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TOPIC

Diocese of New Westminster

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Anniversaries are as much about the future as they are about the past. A brief story and full photo page of St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver's 115th Anniversary Eucharist on page 10 and 11 of this issue of *Topic*. PHOTO Randy Murray



Bishop Melissa Skelton's Christmas Message

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"In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'"

Luke 2: 1 – 14

.....

Ted Wardlaw, President of a Presbyterian seminary in Austin, Texas, tells about the Christmas when his daughters were eight and five. As was the family custom, they cleared off a table to display their crèche, a precious heirloom, hand painted by their great-grandmother. All the characters were there: Mary, Joseph and the baby, shepherds, sheep and the angel.

And so the crèche stood just like this for a few days.

But then gradually, other things began appearing in the crèche. First, next to a shepherd was a blue-green pony with fluorescent hair fashionably swept to one side. A day or so later a couple of reindeer appeared. Finally, close to Christmas, a purple Styrofoam ornament covered with glitter found its place right beside baby Jesus in the manger.

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Bishop Melissa Skelton's Christmas Message

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

At first, the parents were tempted to remove all these extra things to preserve the beauty of the crèche and its figures. But something stopped them. In speaking about what that something was, Wardlaw said, "I looked at the things our daughters had placed there in the crèche and it suddenly struck me that this was their way of trying to connect the stuff of their lives to this story."

PHOTO Bayne Stanley



He went on to say, "We—all of us—want to bundle up all of our lives, our secrets, our needs, our hopes and dreams, our fears and disappointments, our deepest love and most painful grief, the truest things about ourselves—we want to bundle these all up—and place them at the manger."

And so this is what both the season of Advent and coming of Christmas are all about: a journey towards and coming not to a palace, not to a temple, and not to a clean-swept room at an inn, but to a crude, cave-like place where animals, wordless and warm, nuzzle each other and bed down. We're to make our way to this place with all our secrets, our needs, our hopes and dreams, with our fears and disappointments, with our deepest love and our most painful grief. We're to come to this place with the truest things about ourselves and to stand empty-handed and without agenda in the presence of the mystery of the Word made flesh, a mystery nestled among the animals, as vulnerable as a single candle flickering in the darkness, as fresh as the morning when it arrives after a long and troubled night.

One of the things I've been doing since coming here to the Diocese of New Westminster is reading poetry to groups around the diocese. William Stafford is one of the poets I have selected for these readings. Once Stafford was asked to speak at a conference for writers interested in refining their writing skills. He was the last to speak. Speaker after speaker before him had urged the attendees to pay attention to the fine points of technique and organization in their writing. Stafford went to the podium and began: "I disagree with everything that has been said so far in this conference."

This was because for him, the writing life was not about technique or organization. It was not about having an agenda and using writing as a way to further that agenda.

For Stafford, writing was about rising at 4 am every morning for forty years, making a little something warm to drink to coax out the animal in him, turning on one small light in the corner of his home office, reclining on a little couch that looked out over a dark forest, taking out a blank page, writing the date at the top and waiting for something mysterious, something fresh, something real to make itself known.

He did this each morning, recording his first thoughts, his first words, without judging whether he believed them to be particularly insightful or eloquent, trusting that what came up would somehow provide the basis for a thread that he would later follow into a poem.

His poem entitled *The Way It Is*, a poem I have read to some in the diocese, is about this process and about the writer's vocation.

The Way It Is

By William Stafford

There's a thread you follow. It goes among things that change. But it doesn't change. People wonder about what you are pursuing. You have to explain about the thread. But it is hard for others to see. While you hold it you can't get lost. Tragedies happen; people get hurt or die; and you suffer and get old. Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding. You don't ever let go of that thread.

I think about these words as I imagine the crèches that will be set up on Christmas Eve in churches across the diocese: crèches that are places that not only are where animals or the animal part of our nature would nuzzle and bed down,

*"...this is what both
the season of Advent
and coming of Christmas
are all about:
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and coming not to a palace,
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cave-like place where animals,
wordless and warm,
nuzzle each other and bed down."*

but are also evocative of a garden, like the first garden, the place of freshness, of possibility and hope. I think about Stafford in the early morning dark, trusting that a thread of something fresh and real would emerge. And I think about many of us this past year, either in the circumstances of our own individual lives or in the circumstances of the events occurring in our country and in the world, doing our best in the darkness to trust that a thread of something fresh and real will emerge.

For us as at Christmas, that thread is not one of our own making. It is the unbreakable thread of God's love for us and for the world; a thread that holds onto to us even more than we hold onto it; a thread of love that began in creation with a garden full of wondrous creatures; a thread of love that continued through the tumultuous political history of the children of Israel, a history of men, women, kings and prophets; a thread of love that came to a climax in God becoming flesh, God living our very life with all of its animal pleasures, with all of its darkness and with all of its fresh possibilities.

And so for us—this is "the way it is" (with apologies to William Stafford!):

There is a thread that follows us.
It goes among things that change. But it doesn't change.
People wonder about it how it can hold us.
We try to explain about the thread.
At times it is hard for us to see.
While it holds us we can't get lost.
Tragedies happen; people get hurt
or die; and we suffer and get old.
Nothing we do can stop time's unfolding.
God never lets go of the thread. ✚

*In Christ,
+ Melissa*

Growing communities of faith in Jesus Christ to serve God's mission in the world.



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Thank you!

Bell Spire to be Clad in Welcoming Light

JOAN SEIDL

Christ Church Cathedral

An art glass image of windswept candlelight will wrap Christ Church Cathedral's new bell spire. The Cathedral Trustees are pleased to announce that glass artist Sarah Hall has been selected to design the glass cladding for the spire. Hall conceives of the spire as "literally a lighthouse," connected to Vancouver as a great port city and highlighting the Cathedral's role as a guide to the parish and the community. In Hall's design, entitled *Welcoming Light*, the spire becomes a meeting place of land, sea, sky and bells.

Hall plans to use special types of glass — opal, transparent, and diachroic — to create a lively, shimmering surface on the spire, like light on water. Dichroic glass contains multiple micro levels of metals that split light and transmit differing and complementary colours on the light spectrum. As viewers change their angle of vision, the effect is that the colours change. The effect is present even on overcast and rainy days.

Hall was the unanimous choice from among four pre-qualified finalists by the Cathedral's Stained Glass Advisory Panel and recommended to the Cathedral's Trustees who made the final decision. Members of the Panel are: Larry Beasley, chair; Allen Aubert; Carriana Jefferies; Darlene Poole; David Podmore; Michael Francis; Susan Knott; John Ross; and Cathedral Rector, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott.

Chair of the Panel and former Director of Planning for the City of Vancouver Larry Beasley predicted, "Sarah Hall's winning design will be a powerful embellishment to the church site and to the urban district around it — the sound of the bells and the beauty of the tower will anchor a strong, unique sense of place at Georgia and Burrard. The bells of Christ Church will soon become a part of the beloved routine at the heart of Vancouver."

Darlene Poole, panel member and lead donor to the project, observed, "Sarah Hall has so beautifully linked the contemporary and the traditional within the Cathedral. *Welcoming Light*, as she describes her work, will indeed be a beacon for our city." Philanthropist and friend of the project Joe Segal added, "We're going to ring the bells to tell the city that God is here."

The new bell spire will be an outcome of the Cathedral's *Ring the Bells, Raise the Roof, Feed the Hungry!* capital campaign. Cathedral Rector and Dean, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott observed, "*Welcoming Light* by Sarah Hall captured the imagination of the jury and the congregation. It's a beautiful artistic expression of the Cathedral's motto *Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds*. It is a gift from this generation to future citizens and visitors to Vancouver."

Sarah Hall, based in Toronto, is an internationally recognized glass artist who specializes in large-scale installations for places of worship. Hall's wind tower *Lux Nova* at Regent College at the University of British Columbia (UBC) is a solar art glass installation that incorporates photovoltaic elements that generate electricity. Hall has received American Institute of Architects awards for her *Lux Gloria* windows at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon and for *Lux Nova*. Hall has also designed the *Light of the World* and *Mysteries of Light* windows in Holy Name Catholic Church, Vancouver, amongst many other works across North America.

Glass panels will clad the upper 60 feet of the proposed 100-foot tall bell spire. Hall's selection comes as the result of a rigorous adjudication process that began with an invitation to Canadian glass artists to submit their credentials and qualifications for the project. In July, the Stained Glass Advisory Panel selected four artists from among 26 submissions, and commissioned the four to produce preliminary artwork for the bell spire. The four artists, Sarah Hall, Lutz Haufschild, David Pearl, and Susan Point, submitted their preliminary designs in October and were interviewed by the Panel on October 27th.

Construction on the project is planned to begin immediately after Easter 2015, and to be completed in time for the new bells to ring for Christmas 2015.

To find out more about the *Raise the Roof, Ring the Bells, Feed the Hungry!* campaign and project, please visit <http://raisetheroofthecathedral.ca/> or contact Emily Pritchard, Director of Stewardship and Capital Development at Christ Church Cathedral by phone at 604.682.3848, ext. 21. ✠

Give Us the Tools & We Will Finish the Job

A BRIEF REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ST. MICHAEL, VANCOUVER'S STRATEGIC PLAN
The St. Michael's Strategic Planning Team

On St. Michael's Day, Sunday, September 28th, 2014, Bishop Melissa Skelton joined the St. Michael's, Multicultural Church congregation to celebrate with them the conclusion of a year of activities. During her visit, she met with the eleven members of the Strategic Planning Team, who had just completed their three-year project. Bishop Melissa very much enjoyed her first visitation to St. Michael's and her time with the team. When asked to comment about her experience, the Bishop said, "This parish is an inspiring example of what a multicultural community can be and do in the Vancouver area. The planning team has done an amazing job of focusing on making progress on specific goals so that this unique parish can flourish. And they know how to dance here!"

This article is intended as a way to share the process and results with those parishes considering a similar journey.

The famous Churchillian quote from WWII, applied to our strategic planning initiative:

"Give us the tools and we will finish the job."

The tool in this case was the Parish Mission Review (PMR) instrument proposed in the Diocesan Strategic Plan 2018, participated in by many diocesan parishes beginning in 2010, with the PMR's primarily led by Synod Congregational Development staffers, Tasha Carrothers and the Rev. Marnie Peterson.

In 2013, the PMR instrument was made available to the team by the Diocese of New Westminster to be used in the development of a strategic plan. A full weekend was spent in Kelowna doing a 2013 "snap-shot" of progress since St. Michael's 2010 diocesan review. That summer was spent repeating the process in establishing "objectives" for the 18-questions for 2018. Eventually 21 goals were established, all based on the experience of repeatedly wrestling with the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

LEFT A rendering of Sarah Hall's art for the spire, superimposed on a photo of the north wall and adjacent buildings. RIGHT Three panels in detail. PHOTOS Courtesy of Christ Church Cathedral's *Raise the Roof, Ring the Bells, Feed the Hungry!* campaign



PONTIUS' PUDDLE by Joel Kauffmann



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

compiled by Anglican Archivist Melanie Delva

- 50 years • 1964 Construction begins on the new Episcopal Residence in Oakridge — built as both home and reception/function site.
- 40 years • 1974 The Diocese takes a firm stance on the issue of compulsory seatbelts — stating that it needs to be at the forefront of "all programs designed to prevent death and unnecessary suffering".
- 20 years • 1994 Diocesan *Bishop's Men* welcomes women as full members for the first time in its 43-year existence and changes name to *Bishop's Friends*.

A New Face and a New Phase in the Life of St. Martin's

RANDY MURRAY
Diocesan Communications Officer & Topic Editor

After entering the narthex doors at 6:45 pm on the evening of October 1st, 2014, I was warmly greeted by St. Martin's, North Vancouver's wardens, Ken Wright and Beverly Arduini. They introduced themselves and then explained that the door to the sanctuary (nave and chancel) was to

remain closed while the principals involved in leading the worship rehearsed the flow and content of the liturgy.

By October 1st, Bishop Melissa Skelton was beginning the eighth month of her episcopacy and during that time she had been very busy with visitations and celebrating

liturgical events: six inductions, more than a dozen parish visits, Holy Week, ordinations and a confirmation, not to mention many non-liturgical events of the "meeting" variety. Over a relatively brief period, the Bishop has had numerous opportunities to observe the liturgical scope of her diocese and she has engaged the clergy of the diocese in an ongoing dialogue on this topic. As someone keenly focused on liturgy, it is her sincere desire that here in the Diocese of New Westminster all who participate are given the opportunity to glorify God in worship in the most meaningful, profound, prayerful and celebratory ways possible.

The liturgy on October 1st marking the beginning of a new chapter in the ministry of the Rev. Fr. Robin Ruder Celiz was not an induction, for Fr. Robin is in ministry at St. Martin's a little less than what constitutes fulltime. He is technically priest-in-charge, but because he had been chosen by the parish through a canonical process, and there is a strong desire for St. Martin's to progress into a financial position to maintain an incumbent priest, Fr. Robin has been styled "Vicar." This is a choice and title approved by Bishop Melissa affirming Fr. Robin as the leader of the Upper Lonsdale parish's shared ministry.

This liturgy was much different than an induction in that the Covenant in Ministry took place at the beginning of the worship with the new priest reading the Oath, pledging loyalty to his new Bishop and diocese and concluding with him being welcomed as a new member of the North Vancouver Regional Council and Ministry Team. This welcome was symbolized with the presentation of marking pens and newsprint and the following words:

"Robin we look to you as a member of the North Vancouver Anglican and Lutheran Regional Council and Ministry Team. Be among us as one who initiates and nurtures connections between ourselves and the neighbourhoods we are called to serve."

To which Fr. Robin responded:

"I invite you to join with me in being the Anglican and Lutheran presence in North Vancouver."

To which all those present responded:

"Amen. Though we are many, we are one body."

A phrase very much in keeping with the readings from scripture that followed.

The preacher for the Celebration of New Ministry was the Archdeacon of Capilano and rector of St. Clement,
CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

LEFT TOP The Rev. Lizz Lindsay, deacon for the liturgy assists Bishop Melissa Skelton as she gathers the community. LEFT BOTTOM The Rev. Robin Ruder Celiz reads the Oath. The Executive Archdeacon of the Diocese, the Ven. Douglas Fenton is on the left. RIGHT Bishop Melissa leads the applause as those present welcome the new Vicar, the Rev. Fr. Robin Ruder Celiz as leader of the Parish of St. Martin's shared ministry. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Give Us the Tools & We Will Finish the Job

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

18-questions of the PMR. Subsequently our final vision was established, stating that St. Michael's Multicultural Anglican Church is:

"An Anglican Communion, Multicultural community of faith, called into the fellowship of Jesus Christ."

Through the three year process, the participative nature of the PMR exercises, combined with the small group sub-team workshops, made the ultimate strategic plan that we developed truly collective.

The Bottom Line

Our Executive Summary began with the following quote from Plan 2018:

"Parishes that have a clear vision, meaningful worship and good leaders grow."

Beyond a doubt, after three years and twelve hundred hours, we believe a clear vision was established (and 21 goals to implement that vision).

There were three key ingredients in our success:

1. Take the Time • two years would have been too fast, four years too long
2. Find the Tools • the PMR instrument contributed immeasurably to our success
3. Get Away • our three weekend workshops were out of town retreats

The last point especially was critical. Not only did much of the "immersion" work get done, but (possibly more importantly?) fellowship/leadership development occurred as well.

With the *heavy lifting* completed with the plan's rati-

fication on September 14th, and presented to the Bishop on September 16th, we now begin the seven year journey of our implementation. If part of that implementation involves sharing our process learnings, we would be pleased

to share them. Please call the Rev. Wilmer Toyoken at 604.876.8191, or take a peek at the 36-page report (or the associated congregational PowerPoint presentation) at www.stmikes-church.ca/nav/vision.html. ✠

Bishop Melissa with the St. Michael's, Multicultural Anglican Church's Strategic Planning Team, September 28th, 2014. Left to Right: Grace Wandag, Brigitte Castro, Greg Tatchell, James Baldo, Father Wilmer, Bishop Melissa, Brigitte Laweng, Bishop Alex Wandag (Diocese of Santiago, Philippines), Bart Alatan, Moses Kajoba, Terry Cutforth, Marg Cutforth and Sandra Baldo. PHOTO Ceasar Castro





A New Face and a New Phase in the Life of St. Martin's

LEFT The Regional Dean of North Vancouver and rector of St. Agnes, the Rev. Stephen Muir hands over the marking pens, symbols of their common work as members of the North Vancouver Deanery Regional Ministry Council.

MIDDLE Paul Clarke reads *Jeremiah 1: 4–9*, a very popular Old Testament reading at Celebrations of New Ministry. RIGHT The Preacher, the Ven. Dr. Lynne McNaughton. PHOTOS Randy Murray



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Lynn Valley, the Ven. Dr. Lynne McNaughton. Due to her tenure as a professor at the Vancouver School of Theology (VST), the Archdeacon is acquainted with Fr. Robin, and she was aware that with Robin's move to New Westminster from the Diocese of Kootenay that for many his is "a new face and a new phase in the life of St. Martin's, marking new beginnings." She went on to say that the scriptures read that evening celebrate and reinforce shared ministry: *Jeremiah 1: 4–9*; *Psalms 84*; *Romans 12: 1–18*; and *John 15: 9–16*.

Archdeacon McNaughton focused her homily on the Apostle Paul's letter: "This reading from Paul is a response to Grace ...all we do in the church is a response to God's grace ...our baptismal covenant is a response to God's grace." She then went on to quote from the author Anne Lamott, "God loves me as I am and loves me too much to leave me this way," because for the Archdeacon, Paul's message in this reading is BE TRANSFORMED. And in that transformation we all have the opportunity to experience the Holy. We experience this transformation together, in community, as the Body of Christ, members connected to each other. This is Paul's most brilliant transformative image — "The Body of Christ."

Archdeacon McNaughton continued by referring to the "gifts" listed by Paul in verses 6 to 8:

"We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness."

She reminded the congregation that these gifts don't belong to Fr. Robin the ordained leader of the ministry alone. He will lead by empowering the leadership of others, for God has given gifts to everyone, every member of St. Martin's has received gifts for the building up of the Body of Christ, strengthening and growing "the community that serves the world God loves."

Following the homily, Bishop Melissa led the congregation in a Renewal of Baptismal Vows which began with the Bishop asking the question:

"Robin and the People of St. Martin's: in Holy Baptism we received full adoption through God's grace and full empowerment for ministry through the Holy Spirit. Will you work together as partners in the mission of the Church, to reconcile all people to God through Christ?"

The Bishop then went on to explain the significance of the water of baptism as "our eternal covenant with God." She then blessed the water and with the new Vicar led the congregation in the Renewal of Baptismal Vows complete with a thorough asperging (sprinkling of Holy Water with vine leaves) of the sanctuary and congregation. This very powerful and prayerful congregational experience led smoothly into the Eucharist: Intercession, Peace, Offertory, Eucharistic Prayer, Lord's Prayer, The Breaking of the Bread, Prayers after Communion, the Episcopal Blessing and Dismissal.

The music in worship was led by the St. Martin's Choir under the direction of organist, David Millard. As well as leading the congregational singing the choir offered the motet *Sacerdotes Domini* by Byrd during communion.

This Celebration of New Ministry was traditional, participatory and prayerful. It contained many elements and all of them served to establish a foundation on which to build a community to be the Body of Christ in Upper Lonsdale. A community led by the Rev. Fr. Robin Ruder

LEFT Bishop Melissa pours the water of baptism into the font. RIGHT The Bishop blesses the baptismal waters. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Bishop Melissa Skelton (centre) says the Eucharistic Prayer with The Rev. Robin Ruder Celiz (left) and the Rev. Lizz Lindsay (right). PHOTO Randy Murray



The St. Martin's Choir sings Byrd's *Sacerdotes Domini* during communion. PHOTO Randy Murray



Celiz and a community encouraged to look beyond the walls of their church and participate as part of the North Vancouver Deanery's Regional Ministry.

Please keep St. Martin's Parish, the congregation, the Wardens, ministry leaders and their new Vicar in your prayers as they begin their time together. ✠

A New Website for the Diocese of New Westminster

Last May, after ten years of excellent service, Dr. Charles Nurse, Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW) resigned as the webmaster and host of the diocesan website, www.vancouver.anglican.ca effective the end of 2014.

Creating and designing a new website for the diocese is a daunting task. Not only have digital protocols and priorities changed drastically (with 70% of page views now on mobile devices) but the huge amount of content on the site (which remains of interest to many) needs to be archived and remain accessible. We are also in the first year of Bishop Melissa Skelton's episcopacy and our Bishop has made it clear that the Diocese of New Westminster's priority is Parish Development. The new site needs to reflect and facilitate that ministry focus.

After six months of study and research, diocesan communications with the blessing of senior diocesan staff contracted with *Church OS* of North Vancouver to be the designers and hosts of the new diocesan website. *Church*



OS has constructed a number of Anglican Church websites in the Diocese of New Westminster and in other dioceses and the digital presence they have supplied for these worshipping communities has been met with positive reactions from clergy, lay leaders, staff, congregations, newcomers and seekers.

As of this writing in late October, the main structure of the site has been designed in order that content can be added and improvements to the design and functionality considered and evaluated. There are many changes to the diocesan web presence but the two most significant at this point in the site's development are:

1. The merging of all four of the current diocesan sites: thegoodsteward.ca; vancouver.anglican.com (AKA: Screening in Faith); holidayservices.ca (worship and events listings for Advent/Christmas/Epiphany and Lent/Holy Week/Easter); and of course, vancouver.anglican.ca the principal site.

2. The development of 68 Parish pages that will allow Diocese of New Westminster parishes to keep their own information current and easily accessible to all.

Currently, the goal is to have the new site online by early December 2014, right about the time this issue of *Topic* is in homes. The new site will be Diocesan Website 3.0 but at its launch it will continue to be a work in progress, a tool under constant development to better serve the parishes of the Diocese, their mission and ministry and the mission and ministry of our Bishop. Please keep those working on this project in your thoughts and prayers while this important work continues. ☩

Centennial of the Diocese of Cariboo

MELANIE DELVA

Archivist of the Diocese of New Westminster & Archivist of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon

"There is one other matter that we must decide or perhaps reconsider in connection with the new diocese, and that is its name. While to us Cariboo has a meaning apart altogether from the animal, when it comes to the title of the Bishop I am afraid we will have to adopt some other name. For instance, "Adam, Cariboo" is hardly thinkable as a signature."

Bishop Adam dePencier in a 1914 letter to Canon Akehurst regarding the name of the new diocese over which he would have Episcopal oversight.

Due to increasing population and differing ministry needs, the Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster passed a motion to form a new diocese in 1914, to include the area from "the point where the summit of the Cascade range touches the present West boundary of the Diocese of New Westminster... along the summit of the Cascade range East of Lillooet Lake, etc..." That motion passed, and though the new diocese could not elect their own Bishop until they had raised enough money to pay him, they were quick to plan their first Synod—to be held October 28th, 1914 in Ashcroft, with Bishop dePencier in the chair.

As per above, dePencier wasn't a fan of the name of this new diocese, feeling it sounded rather ridiculous. He had the support of several clergy—though this support was conditional on his agreeing to change it to the name of their city. A new diocese meant new executive and higher positions, and the jockeying is less than subtle in the archival records! Both the "Diocese of Kamloops" and the "Diocese of Lytton" were proposed but "Cariboo" stuck because no one could propose another name that was "sufficiently inclusive." Bishop dePencier had to live with it for 10 years until Cariboo could afford to elect their first Bishop, Walter Robert Adams.

It was with all this early organizing, excitement and posturing of the last century in mind that I climbed into a car with Communications Officer, Randy Murray, and the last Bishop of the Diocese of Cariboo, the Rt. Rev. Jim Cruikshank to make the trip to historic Ashcroft to celebrate the centennial of the diocese. Because as archivist I operate daily with one foot in the past and one foot in the present, as we drove through the lushness of Vancouver and the Fraser Valley, into the foothills of the Coast Mountains and into the Fraser Canyon, I saw not only that which was before me, but that which I have seen in hundreds of photos—horses and carriages clinging to rock faces on gravel trails, tunnels freshly blown, mule-pulled rafts and determined steamers bringing supplies up the Fraser to the heart of our province.

The drive itself is, of course, fantastic. What made it even more fantastic for me were the stories and reminiscences materializing from the front seats as Randy and +Jim—both having spent many years in the area—told stories of their trips up and down these very roads, the faithful people they knew and loved, the darkness, like a fog, that settled on the area for some years, and the new life and breath that has emerged.

After what could be described as a very "brisk" drive through the Fraser Canyon, we arrived at the historic parish of St. Alban's, Ashcroft in time for +Jim to vest and process in on schedule for the 4 pm Holy Communion. The service was based on the 1918 Book of Common Prayer (BCP) service, with a welcome from suffragan Bishop Barbara

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Melanie reads the Epistle, 2 Timothy: 4 – 5. PHOTO Randy Murray



Preacher, Archbishop John Privett. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Bishop Jim Cruikshank and the Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, Kamloops, the Very Rev. Louise Peters enjoy a chuckle. The nave behind them is full to capacity.

RIGHT Long time Chancellor of the diocese, Mr. Justice R. B. (Bob) Hunter receives the wine of Holy Communion from Bishop Barbara Andrews. PHOTOS Randy Murray



The three Bishops at the Altar during the Eucharistic prayer. PHOTO Randy Murray



Centennial of the Diocese of Cariboo

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Andrews, and sermon from Archbishop John Privett. The Archbishop reminded the congregation in the very full church that in all ways, “Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again” —both in the life of the church, and our individual lives. All three Bishops extended their hands to bless the sacraments. The hymns were familiar old favourites, and it wasn’t hard to imagine the smell of leather saddles and spats, wood from the stove and real wax candles as the sound of these same hymns reverberated off the wood of this frontier church in 1914.

The church hall was filled to capacity for the potluck dinner, which followed. Bishop Barbara was kind enough to thank me for the “heads up” that the centennial was forth-coming, and for my work with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and many residential school survivors and former students in the area. Long-time former

Diocese of Cariboo Chancellor, Bob Hunter garnered some chuckles and nodding heads as he spoke of some memories and “big names” in the life of the diocese.

It didn’t surprise me to see a crowd form around Bishop Jim Cruickshank as many friends and parishioners were overjoyed to see him. Though his episcopate was marked by a period of great hurt and sadness culminating in lengthy litigation resulting in the bankruptcy and dissolution of Cariboo, the love for him in the area is palpable. We could hardly tear him away as the evening came to a close. I was personally very honoured to meet, for the first time, the Rev. Jim White. Jim was very active in the Ashcroft-Lytton-Thompson region with the First Nations peoples, and he walked with them through some of the early and excruciating years of coming to grips with the depths of damage inflicted by the residential schools system. I found

him outside in clerical garb, collar and Birkenstocks leaning on the outside wall of the hall smoking a cigarette. His laugh and his tears as he talks about “those dark days” will stay with me. But so do the tears of joy that filled his eyes as he told me of the precious eagle feather he was given by a First Nation woman who wanted nothing to do with “the church or priests.” He grins as he recounts to me the baptism he performed a few weeks ago. “People still cross the street when they see me, but now they cross towards me, not away,” he told me.

I think that is a representative statement of what is beginning to happen in this area. A lot can happen in 100 years, and a lot has happened in 100 years in the Diocese of Cariboo, and now in the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior (APCI). People of faith are walking, and people are crossing the street to join them. ✠

LEFT St. Alban’s, Ashcroft in 1912 when it was still a Mission Church of the Diocese of New Westminster. RIGHT The Cariboo Highway in the late 1920s – early 1930s.

PHOTOS Courtesy of the Anglican Archives of the Diocese of New Westminster/Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon



LEFT The three Bishops pose outside St. Alban’s, Ashcroft. RIGHT Displaying the Diocese of Cariboo Coat of Arms on the back of the Cariboo Cope being worn by the 7th Bishop of the Diocese of Cariboo, the Rt. Rev. Jim Cruickshank. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Rev. Jim White at the Eucharist. PHOTO Randy Murray



Melanie hugs Bishop Barbara in gratitude for her gift. PHOTO Randy Murray



The three Bishops cut the 100th Anniversary Cake. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Benedictine Pathway

CONNIE WILKS

Deacon, the Anglican Parish of the Church of the Epiphany, Surrey

On Saturday, October 18th, 130+ people joined in community at St. Dunstan's Anglican Church in Aldergrove for a workshop titled, *Stewardship in Community: The Benedictine Way*. The subtitle read, *Resources for Creating a Pathway of Life*. I try to take the glass-half-full track, "Now, how hard can that be, really?" Our day was spent answering that question and learning about tools for creating a *Pathway of Life*.

Our facilitators for the day were Bishop Melissa and the Rev. Dr. Marilyn Hames, Honorary Assistant at St. Philip, Dunbar. Bishop Melissa is an accomplished facilitator from her career in the corporate sector. Marilyn's background includes engineering and research, and she is a priest as well as a spiritual director. We were in good hands!

Following Morning Prayer honouring St. Luke, our Bishop spoke to us about how monasticism is simply living in a way that ensures that our core beliefs are expressed in all we do. Our work is an expression of our beliefs. Our play is aligned with our beliefs. Our leisure time reflects our beliefs. The decisions we make in a day include consideration of our beliefs. The term "rule" sounds limiting and restricting, but work through the process of planning your rule of life, and you will find that they are simply guides. Like signs on the roadside as you travel, these rules keep you safe, reduce anxiety and keep you on the path to your destination.

The Benedictine way includes three cardinal rules:

1. Stability • taking stock and maintaining balance in life
2. Conversion of Life • adjusting your direction as necessary so that you are always turned to Christ
3. Obedience • to the pathway of life in Christ that you have promised

Our Bishop reminded us that monasticism isn't an escape from reality; it simply fills time with awareness of God. Creating a rule of life is a pragmatic way to stay in tune with God in our lives. It encourages life balance: an integrated whole of body, mind and spirit. A rule of life is about listening to God in all that we do, with humility and care and patience.

We spent some time at our tables answering questions about what stability, conversion of life and obedience looked like in our lives. We were asked to look at what we are doing, what we will commit to in the future, and where we could expand the horizons of our lives and explore where Christ is nudging us. We were advised to be realistic in each of these areas; otherwise, they might go the way of many New Year's resolutions!

Our workbook provided and created by the workshop facilitators with substantial assistance from Synod staff, proved to be a great inspiration for thought, and it will be a handy tool for me to be pulled off the bookshelf again and again as I revisit and update my personal *Pathway of Life* in the future. In fact, the Rev. Marilyn Hames reminded us that the whole seminar was a toolbox full of information, ideas and prompts to help us maintain a *Pathway of Life*. We continue to grow all of our lives—we are all on a journey—though we will take different paths. She reminded us that the Bible is filled with journey stories, but the most important journey is the one to the altar to receive Christ. We are on the *Pathway of Life* whether or not we are conscious of it. Any time is a good time to take stock, make a map, refine the details and continue on our journey refreshed, enlivened, and with the end goal in mind. During this section of her presentation, the Rev. Hames unfolded a rather large road map and then refolded it in order to illustrate the map metaphor.

I'm a "post-BCP" Anglican, and so I have very little experience with the Book of Common Prayer, but I was so pleased when Rev. Marilyn referred us to page 555 in the BCP, noting that the concept of developing a Rule of Life isn't a new one to the Anglican Church. Sure enough, when I got home from the workshop, I got out the 1962 BCP, and there it was:

Every Christian man or woman should from time to time frame for himself a Rule of Life in accordance with the precepts of the Gospel and the faith and order of the Church; wherein he may consider the following:

- The regularity of his attendance at public worship and especially at the Holy Communion.
- The practice of private prayer Bible-reading, and self-discipline.
- Bringing the teaching and example of Christ into his

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Bishop Melissa presents the Benedictine Model to the capacity crowd at St. Dunstan, Aldergrove on October 18th. PHOTO Randy Murray



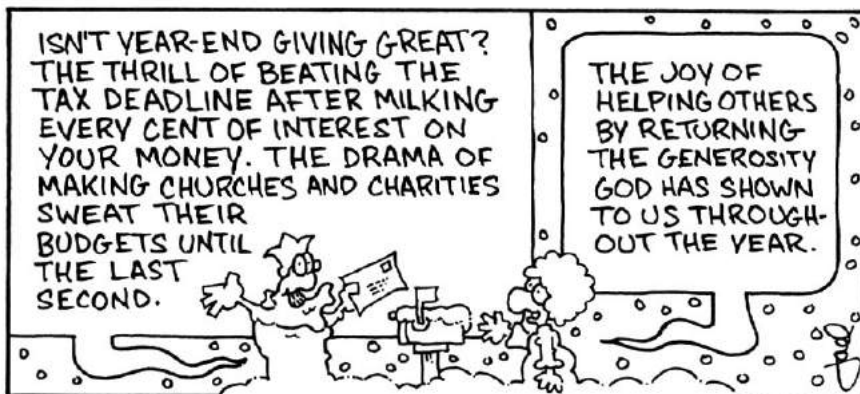
Attendees at the conference browse the workbooks prior to opening worship. PHOTO Randy Murray



At the first table in view on the right is the author. PHOTO Randy Murray



PONTIUS' PUDDLE by Joel Kauffmann



The Benedictine Pathway

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

everyday life.

- The boldness of his spoken witness to his faith in Christ.
- His personal service to the Church and the community.
- The offering of money according to his means for the support of the work of the Church at home and overseas.

Here is a wonderful place to start with a personal rule of life. If you sat down and determined how you might contribute in a realistic, meaningful way to each of the points above, and then followed through, you have made a monastic commitment to our Anglican life together!

In our Benedictine workshop, we worked through the steps to devising a *Pathway of Life* in this order:

1. Think about what is important to me • life purpose, joy and satisfaction, gifts and talents, Christian qualities, contributions.
2. Consider how I use my time and how I can make room to follow through on the things I noted in #1 that are important to me.
3. Draft a statement on a file card. Don't be unrealistically ambitious!
4. Reality check • Is it achievable? Does it inspire? Does it help me grow?
5. Walk away from what's written on the card. Come back to it later and view it with fresh eyes. Is it achievable? Does it inspire? Make any changes that seem reasonable at this moment.
6. Try it on for a week or a month. This process itself is my conversion of life, so I'm already on my way!
7. Maintenance • Pull out the card in 3 months, 6 months and 1 year to see how things are aligned. Am I living my pathway? What needs changing — what I've written on the card or me? Commit to an annual review.

The workshop was subtitled; *Stewardship in Community*, and we were left with the exercise of using the Benedictine Rules of Life as a guide to consider our own responses to how and what we give to the church. What can you do to affect the stability of your neighbourhood, your community, or the world? Will you respond with obedience to God's call to action? How will your life be different if you volunteer, or give cash or assets that match your passion with a project? It is interesting to note that these three “rules” can act as a lens for viewing different aspects of our lives.

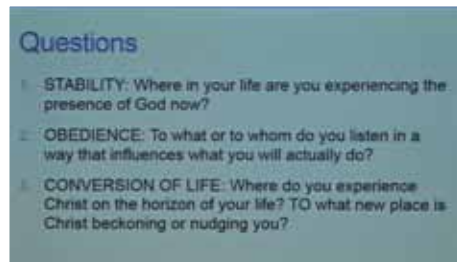
Missed the workshop but thinking about developing your own *Pathway of Life*? Here are some tools that could get you on your way:

- *The Rule of Benedict for Beginners: Spirituality for Daily Life*, by Wil Derkse
- *St. Benedict's Toolbox: The Nuts and Bolts of Everyday Benedictine Living*, by Jane Tomaine
- Web resources at the *Pathways* tab at www.thegoodsteward.ca

The Bishop presents the Benedictine Model and asks three questions for table group discussion. PHOTO Randy Murray



The three questions. PHOTO Randy Murray



There are very likely others in your parish who would have enjoyed the workshop, which was oversubscribed. With the resources above, you could develop your own process for devising a *Pathway of Life* that works for you. Good luck! ✦

The Rev. Dr. Marilyn Hames using a roadmap of Spain as a visual aid. PHOTO Randy Murray



Dr. Hames's presentation inspired some animated table discussions. PHOTO Randy Murray



Rating Ourselves on the Attention We Give to Baptismal Promises & Marks of Mission

GLEN MITCHELL

Director for Stewardship and Planned Giving, Diocese of New Westminster

Participants in the workshop on October 18th completed two “circles” that captured their individual levels of activity in relationship to the Baptismal Promises and the Marks of Mission. Afterwards, people posted their responses on two giant wall charts to help organizers form a sense of the whole. The scale was “0,” which means *no attention at all*, through “5” meaning *over attention*. What did we learn?

Many give regular or a great deal of attention to the first promise—continuing in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship and in the breaking of the bread and prayer. For the second promise, generally this cohort was much less confident about persevering in resisting evil. A few responded by saying they give it no attention at all.

How are we at proclaiming the Gospel by word and example? Probably there is room for improvement here too as there were many who said they give it no attention; an equal number said they give it minimal or “some” time and attention.

The group was more proactive in seeking and serving Christ and loving their neighbour. There was a concentration of responses in the *some attention* through a great deal of attention and some even said they are over attentive. The responses in the Marks of Mission circle were similar for all of these promises above.

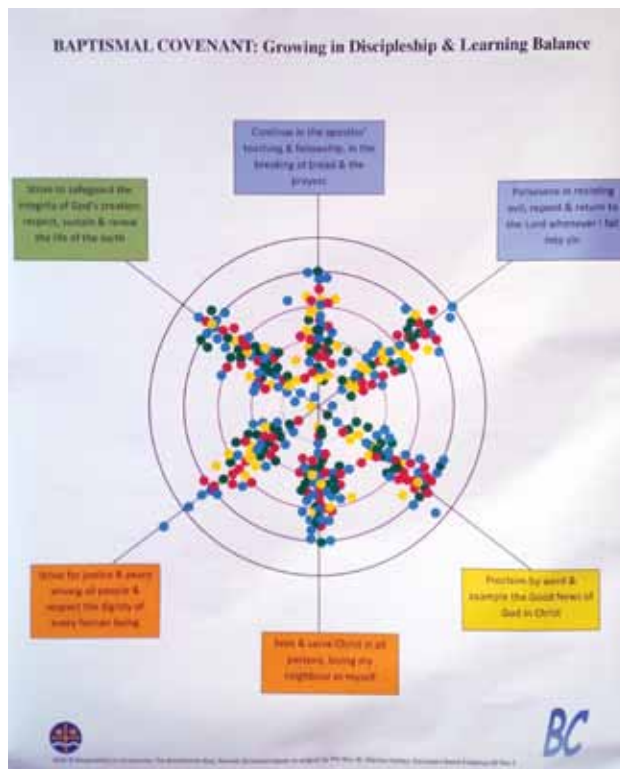
When it comes to striving for justice and peace and respecting the dignity of every human being, the majority gave it regular time and attention. There were a significant number in the Marks of Mission circle who expressed *not interested* in this work.

Safeguarding the integrity of God’s creation is popular as a significant majority of participants in both circles said

they give it regular or a great deal of attention. Again, there were some who give no or only minimal attention.

Baptismal Promise Circle:

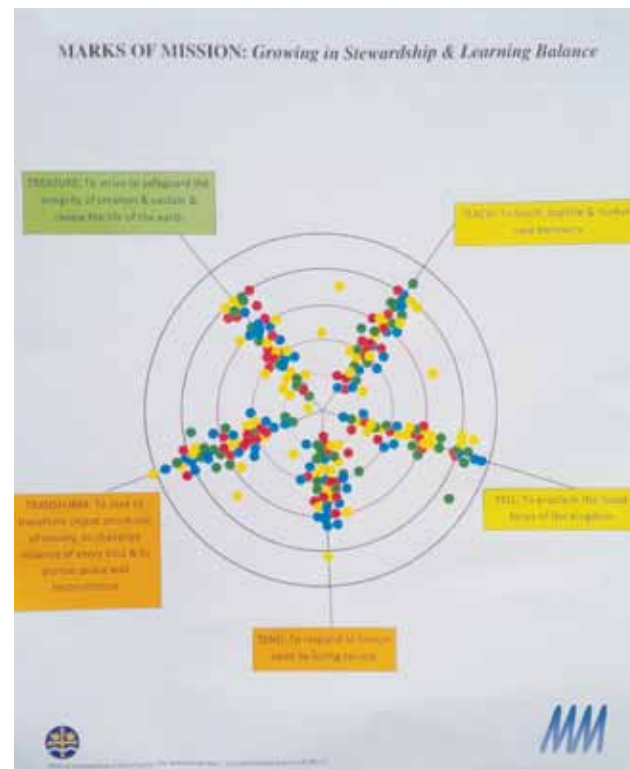
<https://stewardshipresources.files.wordpress.com/2014/10/baptismal-promises-circles.pdf>



What do you think your response would be? You can download these “circles” and attempt this yourself. ✦

Marks of Mission Circle:

<https://stewardshipresources.files.wordpress.com/2014/10/marks-of-mission-circles.pdf>





1.



2.



3.



5.



6.

An Anniversary Celebration

115 Years of St. John the Evangelist

PATRICK BLANEY
Priest-in-Charge, St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver

There was a large turnout at St. John the Evangelist's special 115th Anniversary Service and Luncheon reception. Approximately 200 people, both current and past members of the congregation gathered on Sunday, October 19th at the 10 am Eucharist praising God and celebrating the decades of service to the people of North Vancouver, honouring the colourful history of the parish, a history which can trace its roots back to the earliest European residents on the North Shore in the mid-19th century. Long time parishioner Carolyn Iker presented a history of St. John's prior to the commencement of worship. A text version of this history presentation is available online at www.stjohnnv.ca/about/our-history.

The Ven. Dr. Lynne McNaughton, Archdeacon of Capilano and rector of St. Clement's, Lynn Valley, presided and shared preaching duties with the Rev. Patrick Blaney, priest-in-charge of St. John's. During their combined homily they both spoke about the importance of recognizing past achievements and also the importance of looking confidently into the future.

Council Members from both the City of North Vancouver and the District of North Vancouver were present and Mayor Darrell Mussatto of the City of North Vancouver presented a plaque commemorating the event and offered a few words of appreciation for the work of St. John's in the community. Mayor Mussatto noted the central location of St. John's and mentioned the positive impact the many programs the church has offered over the years has made to thousands of people. The Rt. Rev. Jim Cruickshank, the retired Bishop of the former Diocese of Cariboo, former Dean of Christ Church Cathedral and former Chancellor of Vancouver School of Theology was present and he sat next to the Mayor during the Eucharist. During the Peace,

the Bishop thanked at the worship and hcouver. Diocesan Arc and she asked Mayor Vancouver Anglican mornings. He admitted he does he is very app

The St. John's com the support and part who again donated the venue for the cele worship. Many thank students.

There was a great who attended and a bi who worked so hard success that it was. W and eagerness to our



7.

- 1. The Rev. Patrick Blaney welcomes the congregation and the special guests to the 115th Anniversary Celebration Eucharist. PHOTO Randy Murray
- 2. Carolyn Iker presents the history of St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver. PHOTO Randy Murray
- 3. The Ven. Dr. Lynne McNaughton was celebrant and co-preacher. Lynne preached the first half of the sermon focusing on the Old Testament reading from *Exodus*. PHOTO Randy Murray
- 4. The scriptural and musical theme for the service was *Sing a New Song*. The choir leads the singing of *Psalms 96: 1 – 9*. PHOTO Randy Murray
- 5. On the right, North Vancouver Mayor, Darrell Mussatto stands to be acknowledged. PHOTO Randy Murray
- 6. On the right, Bishop Jim Cruickshank thanks Mayor Darrell Mussatto for attending the service. PHOTO Randy Murray
- 7. The Old Church Building: it is now on location at the Presentation House Museum site about five blocks from the church's current site. PHOTO Courtesy of St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver

- 8. The Christmas Tree Star Project
- Here we see then-priest-in-charge the late Beth Lawrence. Beth was the Office Administrator for health. Beth started an annual the outside Evergreen trees, with Parishioners (young and old) who at coffee time (leading up to Christmas) then they would have a tree dedication. PHOTO Courtesy of St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver
- 9. The Rev. Patrick Blaney preached on the Gospel, *Matthew 22: 15*
- 10. The Ven. Dr. Lynne McNaughton presided and shared preaching duties with the Rev. Patrick Blaney during the Peace of Christ. PHOTO Randy Murray
- 11 & 12. The Peace. PHOTO Randy Murray



es Both the Past & the Future

elist, North Vancouver

Mayor Mussatto for his attendance and support for St. John's, North Van-
hivist Melanie Delva was also present
Mussatto if he knew that the North
churches prayed for him on Sunday
ed he did not know that but now that
preciative of the prayerful support.
mmunity continues to be grateful for
nership of the Queen Mary School
their beautiful new gymnasium as
ebratory luncheon that followed the
ks to principal Bill Reid, his staff and

feeling of fellowship amongst those
g THANK YOU goes out to all those
to make this event the spectacular
e look forward with a renewed energy
future. ✚



ct circa 1998.
rge, the Rev. June Maffin and then-Warden,
as Warden for a few years and subsequently
or until her early retirement brought on by ill
program of making Christmas Stars to decorate
which were part of the landscaping at the time. All
ere asked to make star decorations on Sundays
ristmas) in remembrance of a loved one and
corating party early in December.
Evangelist, North Vancouver
hing the second half of the sermon with a focus
—22. PHOTO Randy Murray
nton invites the congregation to stand to offer
dy Murray
dy Murray



Anglicans Blessed to be Part of the Metro Vancouver Alliance

STEVE BAILEY

Deacon, St. Laurence, Coquitlam; Blogger at nwanglicanblog.wordpress.com

As a deacon and servant of Jesus Christ called to live out a vocation in the Diocese of New Westminster, I am thankful that more and more local Anglicans are becoming aware of the Metro Vancouver Alliance (MVA) and are joining with this broad coalition of faith communities, labor unions and community organizations. As members of MVA we can have greater opportunities to build what Jesus and his followers call the “Reign of God” among us. Others may use different names, but the strengthening of social support networks that benefit not only the most vulnerable among us, but the rest of us as well is work that Christians are called to as part of the Mission of God.

Like most of my diaconal colleagues, my diaconal ministry is to the world outside the church, witnessing to its relevance as a vehicle for positive social change and an agency of social justice. I am privileged to be part of organizations like MVA, the First Call Child Advocacy Coalition, and the Living Wage Campaign — non-partisan organizations with a passion for making those with decision making power more aware of issues and the need for change surrounding poverty, housing, transit, social isolation and human rights (particularly children’s rights).

As I sat in the Grand Ballroom of the Italian Cultural Centre (ICC) among approximately 100 Anglican representatives at the October 9th, Municipal Accountability Assembly sponsored by MVA, knowing we were part of an organization made up of over fifty organizations, I was renewed with the hope that together we can do something. Here we were, the Ven. John Stephens representing Bishop Melissa, members of the diocesan Eco-Justice Unit, contingents from St. Catherine’s, North Vancouver, St. Clements, St. James, St. James Social Justice Group, St. Laurence, and St. Thomas, Vancouver with observers from Christ Church Cathedral, St. John’s, Shaughnessy and the Synod Office side by side with Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, Lutherans and Baptists and Longhouse Council of Native Ministry. I was delighted to note that there were 44 members of St. Catherine’s, North Vancouver present and 14 from St. Thomas, Vancouver. The crowd of 800 also represented members of the Canadian Labour Congress, CUPW, Unifor locals, CUPE and others. Rounding out group representation were contingents from Habonim-Dror (Jewish youth), the Association of Neighborhood Houses, the Burnaby Homelessness Task Force, Smart Change, the Single Mothers’ Alliance of BC and several other agencies.

We welcomed the four mayoralty candidates for Vancouver as they took their places in chairs on the stage of the ICC: Adrian Carr, *Green Party*; Kirk LaPointe, *NPA*; Gregor Robertson, *Vision*; and Meena Wong, *COPE* to hear the compelling stories (including a film about transit availability produced by MVA) of those affected by inadequacies in: *social connectedness; transportation availability; support for those in poverty through the development and encouragement of the Living Wage; and current affordable housing availability.* Prior to the presentations MVA Co-Chair, the Rev. Margaret Marquardt a priest of the Diocese of New Westminster asked all those present (apart from the mayoralty candidates), who are either currently in elected office or seeking elected office to stand. Approximately two-dozen individuals stood, a powerful visual image that speaks to the impact of MVA’s message of committed individuals and organizations working together for the common good.

In response to these four presentations, all four mayoralty candidates enthusiastically committed to MVA proposals and agreed to be part of future meetings around these issues.

What is MVA committed to on your behalf as Anglicans in the Diocese of New Westminster? Here’s a quick outline:

1. Social Isolation

- Creation of sustainable clusters where neighbours can get to know one another, build trust and tackle local issues (remember our *Moving Back to the Neighborhood* workshops?).
- Use of neighbourhood clusters to reach out to other communities, particularly aboriginal, youth, refugees and immigrant communities.
- Support of other MVA campaigns around housing, transit and poverty.

2. Transportation

- Support for the transit referendum campaign proposed by Metro mayors.
- Advocacy for affordable transit in the region for all.

3. Poverty and the Living Wage

- Campaign for every working person in Vancouver to be

paid at least the Vancouver Living Wage (as determined by the Living Wage Campaign, which provides Living Wage information for all areas of the Province).

- Work toward all MVA member organizations becoming Living Wage Employers.
- Support the Mayor of Vancouver, Council and city staff in introducing a Vancouver Living Wage policy.
- Promote the Living Wage to other municipalities and employers.

4. Homelessness & Housing

- Identify areas for positive bylaw change in the area of affordable housing.

- Work with MVA members to develop innovative solutions to the affordability crisis.
- Support cities in the development of covenants that lock in truly affordable purchase and rental housing in perpetuity (I presented to Coquitlam Council in the summer of 2014 on this issue on behalf of the Tri-Cities Homelessness and Affordable Housing Task Group and the Tri-Cities Ministerial Association).

My prayer is that Anglicans will become an even stronger presence in the MVA and will be the impetus for other faith groups to join in. Here is “grass roots” ecumenism at work. ✚

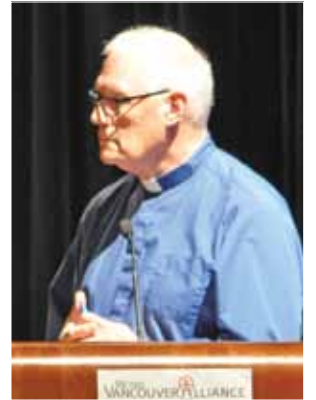
*“Kingdom people seek first the Kingdom of God and its justice;
church people often put church work above concerns of justice, mercy and truth.
Church people think about how to get people into the church;
Kingdom people think about how to get the church into the world.
Church people worry that the world might change the church;
Kingdom people work to see the church change the world”*

Howard Snyder

LEFT The author, the Rev. Steve Bailey during MVA Member Organization Roll Call. MIDDLE Left to Right: The Ven. John Stephens, Archdeacon of Vancouver attended as Bishop Melissa’s representative; the Rev. Alisdair Smith, deacon at Christ Church Cathedral who is seeking the Federal NDP nomination in Vancouver Centre; and the Rev. Ruth Monette (Acting) Director for Mission and Ministry Development, Diocese of New Westminster. RIGHT The Social Isolation Presentation: on the left is Frances Stone of the Single Mother’s Alliance of BC (who gave a very eloquent and poignant address) and on the right is Jayne Fenrich of St. Thomas Anglican Church, East Vancouver. PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT One of two line-ups with representatives of the 50+ organizations participating in the MVA Member Organization Roll Call. The Rev. Elizabeth Mathers, deacon of St. Clement, Lynn Valley is in red at the end of the line. MIDDLE The Living Wage (Poverty) Presentation: Mary Lyn Diana of the Hospital Employees Union (HEU) on the left was the presenter, an unidentified HEU member in on the right. RIGHT The Rev. Andrew Wilhelm-Boyles, deacon of St. Catherine’s was one of the moderators of the candidate’s response segment of the evening. PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT Kirk LaPointe, *NPA* mayoral candidate listens to the questions posed by the moderators. RIGHT Three of the four mayoral candidates present pose for the media: Adrian Carr, *Green Party*; Gregor Robertson, *Vision*; and Meena Wong, *COPE*. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Vancouver Children's Choir *Cantate* Division.

ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray

Warren Kimmel and Kazumi Evans listen to the opening strains of *Being Alive*.James Hibbard wowed the crowd with his tap dance routine to *I Got Rhythm*.

The four soloists: Kimmel, Evans, Stadnyk and Winsby lead the singing.

The audience stood in the nave and sang *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life*.

LEFT Judith Forst. RIGHT The Rev. Andrew Halladay, perhaps a little too old to be a Mormon Elder but still pretty convincing.

*Brush Up Your Shakespeare*: Kimmel, Gaze, Winsby and Elliott.

Christ Church Cathedral Presents World Class Musical Theatre Concert Production

RANDY MURRAY

Diocesan Communications Officer & Topic Editor

With all due respect to church concerts staged every weekend in naves, chancel entrances or parish halls all over the world, *Jubilation • 125 Years of Musical Theatre* at Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday, October 18th, 2014, achieved the “gold standard” for this type of entertainment. The sound was great, the lighting was perfect, the instrumentalists excellent and the performances were of an extremely high calibre.

Part of the production's purpose was to continue the celebration of Christ Church Cathedral's 125th anniversary, but the greater purpose was to raise money for two very worthy charities, the *127 Society for Housing* and the *Performing Arts Lodge* (PAL). The Honorary Patrons for the event were actor/playwright/producer/director Joy Coghill, Member of the Order of Canada (CM), a resident and patron of PAL and Hilda Gregory, CM, one of the principal founders of the *127 Society for Housing*. Due to ill health Hilda was unable to attend but Jubilation's Executive Producer, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott was more than happy to pass on her message encouraging those in attendance to be generous with their financial gifts to be directed to funding community worker positions at the three Yaletown locations.

Joy Coghill was present and participated in the production, offering a poem by Mary Oliver.

In his program notes, Dean Peter Elliott wrote, “When the time came to imagine ways to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the founding of Christ Church, the idea of a gala performance of musical theatre was obvious. Music has been very much part of this place since its founding, and theatre with its origins in religious ceremonies has also been part of the fabric of this venerable church for decades. Moreover, a performance of this type gives an opportunity for a journey through time, as various eras of social history are remembered through hearing the songs of the period.”

Jubilation's running time was considerably less than two hours without an interval and there were two performances on October 18th at 2 pm and 7 pm.

At 2 pm the lights dimmed and the opening strains of *Being Alive* from Stephen Sondheim's *Company* filled the nave of the Cathedral. The four soloists: Kazumi Evans, Warren Kimmel, Cailin Stadnyk and Jonathan Winsby took their positions in front of the four instrumentalists: Pianist and Music Director, Ken Cormier; Reed Player, Chris Startup; Bassist, Rene Worst; Percussionist, Graham Boyle and an incredible chorus of 40+ singers (including eight members of Cathedral Choir) led by the Cathedral's Organist and Director of Music, Rupert Lang. The full company performance of *Being Alive* was a wonderful opening number that set the tone for a program that in Dean Peter Elliott's words did indeed “journey through time,” from Gilbert & Sullivan to Gershwin to Harold

Arlen to Rodgers and Hammerstein to Sondheim and right up to selections from musicals being performed now on the contemporary Broadway stage.

Guest artists included:

- Ben Elliott, Dean Peter Elliott's nephew who is a very busy actor/singer/musician in Vancouver's professional theatre scene. Ben was featured in *Brush Up Your Shakespeare* from *Kiss Me Kate*.
- Jim Hibbard, a tap dancing teacher and choreographer who teaches at Harbour Dance Centre. Jim brought the house down with his song and dance performance of George Gershwin's *I Got Rhythm*.
- Bob Robertson and Linda Cullen (AKA: *Double Exposure*) who had the crowd in stitches with their impressions of local, provincial and national politicians both current and past.
- *Bard on the Beach* Artistic Director and Founder, Christopher Gaze who performed Gilbert & Sullivan's *Modern Major General* complete with some extra verses of particular interest to Canadians, and he was also featured in *Brush Up Your Shakespeare*, a not too subtle nod to his day job.
- Andrew Halladay, Vicar of St. Augustine's, Marpole and one of the principals involved in the Diocesan Arts Ministry is an excellent performer. His performance of *I Believe* from *Book of Mormon* was one of the highlights of the show and the instrumentalists and chorus performed this difficult and not-so-well-known piece brilliantly.
- Vancouver mezzo-soprano, Judith Forst's performance of *You'll Never Walk Alone* from Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Carousel* sent chills up the spines of everybody present. Watching Ms. Forst on the stage, the audience quickly became aware that they were in the presence of greatness. At the conclusion of the piece the entire audience at the matinee performance jumped to their feet applauding.

Another highlight was the performance of the Vancouver Children's Choir *Cantate* (Senior) Division sounding great singing *For Good* from *Wicked*.

Of course when one is inside an Anglican Church and two or three or more are gathered there is always bound to be some congregational singing and *Jubilation* was no exception. At the halfway point the four soloists led the audience in an enthusiastic rendition of *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life* from *Spamalot*.

The guest artists participated in this benefit concert, as supporters of the *127 Society for Housing* and *PAL*. A generous donation from *Jubilation's* Supporting Patrons, Paul and Maryke Gilmore covered the costs of the production therefore allowing all of the proceeds to be split between the two recipient groups. ✠



AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Blessing of the Animals at St. John's, Shaughnessy (SJS) •

SUBMISSION Janet Hamilton

Saturday, October 4th we had a wonderful time welcoming our canine friends, as well as two majestic horses from the Vancouver Police Department. The horses arrived early, and were carefully groomed by their handlers, officers Darcy Henkel and Richard Vanstone. A crowd of children watched every move they made. After their arrival the officers mounted their horses and rode around to the front doors of the church, facing Granville Street, and waited patiently for their blessing. It was a beautiful service to honour St. Francis. As the People's Warden noted, "It was such a pleasure to have so many dogs in the church and the horses on alert at the door. It was soul satisfying!"

A deacon of the Diocese of New Westminster, the Rev. Karin Fulcher had this to say about the Blessing, "It was a beautiful fall day, and the sun shining through the windows of St. John's added to the joy of the service. There were about 12 dogs present, of varying shapes and sizes, and all were

very well behaved.

One of the joys was to see the dogs interacting (greeting each other as doggies do!) and so patiently allowing the children to touch them. It was funny to see their reaction as some of the dogs responded with a sloppy kiss.

The service was sweet and simple — two lovely hymns, beautiful prayers, and the two Father Michaels (Fuller and Forshaw) so gently laying hands on the animals present to bless them.

It was particularly moving to be able to honour those animal friends who have departed, and yet still touch our hearts, by writing their names and lighting a candle in their memory. As my son's dog had died five days earlier it was a great comfort to me.

It was my first time to a Service of Blessing of Animals and I thoroughly enjoyed it. It was a very visible witness of the wonderfully welcoming spirit of SJS." ✠

The Rev. Michael Forshaw blesses the dogs and asperges the congregation. PHOTO Christine Hatfull



The horses are at the door. PHOTO Christine Hatfull



Father Forshaw and Father Fuller bless the horses. PHOTO Christine Hatfull



LEFT The Rev. Karin Fulcher and Summer. MIDDLE Father Fuller blessing some canine friends. RIGHT In his cassock the Rev. Fr. Michael Fuller leads the Vancouver Police Department horse and rider to the front door. PHOTOS Christine Hatfull



AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Gibson's Couple Celebrate 65 Years of Marriage •

SUBMISSION Jack & Sheila Carlson

St. Bartholomew's, Gibsons, recently helped to celebrate Helen and Jack Rule's 65th Wedding Anniversary. Helen Christina Gutteridge married John Leitch Rule on September 21st, 1949, at Queen's Avenue United Church in New Westminster. It took a few years, but Helen eventually received her confirmation into the Anglican Church in 1963, one year before their daughter was also confirmed. Helen says they are "so blessed," having done all they wished to do, and have now retired to the Sunshine Coast to enjoy their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They both enjoy good health and are still active in their church, so St. Bart's benefits greatly from them also! ✚

John and Helen are glowing as they pose for this photo in St. Bart's narthex. PHOTO Jack & Sheila Carlson



• Team PWRDF Vancouver Joins Ride for Refuge •

SUBMISSION Peter Goodwin

part of a current \$400,000 food project. PWRDF is doing this work in partnership with Finn Church Aid (FCN) and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB). Given its association with the CFGB, most of the funds raised by the *Ride for Refuge* are being matched four fold by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development.

In total, 976 teams with over 6200 riders

in Canada and the USA participated in the event. Ten teams from across Canada rode for PWRDF raising over \$18,000, which will be matched by the federal government. The Vancouver ride was held in Richmond with distances of 10, 25, 50 and 100 kilometres. Team PWRDF Vancouver with eight enthusiastic riders and captained by Peter Goodwin, diocesan representative for PWRDF raised \$2700 surpassing their goal of \$2000. The diocesan team collected the third most funds for PWRDF. Three of the riders were PWRDF parish representatives: Betty Boland from St. Faith, Vancouver; Liz MacDonald from All Saints, Ladner; and Peter Goodwin also acting as parish representative from St. James', Vancouver. Other riders included: Laurel Fahrni, Alexis Cooper, Mark Gordon, James McMahon and Aoife Yelland. Doug Symons, PWRDF parish representative at St. John, Shaughnessy, showed great team spirit by lending Peter a bicycle thereby facilitating his participation.

The PWRDF Diocesan Unit, which organized the ride in our diocese wishes to thank all the riders who participated and the donors who sponsored them and the team. Hopefully this will become an annual event with ever more riders and supporters becoming involved. ✚

Left to Right: Mark Gordon, James McMahon, Peter Goodwin, Betty Boland, Laurel Fahrni, Liz MacDonald and Aoife Yelland.



• The Challenge of Christian Zionism in Canada •



Professor Ron Dart at the lectern and the Rev. William Roberts at the table on the right. PHOTO Randy Murray


The Rev. William Roberts, former priest-in-charge of St. John's, Squamish was extremely busy in the days before he left to begin his new ministry as Executive Director of the Sabeel Centre in Jerusalem. Part of his busyness involved the final organizational touches and production of an informative morning at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale (SMK) on October 25th, 2014. The morning was titled, *Confronting Christian Zionism as an obstacle to a Just Peace for Palestinians and Israelis* and there were 65 to 70 very interested people assembled in the SMK nave to listen to the ideas presented.

One of the keynote speakers was Ron Dart, Professor of Political Science and Religious Studies at the University of the Fraser Valley. Professor Dart has been a contributor to *Topic* in the past. Professor Dart has also become increasingly interested in Canadian Christian Zionism and in his lecture at SMK he assembled a fascinating narrative that puts forward a very compelling case.

He began by explaining that Christian Zionism is generally thought of as a U.S. evangelical focus with names like *Hagee* and *Robertson*. However, he went on to say that the current Canadian government is the most pro-Israel ever and that has a direct connection to the way the core membership of the current Conservative Party of Canada were raised and taught about the Bible and the meaning of the Bible. Professor Dart then progressed through an exploration of the Hebraic and Hellenistic interpretations of the Bible and pointed out that there is an increasing confusion and lack of Bible literacy throughout the Canadian population.

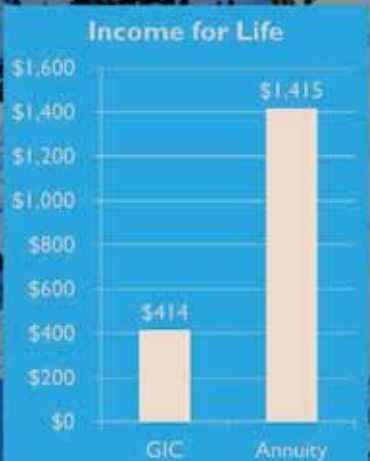
He then took an historical look at the evolution of Canadian Christian Zionism beginning with immigrants to Canada escaping the Russian Revolution and World War I right up to the current administration in Ottawa.

Following the program at SMK there was a farewell luncheon for Rev. William Roberts attended by many of his friends and colleagues including Bishop Melissa Skelton. Please pray for William in his new ministry and take some time to have a look at the work of the Sabeel Centre at www.sabeel.org. ✚



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• Service to our Communities Recognized and Celebrated •

SUBMISSION Monica Gibson-Pugsley



At the gathering time, all the mixed-species families came forward around the altar rail, taking comfort from the individual blessing, each pet being called by name and touched by the Bishop's hand. Frances McRae, who with her son Al and her granddaughter Sarah asked blessing for the dogs and hamster in their households said, "This connection to other living creatures demonstrates one of our Anglican marks of mission: 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.'" ✠

PHOTO Fred Watson



• Vicar of Dibley Marathon at St. Catherine's, Capilano •

communications. “It was lovely to have the company of people from other parishes; they too, were very kind with their financial support... We’ve had rave reviews from all the participants—(it) would have been totally worth it if we hadn’t raised a cent, but fortunately we did!” ♣

RIGHT Peggy Trendell-Jensen leads the singing of Grace dressed as the Rev. Geraldine Granger. PHOTOS Randy Murray



AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Clergy News Around the Diocese •

As of this writing in late October, the Rev. Karen Urquhart is scheduled to be inducted as rector of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Port Coquitlam with St. Columba, Pitt Meadows on Tuesday, December 2nd. Coverage of the induction will be included in either the January or February 2015 editions of *Topic*.

As of the end of October 2014, the Rev. Nick Parker is providing Sunday Supply ministry to the parish of St. John the Divine,

Squamish. A priest-in-charge (½ time) will be appointed following consultation with the Canonical Committee.

The Rev. Elizabeth Ruder Celiz, spouse of the Rev. Fr. Robin Ruder Celiz (the Vicar of St. Martin's, North Vancouver), has been hired as the Youth Ministries Coordinator for the North Vancouver Regional Ministry consisting of five Anglican and two Lutheran worshipping communities. ✚

• St. Mark's, Ocean Park Outdoor Display "Journeys" into 16th Year •

SUBMISSION Brian Walks

St. Mark's, Ocean Park is inviting you to see our outdoor presentation of the Nativity Story again this year. Mannequins, painted murals, theatre props and lights, a lit path and an audio presentation make this visit to South Surrey a must-see for the holiday season. Once you have walked through our guided display in the woods you are welcome to stay for hot chocolate, and on most evenings there will be live entertainment in the parish hall.

The *Journey of Christmas* was built in 1999 in response to secular Christmas displays and programs. Over the past 15 years more than 15,000 people have come to celebrate the birth of the Christ child in an outdoor setting. If you have not been before, bundle up and come celebrate with us. If you have been before, you know what a treasure the St. Mark's *Journey of Christmas* is.

Please note that for the first time we are NOT open after Christmas.

LOCATION

- St. Mark's Ocean Park
12953 – 20 Avenue, South Surrey

DATES & TIMES

- December 14 – 23, 6 pm – 9 pm
- December 24, 3:30 pm – 9 pm

Live entertainment confirmed at press time:

- Sunday, December 14:
White Rock Children's Choir
- Thursday, December 18:
St. Mark's Choir
- Monday, December 22:
Christopher Simmons & Debra DeV Vaughn

For more information about the *Journey of Christmas* please phone 604 535 8841. ✚



• A Message from The Reverend Alain-Michel Rocheleau •

Anglican Chaplain of College and University Students in the Diocese of New Westminster

SUBMISSION Alain-Michel Rocheleau

This past September, Bishop Melissa Skelton appointed me as Anglican Chaplain of College and University Students in the Diocese of New Westminster. It is a great privilege and I feel extremely honoured.

Throughout the years, colleagues involved with campus ministry, especially at Simon Fraser University (SFU) and the University of British Columbia (UBC), have initiated many evangelistic endeavors on and off campus. I will try to continue their work in engaging Anglican students in conversations of faith and opportunities for service.

In the short term, I am planning to meet with a group of students at UBC and encourage them to create their own association. My role will consist of listening, supporting, and advising them. Together, we will set goals and priorities based on their needs. In the long term, I would like to provide them with a forum for interaction, opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth, as well as individual pastoral counselling. I wish to promote students' faith development by their engagement in Christian worship, discipleship, and service; to empower them for a lifetime of participation in the church, including their call to corporate ministry and reconciliation; and to create opportunities for inter-faith

activities.

Finally, my ministry as Honorary Assistant Priest at St. Helen's (Vancouver) will not change drastically. I will continue to meet with parishioners for pastoral care, and to serve as celebrant and preacher on Sundays. However, my involvement as Anglican Chaplain of College and University Students will form the main focus of my work as a non-stipendiary priest in the diocese. ✚

The Rev. Alain-Michel Rocheleau. PHOTO Brandy Svendsen



The welcoming façade at the entrance to the church. PHOTO Barbara Walks



The shepherds are in awe at the heavenly choir. PHOTO Barbara Walks



The three kings present their gifts. PHOTO Barbara Walks




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OPINION

Enter the Bathrobed Magi

LYNDON GROVE
Christ Church Cathedral

Parish Christmas entertainments have become highly sophisticated. We are now accustomed to seven-year-olds singing Stephen Sondheim songs (*Send in the Magi*) and teenage soloists who look like Jennifer Lawrence.

It was not always so. Some of us remember Christmas celebrations ending with the arrival of S. Claus and the handing out of brown paper bags filled with toxic nuts, musty oranges and jaw-dislocating candies. And before that, the performances, which would begin with the on-stage meltdown of the under-fives and conclude with the obligatory manger scene. The prettiest girl would have been chosen to play Mary, while the role of the kind and gentle Joseph went to the Sunday School thug, who spent the rest of the year beating on his fellow students (This guy would grow up to be mild-mannered and henpecked, and he deserved it). Supporting roles went to the shepherds, the Magi in bathrobes and cardboard crowns, and a confused dog.

But I remember a year when, between these predictable bookends, there were two quite different offerings. The first was a comic story of two black detectives, acted in an *Amos 'n' Andy* style that would never be allowed today. Jim Doane and I played the detectives, and were especially happy to walk around in snap-brim fedoras.

A longer play, another comedy, told the story of two bachelor farmers trying to hire a housekeeper. The farmers, first seen peeling a mountain of potatoes, were played by the rector, R. S. L. McAdam, and the People's Warden, Harry Swarbrick, known for his fondness for dress shirts in pool table green. The director of the play was the Rector's Warden, my father, determined to bring a *Willean* perfection to this farmland farce.

Particularly memorable was one of the

applicants for the housekeeper's job, played by the towering Theron Buchanan, son of the local radio station manager, and later a priest in the Diocese of New Westminster, sometimes seen walking down Lonsdale Avenue in North Vancouver reading his prayer book, oblivious to traffic.

Theron — six foot six or possibly six foot eight — appeared in a blonde wig and speaking with a near impenetrable Scandinavian accent. He had the best line in the play: when one of the farmers invited Inga to take a chair, he (or in this case she) replied, "No, thank you. I already own a chair."

Many Yuletides later, I found myself writing small dramas for Sunday School Christmas concerts. One was *The Christmas Eve Bandit*, in which, of course, redemption triumphs, and another was *Christmas Eve in the Bunkhouse*, based on a story of ranch life told by Father Bill Youngman.

The parish where these were presented was St. Andrew's, Burnaby. That parish has ceased to exist. I hope the plays weren't the cause.

I look forward to this year's Christmas offerings. Save me a bag of nuts and hard candy. ✠

Lyndon Grove. PHOTO Kent Kallberg



TOPIC WISHES ALL
A PRAYERFUL ADVENT,
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND MANY BLESSINGS
FOR 2015!

2014 Was a Great Year for Topic!

We appreciate your ongoing support and look forward to serving you in 2015.

Please keep the stories, photos, editorials, book reviews and reflections coming. We will do our best to provide you with a monthly publication that reflects our diocesan vision:

Growing communities of faith
in Jesus Christ to serve God's mission
in the world.

Thank you for reading Topic and...
Many Blessings in 2015!

Randy Murray, *Topic Editor* and
Jennifer Ewing, *Topic Designer*



Meeting the Stranger

ART TURNBULL
Retired Priest of the Diocese of Ontario with Permission to Officiate in the Diocese of New Westminster

He came into the building. The greeter did say, "Hello!" The member of the Greeting Team (sidesperson) did give him a book and a bulletin. He sat off to one side, by himself.

The service began with the music and singing of the processional song, sung with a bit of gusto. The liturgy then unfolded in a steady manner. At times the presider announced a page number indicating where in the book the service had arrived. The hymns were also called out by name. He followed the activity as best he could.

At the end of the service everyone was invited for coffee in the hall. He slipped away, mainly unnoticed. He wondered as he left if his difference made any difference. He knew his English was not as good as others present. Yet he was pleased to have found the general pattern of worship not unlike what he had experienced back home so long ago. He also knew he wanted to connect spiritually once again to a Christian community that would take him in and love him.

There is a barrier in many Anglican parish churches. This may take the form of seeing things as being taken for granted. The worship is accepted as familiar, the music known, and the people friendly. It is in this familiarity of worship, this form of singing, in this friendliness assumed that

the problem lies. It is all wrapped up in a cultural package.

Anglicans today are still a majority of caucasian, English speaking, middle class, socially homogenized and mainly grey-headed people. We like like-minded and *like-looking* people. We have been doing it this way for generations, making slight adjustments now and then. For example, the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) people have given way to the Book of Alternative Services (BAS) adherents. Our music has added some more recent tunes and texts, but hymns remain quite acceptable to those who do not sing in the first place. Our friendliness has not moved in recent decades out of the small clique pattern so loved by our ancestors.

For this 21st Century, it is my opinion; the Anglican Church of Canada had better become ethnically liberalized. Change has taken place. The neighbourhoods we live in are no longer uniform. The language spoken in the marketplace is multilingual. How do we Anglicans, of the *old standards* variety, make room for the people God is calling us to embrace?

Well, we can begin, again in my humble opinion, by using some old fashioned methods of communication. There is nothing wrong with the use of Twitter and Chatter-

mas we who attend church and are part of a worshipping community will encounter those who do not attend worship regularly and are not on the Parish Lists. This Church Year of 2014 to 2015, Year B, is a good time to work at being invitational and welcoming to all who seek. The Gospel of Mark will help us do that.

When He or She or They come into your purview, reach out and say, "Hello." Do so with a warm smile that is meant. Do not be shy about sharing your name with this stranger. Do help the visitor to be seated near you. If you sense a desire for assistance, help find the correct page in the correct book. Indicate what is going to happen next. When the service is done, invite He or She to coffee time in the hall. Then make sure they are included in your clique.

That is a beginning. Perhaps when He or She or They are invited to come back again they may also be asked what would help make that possible. What would they like to contribute, take part in, contribute to, or have their need expressed?

"You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways... Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people."

Isaiah 64: 1-9

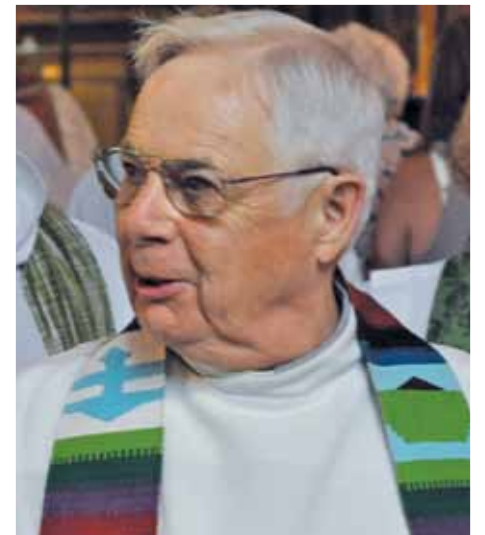
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

During the seasons of Advent and Christ-

"And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake," says Jesus."

Mark 13: 37 ✠

The Rev. Art Turnbull, September 2014. PHOTO Randy Murray



OPINION

Christmas Reflections 2014

On the morning of October 22nd during the news coverage that would ultimately report that Corporal Nathan Cirillo had been gunned down in front of the Canadian National War Memorial, and two days following the intentional vehicular homicide that killed Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent in a parking lot in a southeast Montreal suburb diocesan communications sent out a request to several folks who had contributed to Topic during the previous year. I asked them if they would submit a brief reflection in the neighbourhood of 75 words answering the question, “What does Christmas mean to you now in 2014?”

Here are their responses:



Neale Adams
ODNW, Christ Church Cathedral

Christmas celebrates the Incarnation. That God acts in the world is what Christmas means to me — as well as being a great family holiday. I do get annoyed at the commercialism (who doesn't?), and at literalization of the biblical Nativity Stories — there are two, quite unrelated, not about facts but about how God acts. The best liturgies, hymns, poems, and stories (like O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi*) make Christmas meaningful in 2014 and always. ✦

Allan Carson
Rector, St. John's, Sardis

As the years go by the very word Christmas takes on a new perspective to me. It has become — Christ... mas. A thanksgiving for Christ himself. Gathering together with my amazing family that the Lord has blessed me with is part of my thanksgiving and joy. But I am becoming more and more amazed at what God has done in Christ and this changes how I want to celebrate. My hope is that the focus of our love and giving will become more on the stranger than on ourselves. That is a thanksgiving that would please Christ. ✦

An Carson
St. John's, Sardis

Christmas to me means spending time with those you love and who love you. It's a time to celebrate the birth of our savior Jesus Christ, to thank the Lord for what he has done for us and a time to forget all the worries and hatred that we may have against others. It's that magical feeling you get in your heart when people join together to help and love others, like snowflakes, all different but beautiful in our own way. ✦



Cesar Castro
St. Michael's Multicultural Church

I look forward to spending more time with and bonding with my family and friends this Christmas. Christmas parties with immediate family, and friends through our organizations and church gatherings and fellowship. For family members and friends who we can't be with physically due to distance, etc., at least we make an effort to get in touch with them via cyberspace to extend the love and spirit of Christmas. It is through these ways that gives me happiness and good feelings, which means no hate, nor anger and hopefully it passes on to others and maybe to the world. ✦

Hilary Clark
St. Christopher's, West Vancouver

I am using this Christmas season to try to regain the awe, wonder and magic of the first Christmas, before everything went sideways into the terror, tragedy, and torment of our present world. Our world seems to be awash in these torments from Pandora's Box, with the events in Ottawa as a supreme example, but I still believe that the last entity, “Hope,” is still there for us, in the person of the Christ Child. Pray God I am right! ✦



Jane Dittrich
Christ Church Cathedral

Christmas this year will represent a season of gratitude for me. Grateful for the health of family, grateful for genuine friends and enduring life influences, and grateful for living in a beautiful city with endless opportunities. This holiday season will also be a time for me to truly focus on spending time with cherished people, to count my blessings, and to give back to the broader community in meaningful and new ways using my God-given gifts and energies. ✦

Alecia Greenfield
St. Clement's, Lynn Valley

Christmas 2014 is celebrating God in a prayer of food, family and fun. No effort or earnestly trying to be a good Christian (because let's face it, the type of Christian that submits words to *Topic* is terribly earnest). When else can we knock on doors along our street, sing alleluia and be received with smiles. When else do friends and family ask us when church service is? Christmas 2014 is an invitation to joy. ✦

Lyndon Grove
ODNW, Christ Church Cathedral

As the days dwindle down to a precious few (in Maxwell Anderson's words) for some of us, Christmas is more memory than expectation: crunching through snow after midnight Mass; standing for the three-hour service at an Orthodox church; sprawling on the floor making gift lists in August. There have been many celebrations, but the wonder and mystery remain, and for a moment we become, if not ghosts, the sum of all those Christmases past ✦

Andrew Halladay
Vicar, St. Augustine's, Marpole

Christmas is the only holiday I celebrate in my personal life. I do Holy Week and Easter in church, of course, and it is hard to escape the commercial trappings of any holiday no matter how minor (did you know Violin Day is December 13?), but Christmas is the only one that makes it into my house. There is something about lights shining in the darkness: a Christmas tree at midnight or the Sun of a New Dawn. There's something about the variety of stories: from Jesus to Scrooge, from a Welsh boy to the Grinch. There's something about music: sacred, secular and everything in between. And there's something about waiting for a child to save me, especially now that I live with a three-year-old.

Sheila Johnson
Parish Administrator, St. Mark's, Ocean Park

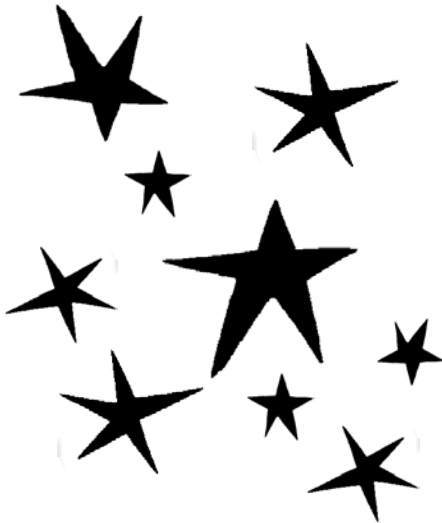
One December not long ago I heard Bishop Michael Ingham at St. Alban's, Richmond say, “Each year Christmas comes at just the right time.” He noted current events that had undermined peace, grace and truth in our world and had battered the human family. For me Christmas is an opportunity to ponder anew the story of the miracle of the birth of Jesus Christ, the gift of the Prince of Peace, and then to re-commit to being an agent of God's love until Christmas comes again — at just the right time. ✦

Wilna Parry
St. Clement's, Lynn Valley

I came across an insightful passage in L. William Countryman's book, *Living on the Borders of the Holy*, which I would like to share:

“As we eat together, we find ourselves, at least in graced moments, nourished not only with the physical food but with the priestly presence of one another and an awareness of God's graciousness. The sharing of food often proves to be the occasion for the deeper priestly sharing of life.”

May we all be blessed in our priestly sharing this Christmas. ✦



Michiko Tatchell
ODNW, Holy Cross Japanese-Canadian Anglican Church

Internationally, 2014 was heavier than ever — why — because the crazy weather and homeland terror are now for real. When fear is real peace is also real. Mother Mary was told, “Fear not.” After Christ was born, the wise men were overwhelmed with joy to see the child but they feared to return to Herod. But we must not forget when we're with Christ we're given peace. He is the Prince of Peace after all. ✦

Art Turnbull
Retired Priest with Permission to Officiate in the Diocese of New Westminster

Christmas for well over forty years was a busy blur of activity for me. As a priest, services of worship were a priority for Christmas Eve and Day. Busy was the agenda: check the bulletin, make sure food hampers were delivered, call in at the hospital, phone that seeker, rehearse the pageant, officiate at Eucharist (three times), and after morning worship visit hospital, patients and staff. Still the most important activity was to have time to be with Gordi and the children. I was not so good at this. Yet it was the priority.

Jesus was born in part to tell us to take care of those closest to us. “Love one another,” he said. I know that. ✦





Diocesan Youth Movement

YOUTH CONNECTIONS

News & Events for Youth in the Diocese of New Westminster

youth groups •
For Parish Youth Groups go to <http://tinyurl.com/DNW-Youth>

contact • Caitlin Reilley Beck,
Diocesan Coordinator for Children & Youth Ministry
cbeck@vancouver.anglican.ca
604.684.6306 ext. 225



Trailblazing Training Day

CAITLIN REILLEY BECK

Children's and Youth Ministries Coordinator for the Diocese of New Westminster

Caitlin facilitates the session on *Story & Creation*. PHOTO Randy Murray



Have you ever wondered how those in youth ministry acquire all those impressive skills for working with young people and building a thriving ministry? How do they learn to make the Bible relevant to young people or how to recruit volunteers? How do they learn to use music, film, stories and television so effectively in conversations about faith? How come they are so good at building relationships and community among young people and beyond? And most importantly, where can I learn these things?

These are great questions and for many of us working in youth ministry, there are a wide variety of answers. Some of us have worked extensively with children and youth outside the Church or may have a background in education. Some of us went to seminary or studied theology and apply that training to ministry with young people. And some of us are lucky enough to have had access to training programs specifically for youth ministry or religious education either through post-secondary or denominational continuing education. Specific training for ministry among young people was rare or non-existent up until the last decade or so as many denominations are realizing the need for particular training programs for youth ministry.

The Anglican Church of Canada's Youth Initiatives Team identified the need for more access to training in youth ministry within our Church. In response to this need, *Trailblazing*, an interactive, online training program for youth ministry, was launched in 2014. A subscription to *Trailblazing* gives users access to various courses, or modules, in aspects of youth ministry. Topics range from an introduction to theology, to the foundational purposes of youth ministry and their theological basis, to courses dealing with the use of music, story, film and television as tools for spiritual formation and theological reflection with young people.

On Saturday, October 25th the Diocesan Youth Movement (DYM) hosted a group training session using *Trailblazing*. A group of eight people interested and involved in youth ministry in the diocese gathered at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale for the event. Participants were provided access to one of 20 individual subscriptions purchased by the diocese, and members of the Diocesan Youth Movement leadership team helped ensure that everyone was properly set up and logged in. Then as a group, we looked through the various courses offered and chose one to begin together.

Based on the interest of the group, we decided to work through the *Story & Creation* course. This course described how stories work, and why we tell them: "As Christians, we are people of a Book, telling God's story with our own lives. So, what is a story? How do the stories we tell shape our worldview?" We had opportunities to post to the online forums about stories we loved as children and how they shaped our world. We then shared these stories with our own group and had a more in depth discussion in person. Together we were able to work through most of the interactive course which included readings, videos and links to websites which served as the basis for our reflections and discussions both online and in person.

In the weeks following our gathering, trail guides, or instructors, from the *Trailblazing* team have responded to our posts online to ask questions and encourage us to continue in our learning. Our own Phil Colvin, former Diocesan Youth Coordinator here in New Westminster is one of these trail guides and a creator of two modules on using film and television in youth ministry. He checks in with those posting on the forums and helps keep *Trailblazing* interactive, even for those who go through modules outside of training events like ours.

Connecting those doing youth ministry with one another, as learners, as theologians, as thoughtful practitioners, is one of the goals of *Trailblazing*. Youth Ministry can be an isolating field in which to work or volunteer—building a community of support in which youth ministers can engage in theological reflection and professional development is important for the growth of thriving youth ministry in the Church. For those gathered at St. Mary's for our *Trailblazing* event, this happened both in person and through the online community. The Diocesan Youth Movement hopes to continue to help youth ministers connect with each other and grow as leaders, through *Trailblazing* and future youth leader meet-ups. If you would like to try *Trailblazing* or connect with youth ministers in the diocese, contact the new Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator, Caitlin Reilley Beck at the Synod Office. ✦

LEFT In the foreground the Rev. Elizabeth Ruder Celiz, recently hired to be the North Vancouver Regional Ministry Council's youth ministry coordinator, listens intently. RIGHT Rosie Hewitt, interim children's and youth ministries coordinator at Christ Church Cathedral. PHOTOS Randy Murray



BCYAYM Fall Conference Report

CAMERON GUTJAHR

Member of BCYAYM Executive Council; Youth Representative to Diocesan Council; & Youth Director at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale

Over 60 leaders and young people from BC and Alberta descended upon Cranbrook this past Thanksgiving weekend. They travelled from far and wide; crossing mountain ranges, time zones, the Strait of Georgia, and for some the street outside their house, to finally arrive at Christ Church, Cranbrook. They gathered for the BC and Yukon Anglican — (*breath*) — Youth Movement's (BCYAYM) Fall Conference: *Wanderers*. Over the weekend these wanderers built an altar, danced, prayed, played, ate, sang, shared, and learned through scripture and workshops what it meant to be wanderers on a journey. Transcending everything was community; knowing that as children of God we do not travel alone through this life. As the weekend closed,

the wanderers knew that as they journeyed home to their wildernesses, that the love of God and the community that had formed that Thanksgiving weekend would go with them. They are not alone.

"And we will walk on
Knowing God is always with us
The wilderness is holy ground
And through uncertainty
There's so much possibility to be found"
The Rev. David Taylor ✦

PHOTO Kimberly Blair

