S ABC'S, WITH LOVE FROM THE PARISH OF ST. PETER

Written By: The Editor

One Sunday during Coffee Time, I visited each table with a pad of sticky notes and some pens and asked everyone at the table the same question. Of course, I apologized first for interrupting their coffee and conversation, but once I asked my question, I had each group's complete focus and cooperation I asked, "What is the first word that comes to mind when you think of Stephanie. You are not allowed to write 'smile' or 'laughter', because if you do, they would be the only words I would receive!" Here is what everyone wrote down. Of course, I have included the two banned words on the list.

Thank you for sharing your first thoughts, when Rev. Stephanie came to mind. Perfect list for Stephanie, don't you think?



Always welcoming	Kind
Ambient	Kindness
Artist	Laughter
Bouncy	Leader
Bright	Liturgist
Cake Sunday	Loved
Caring	Loving
Cheerful	Mindfulness
Comfort	Nurturing
Compassionate	Open
Connected	Passionate
Contagious	"Peace"
Dancing	eQuestrian
Eclectic	Radically inclusive
Electric	Reflective
Endearing	Smiles
Enthusiastic	Support
Enthusiasm	Supportive
Faithful	Sweets
Friendly	Tremendous
Giggles	Understanding
Glowing	Unique
Happiness	Very complimentary
Happy	Vibrant
Helpful	Vocal
Inspirational	Wonderful
Inspiring	eXuberant
Inviting	Young@Heart
Joy	Zucchini-lover
Joyful	

Always welcoming · Bright · Caring ·
Joyful · Kind · Loving



REFLECTIONS FOR CHURCH



Written By: Gay Lefroy

When asked for submissions of reflections about our incredible Rev Stephanie Wood I immediately thought of how she had welcomed me to the fold on my first Sunday back to church after many decades away. I initially attended St. Peter about a year and a half ago because I was new to the island and I felt lonely and depressed. I thought that if nothing else it was a place to meet another person and hopefully feel welcomed.

I sat all by myself in the pew I have sat in ever since and tried to follow along with the service as things have changed somewhat in the last thirty plus years. And then Stephanie began her sermon, and I was touched at how personal she had made it; a quality that she has embraced every Sunday.

At the end of the service, I noticed that she was hugging every parishioner who wanted one. I am a hugger and so I stood in line for mine. She not only hugged me but made a point of making me feel special. From that moment on I have looked forward to church every Sunday. We have chatted about this and that. When I have been down or anxious she has always sensed that and made it her mission to find out why. She said some special prayers for my grandson and his husband who unfortunately lives in the states for now.

She is one of the kindest and most real and caring individuals I have met in a very long time. The way she brings her own personal life and experiences into the sermon just makes the Bible and its teachings so relevant and timely. I will miss her smile. Her hugs. The way she squeezes my hand during communion when she places the piece of bread in it. There's no feeling of distance or superiority with her. She's one of us and I wish her well in her new position. We have been blessed to have her for as long as we have.

Thank you so much - Always a friend and a fan.



NOW IS THE TIME

Written By: Kim Jarvis



It is with a myriad of mixed emotions that I ponder the last few years since I joined this wonderful congregation. I came first to find some peace from the turbulence of my life.

I came begging God to help me find the strength to carry on. I asked for many things. Peace, mercy, understanding. I also came to ask God to teach me how to love him as he loves me.

I stayed because every time Stephanie gave her sermon it seemed that she spoke only to me. To my very heart and my soul.

I have found all my answers here.

I found hope here. I found love here. And I found a family here.

I have stopped asking for things and have started to say, "Thank You, God."

And thank you, St. Peter, for undeservingly accepting a broken child of God.

With gratitude and light the biggest thank you to Stephanie, for being my light. She will understand this message.

With Gratitude and Light, Kim.

Interest & Reflection continued...

...Our Three Years with Stephanie



THE SPIRIT OF REFLECTION

Written By: Holly Finn

It is 0500 in the morning the day before the Spirit's deadline. I woke up with a start and thought, "I have to get my article in for Jane!" So here I am.

We are reflecting on our time with Stephanie. A little over 3 years ago she bounced into our lives, bringing with her, her love of God and her joy of living. She embraced us with her effervescence, taught and guided us. She made her mark on our community with her pastoral care and her service as Chaplain for our Remembrance Day Services. I have been fortunate with good health but, if I had been in the hospital, a visit from her would have been most welcome.



Each year, when we were about to get away on our boat, she always made a point of saying a prayer for us for safety – this year, we could have used a prayer for dry weather (but that's another story).

Stephanie, we watched you grow in your own journey and we wish you well. Thank you for your smiles and hugs. We will miss you. God bless.

REFLECTIONS ON AN UNEXPECTED YEAR

Written By: Jane Jennings



As I reflect on my very unusual and strange year so far, I have been pleasantly surprised by the outcomes.

To give context to my reflections, the following is a brief synopsis. At the end of February I shattered my tibia, was hospitalized for three weeks and by mid May I was walking. At the end of June, I was in hospital again with a major infection in my broken leg. After fifty days in hospital, I was discharged and have been home for the past two weeks, now learning to walk again.

During these past six months I have been fortunate to have received many gifts, both physical, emotional and spiritual from friends I have known a long time and new friends that have come into my life at this specific time and I want to say that many of the people who have helped me are in our St. Peter church community.

From providing food, flowers, company and books, to being there on the phone, I am so grateful to know so many caring and helpful people. Stephanie came and gave me communion in the hospital and at home, a lovely gift that I didn't realize how much I missed.

So, what did I find so wonderful about these experiences specifically? I experienced so many fruits of the spirit that friends and family gave with loving care including faithfulness, kindness, friendship, goodness, peacefulness, community spirit, acceptance, stick-to-it-ness, compassion, loyalty and more.

This period of 2026 has opened my eyes, and I know that whatever catastrophe happens in life I am held, nurtured and cared for by human and holy hands. Thank you everyone.



MEMORIES WITH STEPHANIE

Written By: Barb Henshall



Oh, what a beautiful smile! I'll always remember Stephanie's first day with us as she processed into the church full of the joy of the Lord and her joy of having her first Parish. She was so excited and over the next few weeks whenever she thought she had made an error in the service she would joyfully let out a laugh and carry on. We wouldn't have noticed and probably would have enjoyed the change. It was so refreshing to have someone that was full of a love of life.

In the early days I received a text message from Stephanie. It started "Hi Lovey." Oh! Oh! I think she's got the wrong person. I knew that Lovey was Pat. So, I called her and we had a good laugh and she hit resend.

Sometime later, the Joy Club (Just Older Youth) began, with Pam Hedderson leading the youthful group Stephanie came, when she was available, and wouldn't have missed the visit to Holly Hills Farm. Her joy was very evident especially when she saw the horses. Having had horses herself, she patted and hugged them. The baby kangaroo was a special delight to her and to all of us! Her love of animals was further evident at the service for The Blessing of the Animals." She gave all the animals special smiles, laughter, hugs, pats, and blessings!

The first year that Stephanie was here, the Legion invited her to be Padre for the Remembrance Day Service. She came in full clerical robes. At the end she reached out with robes fluttering, looking like an angel, to give all that congregated a final blessing. This moment was like an invitation to come and join us, which I'm sure that some did.

Advent was a beautiful surprise when she entered the sanctuary wearing a pink alb for the week of Joy. Since our ministers have mostly been men, it was so refreshing to see a vestment in such a joyful colour.



Stephanie was quick to embrace current issues and now that the Season of Creation has been added to the Anglican Church of Canada calendar, I was more than delighted to share this information as I had presented the resolution to include the Season of Creation, September 1st to October 4th, St. Francis of Assisi Day, on the ACC Calendar. The resolution went to General Synod to be voted on and was carried. One of my committee members of Public Witness to Social and Ecological Justice remarked; "and you actually think you can change the Anglican Church?" We were all surprised that it was carried, so that work was not in vain. As Stephanie became more familiar with the Season of Creation, she included more in our services especially her love of animals. Recently, Stephanie became a postulant in the Franciscan Order which was started by St. Francis of Assisi. And, at the last Diocesan Synod, we presented a resolution to Synod, to put a greater emphasis on the stewardship of the environment, which became a non-debatable resolution, and was carried. We're still waiting for it to be addressed.

Interest & Reflection continued...

...Our Three Years with Stephanie



MEMORIES WITH STEPHANIE, continued

Written By: Barb Henshall

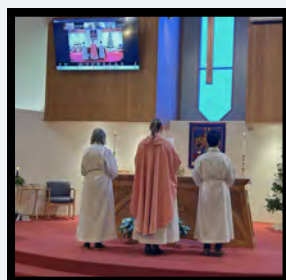
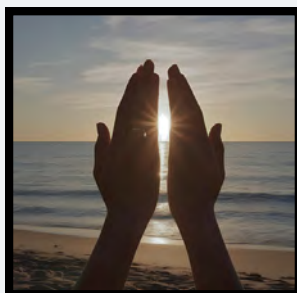
Stephanie found mindfulness meditation, led by Jane Jennings, to be very relaxing and revitalizing, especially when held in our beautiful gardens. At our last session Stephanie led the group and used a reading from "A Walk in the Woods." While looking forward to her next parish, she wondered if they would embrace mindfulness.

Stephanie's life has changed considerably in the past three years. She has travelled to Duncan weekly and has a growing love in her life. We wish her well as she continues her journey at St. John, Cobble Hill. We'll miss you Stephanie, but we know where you'll be. Thank you to the special joy and love you have given us and God's blessing on your new appointment!

WHAT TO SAY...

Written By: Kate Fitzsimmons

What to say about a new priest, beginning with enthusiasm and delight? A new priest whose door was open and whose welcome was sincere. The first priest who joined in carefully deliberating over music choices for services in meetings with the music team, and whose laughter echoed down the hallway for any number of reasons. A priest whose voice filled the sanctuary, mic'd or not, who loved pink, who delivered her sermons with drama and flair, and extended warm welcome to all as she exchanged the peace. A priest who exhorted and encouraged us to love and be kind to one another inside and outside the church to extend God's love to the world. A priest who led us through meaningful Lents and the many services of Holy Week to experience the thrill of resurrection on Easter Sunday, starting with a very early service in the cold and early morning by the beach at sunrise. A priest who gently and with compassion presided over many a funeral and celebration of life, who conducted with delight many marriage ceremonies inside and outside the church, who cared for those who needed her pastoral ministry at care facilities. What to say? We say she will be missed, and that all the ways she grew as a priest during her time at St. Peter will be a blessing to the fortunate folk in the new congregation she now shepherds at St. John Cobble Hill. We wish her well now and always.



'What to say about a new priest, beginning with enthusiasm and delight? A new priest whose door was open and whose welcome was sincere.'



Poetry

...to Stephanie

JOYOUS LAUGHTER

A joyous laugh is like raindrops falling on parched earth, like a gentle stream bubbling and dancing over pebbles, like the winnowing wings of the first spring bird... but sometimes, just sometimes, that laugh bursts forth like a balloon gone ballistic. Such is our Stephanie's laugh. So let us spell out what may lurk in the laugh.

L is for LOVE of all creatures, great and small
A is for APPRECIATION of each person's gift
U is for UNDERSTANDING the challenges life brings
G is for the GIFT of the good, gentle "GAB"
H is for HOPE and high spirit at the Helm

Heather Kellerhals

Stephanie, Where Did you Go?

Stephanie, Stephanie, where did you go?
We know, never on your Journey did you go slow
Down the highway to a Church in Cobble Hill...
To preach the promises of God's love and His Will.

Your trademark of boisterous laughter
{which maybe needs a lithium "fix"}
Sometimes went right to the rafters
But still was always a hit.

You gave us wonderful sermons
You laughed even when you 'goofed'.
And when we weren't sleeping,
We could tell you raised up the roof.

As you leave, I want to say:
Roses are red, violets are blue
Wherever you go, we will think of you.

Lynn Faber

Life will never be the same!

Written By: Trina Soltys



Other Duties as Required!

I have been a gymnast, skater, and currently attend a Muay Thai gym. All this "fitness" helped me keep up with the super-energetic Stephanie. Every skill I had garnered in the gym, a legal office, the local parks department, and the oil patch prepared me for the job of church administrator, with Stephanie as the boss! I found that I needed stamina and a sense of humor to keep up with her. What a blast! It was, "Trina, are you able to do...?" In most cases, I did know how to do it—or at least knew where to find the resources. I will forever give thanks, Stephanie, for the joy of working with you. Laughter, hugs, and creativity filled our time. What an opportunity! I thank God every day for having sent me in the direction of the office at St. Peter.

(PS. Stephanie, your new dress and shirt will be under construction soon! With much love sewn into each garment.)



Last day in her office



Last walk from the sanctuary



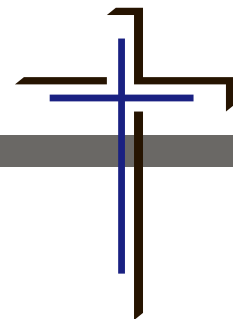
When the journey began



Last piece of cake!



ANNOUNCEMENTS



IN LOVING MEMORY

- ♡ Joy Nash, September 24, 1941 - January 28, 2026
- ♡ Joan Smith, July 6, 1946 - March 17, 2026
- ♡ Stella Moore, February 19, 1928 - April 7, 2026
- ♡ Frances Payne, August 23, 1947 - July 6, 2026
- ♡ Bob Kozakowski, March 17, 1949 - July 28, 2026
- ♡ George Wagner, May 15, 1950 - August 14, 2026

On-going at St. Peter...

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Closed Fridays

Worship Opportunities

Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Hybrid -Zoom and in-person, in the Sanctuary

Weekly Events

- Monday, 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, St. Matthew's Room
- Wednesday, 3:30 p.m. Mindfulness, the Library
- Wednesday, 10 a.m. Chat & Chill gathering, Library

Monthly Events

Prayer Chain - First Wednesday of the month, 10:30 a.m.

Healing Support Group - The third Sunday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

Serving the Community

Weekly: Six 12-Step groups - in the hall or library

Weekly: A variety of yoga classes

Parish Staff and Leaders

Rector's Warden: Tony Smith

People's Warden: Pauline Woods

Deputy Wardens: Preston Brown, Rick Monchak

Treasurer: Holly Finn

Church Administrator: Trina Soltys

Custodian: Janice Kozak

Musicians: Georgia Smith, Kate Fitzsimmons

Prayer Chain: Sue Vickery

Communications Director: Trina Soltys

Envelope Secretary: Frank Maga

Healing Prayer Ministry: Sue Vickery

Lay Assistants and Readers: Pauline Woods

Mindfulness: Jane Jennings

Coffee Monday: Jennifer Coolen

Librarian: Jane Jennings

Spirit Editor: Jane Monchak

Safe Church: Andrea Charlton

PWRDF Rep: Barb Henshall

Community Garden Liaison: Rick Monchak