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**TOPIC**

Diocese of New Westminster



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## A Person Can't Stay Sober Just From Fear

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer, Diocese of New Westminster

There was a lot of love in and around St. Paul's located in Vancouver's West End on Valentine's Day, 2010. Just blocks away, the downtown Vancouver streets were crowded with people from all over the world gathered to celebrate the Vancouver 2010 Olympics but that didn't distract the congregation from their celebration of shared ministry on that sunny late winter morning.

The rector, Rev. Markus Duenzkofer, parish leaders and the community welcomed their ministry partners *Our House*. *Our House* is a group of people living together to follow a simple program aimed at freeing themselves from their addictions to alcohol and drugs. They share the cost and labour of maintaining their communal life, while undertaking to help each other live clean and drug-free lives. The program is based on self-help and employs no professional staff.

Founder Norman Sharkey himself a recovering addict began the program 34 years ago and lives with the current group at the *Our House* Union Street location in Vancouver. Four years ago, Norm and a couple of friends approached the leadership of St. Paul's about how the two organizations could work together in shared ministry. After some in-depth conversations both sides agreed to give it a go. As part of their outreach to street people, members of *Our House* meet at 2 pm every Thursday afternoon at St Paul's Church Hall, but that meeting is only one component of the two organizations' partnership in ministry as together they assist those who are addicted to drugs and alcohol move towards renewed lives, free of substance abuse.

On Sunday, February 14th during both the 9:15 and 11 am Celebrations of Eucharist, *Our House* participants/residents were encouraged to speak and share with the congregation their feelings about how *Our House* and worshipping at St. Paul's has impacted their lives. The recurring thread in every testimonial was the word, *love*. Each speaker said that they were shown love and given love and through that experience they had learned to love others and themselves. Half a dozen people spoke, one sang an original song and after these testimonials, Markus asked that any parishioners who wished to respond to what they had heard should feel free to do so, (but good-naturedly asked that they keep it brief). During this segment of the service, members of the St. Paul's community shared (some with tears in their eyes) their feelings about how this shared ministry has changed the way they see people on the street with drug and alcohol dependency.

One parishioner said, "I see the face of God in the faces of the *Our House* people and that has changed how I see everyone on the street."

Throughout the testimony of both the *Our House* residents and St. Paul's parishioners the name Norm Sharkey was mentioned with fondness and gratitude by many of those who spoke that morning.

So...where did this start? How did Norman Sharkey, a 73 year old former Gift Shop owner in Ottawa come to create an innovative drug and alcohol rehab program and end up living in Vancouver and worshipping at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Vancouver's West End?

Norm's story of alcohol addiction and subsequent near ruin is a story we have all heard before. He spent 12 years

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# NEWS

## Olympic Reflections

EILEEN NURSE

Deacon, St. George, Fort Langley

You may have noticed that a rather large sports event took place in some communities of the Lower Mainland February 2010.

Paul talks about living in community in his letter to the Philippians and I was reflecting on that as our community changed when we welcomed the world.

When the IOC awarded the Winter Olympics to Vancouver I was excited, since then I've had an up and down relationship with the 2010 games. There have been times when I've been very excited and proud that we would be hosting the Olympics. There have also been times when I've struggled with the cost our community would have to pay for this privilege.

Whether the legacy of the Olympics will be worth the price we've paid is something we will have to assess at a later time. While the games were on I took the approach that they are here and so we should enjoy and make the most of the experience.

Then we come across Paul's letter to the Philippians when he reminds up about following Christ and living in community. What did that mean for us as we said goodbye to the world community that was in our midst for over two weeks? What does it mean to us now?

I expect we all have 'Olympic moments' that will stay with us for many years to come. I know I have.

One such moment occurred while I was volunteering at Christ Church Cathedral. During the Olympics our Cathedral kept its doors open for 12 hours every day, with lay volunteers providing tours and information about the Cathedral and clergy serving as Chaplains. The motivation behind the program was to provide a place of *Sanctuary, Peace and Prayer* in the midst of the busyness of the downtown core.

I served as Chaplain on the first Sunday of the Olympics. In our training, we had been told about some of the colourful people that find their way to the Cathedral. So as I wandered around the sanctuary I would watch people and try to be sensitive to those who might be in need.

On that afternoon I noticed a woman who appeared to be acting a little strange. She was wearing a long coat and a hat and had put tissues around herself on the ground. I could hear her talking/mumbling, she kept kneeling down and putting her head on the floor, then she'd stand up and bow and then kneel down again. This went on for about 10 minutes and I just hovered nearby.

I thought to myself "I guess she is one of those strange people they told us about." I figured that she wasn't hurting anyone and that I'd just hover nearby in case I was needed. Eventually the woman stood up and started taking off her coat and hat and a friend came and took them from her. She looked and acted normal. The two women walked into the main part of the Cathedral and began to look around and take pictures.

I watched this with confusion and then I felt God "smack me on the head." I walked up to the woman and asked, "Are you Muslim?" She said, "Yes and God is so BIG and so wonderful," as she waved her hand to take in the large Cathedral sanctuary. This woman was from Iran and she had chosen to offer one of her five daily prayers in the sanctuary offered by our Christian Cathedral. I was overwhelmed by the gift and the presence of God reminding me that our Community is much larger than we can ever imagine.

For me that will be one of the lasting legacies of the

Olympic Games.

We spent over two weeks watching the world's elite athletes compete in dozens of events. I was struck by the reaction of those athletes to the games and their performance in them. Some would react in despair when they lost, while others rejoiced in participating. We watched

to the world.

My prayer is that those who shared our community last February returned to their homes and the places where God has given them responsibility, remembering the peace and love we all celebrated over 16 days. May that be the gift our community gives to the world. ✠

Eileen Nurse expressing her Canadian spirit.



inspiring performances like the one by Joannie Rochette. We saw anger and frustration. We saw joy, laughter and tears of happiness. The whole range of human emotions played out before our eyes.

Many have been able to keep focused on the gifts while letting go of the setbacks. Others have been so focused on their failures they have not been able to rejoice in their achievements. Those who seek success can get so caught up in the final result that they lose sight of the gifts their achievements can give them. It is not about fame—it is about participating and being totally engaged in the games and being in community.

I was most touched by those who were able to celebrate what they accomplished. Those who allowed themselves to get caught up in the disappointment of silver or bronze missed out on so much that their sporting community offered.

I would've been very, very sad if our hockey teams hadn't won the gold medals. While I may be a faithful Christian—I am also CANADIAN!

Some athletes will move on from these games to create lives of service and contribution to the communities of our world. Those lives will be the real legacy of these games and that will be a gift we've been able to help give

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## Artaban Cream Tea Fundraiser Date Announced

*The date is April 24th, 2010.*

*The place is St. Augustine's Church, 8680 Hudson Street, Vancouver.*

Come and enjoy tea, jam and scones at Artaban's yearly Cream Tea fundraising event. Come and share your camp stories with old friends and former campers. Delicious home baking will be available to purchase. Tickets are \$5 at the door.



Don't forget, the second tier of Camp Artaban early bird discounts for registration will expire April 30th, so register today. There are many great programs to choose from. Visit the website [www.campartaban.com](http://www.campartaban.com) or email [office@campartaban.com](mailto:office@campartaban.com) or telephone 604.980.0391. ✠



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### The Bishop of New Westminster

The Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham.

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**Thank you!**

## NEWS & PEOPLE

### Ministry Assessment Process

PETER VAN DER LEELE

*Incumbent St. Bartholomew, Gibsons Landing*

There is a renewed sense of joy at St. Bartholomew's in Gibsons on the Sunshine Coast and it has resulted in more visitors becoming members.

We once again have more than 100 members in our church family and so are back to sending two members to the diocese's annual synod. I believe at this time it is good to remember that Jesus taught us great discipleship begins with great hospitality.

Part of the renewed excitement and joy has stemmed from the hard work this church is doing in creating a vital and sustainable ministry.

As many of you aware, the Ministry Assessment Process is very active at St. Bart's as the MAP team conducts interviews and group discussions in the church and in the wider community. Through these many interviews and group discussions we will close in on our mission possibilities.

The year ahead of us is full of expectation and enthusiasm as we move from maintenance to mission.

Let me explain those terms. The mission-focused church displays a Christ-like example, including its individuals. The church pays close attention to the needs of the community and acts accordingly. It asks, "What is our purpose in this place and time? What is God asking us to do?"

A church in maintenance is simply concerned with keeping the building open. It has little intentional (action-oriented)

ministry and is usually completely dependent on one main service on Sunday. This was the church that we inherited from the late 1940s and 1950s, when the pews were full and we assumed it would always be that way. As a result, many churches lost their missional roots as declared by Jesus and the founders of the early church.

Some ask, is outreach the same as mission? No, outreach is projects and programs. There is obviously nothing wrong with outreach and it is to be lauded but we must first reclaim our sense of mission, the way of Jesus, a way of life for the church on a full-time basis before we can once again become sustainable and vital to the community.

Mission means we are a living demonstration of God's plans as seen through Jesus Christ. In other words, we live the message to such an extent that together we become a church that is intentional in purpose, complete with outreach, and achieves sustainability because it is essential to the community.

That is what the Ministry Assessment Process is all about. We become equipped for the work of change and renewal, psychologically and physically, and invite others on the journey.

That is what we started in 2009 and we trust to see the fruit of that work in 2010.

MAP is not merely a wish or pipe dream that will find dust on a shelf in some diocesan office; for St. Bart's it is a question of realizing our future.

For the diocese: it is the future. The diocese has concluded, "The overall goal is vital and sustainable ministry throughout this diocese – not merely survival. Maintaining the status quo is not an option."

We, through the hard work of the MAP team and many others, are well on the way to this evolution in ministry. It will require more work, patience and an attitude that life is full of change, including the church.

In my sermons I often state that the Bible and what it teaches is not frozen in time but instead is open to the daring world of today and is the hope of our future.

Jesus is more than yesterday's news; he is the living God of challenges.

We have all experienced a new sense of community at St. Bart's in the last year. There has been so much more laughter,

more insight, and, of course, even tears as we audaciously transform into all that God calls us to be.

It is an incredible journey and one that I relish and judging from all the work done in this parish, I know that the community delights in the Gospel of Christ and not in stagnation.

In a church community of many elders we are blessed with several new members who are willing to take our heritage and the living Gospel into the next decade. They are our future.

I find them keen to learn your wisdom and passionate to embark on journeys that at this time are only known to God.

But, believe me, the Spirit will guide us. ✠

### AROUND THE DIOCESE



At the February 9th, 2010 Diocesan Council Meeting, **Bishop Michael Ingham** informed council that the Diocesan Council for the **Episcopal Diocese of Taiwan** under the leadership of **The Right Rev. David**

**Jung-Hsin Lai** voted at their last meeting to extend the diocesan partnership with New Westminster for another 5 years.

Bishop Michael made the announcement at the beginning of the monthly meeting.

After the agenda for the evening was accomplished Bishop Michael asked the council to make a motion in response to the Diocese of Taiwan's offer to extend the partnership.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously agreed that the Diocese of New Westminster extend its partnership with the Diocese of Taiwan for another 5 years but that this partnership would not preclude other diocesan partnerships if the opportunities arise. ✠



**February 14th**, Valentine's Day, 2010 **St Paul's** in the West End celebrated the founding 34 years earlier of the *Our House* drug and alcohol rehab house in Ottawa at both morning celebrations of the Eucharist. Over the past few years an *Our House* group recovery home on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside has been successfully established and that facility has enjoyed a wonderful partnership in ministry with St. Paul's over the past 4 years. ✠

The evening of February 14th **St. Mary's, Kerrisdale** welcomed renowned Vancouver guitarist **David Sinclair** who performed a sold-out concert. Between sets of music St. Mary's incumbent, the **Rev. Kevin Dixon** spoke to the audience about the Colombian family that are being helped by the St. Mary's community and how the proceeds from the concert will supply much needed additional aid to that family. February 14th is also Kevin's birthday so there were twice as many reasons to celebrate. ✠



Jane Dittrich wishes Kevin, "Happy Birthday." ✠

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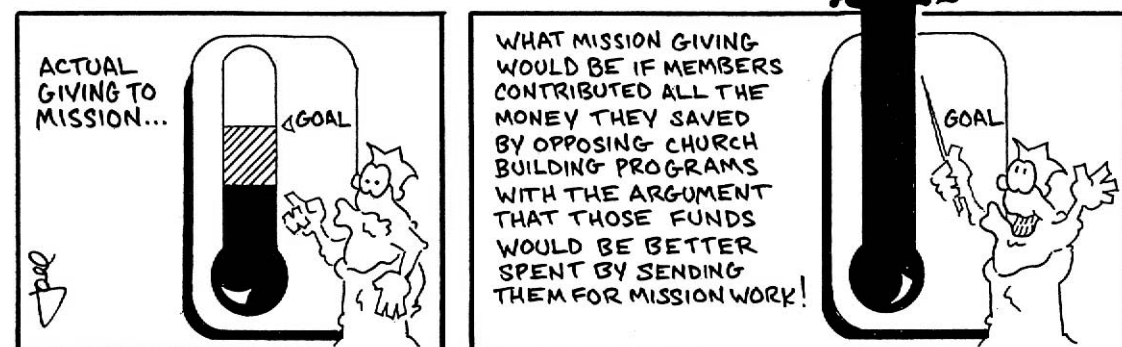
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#### PONTIUS PUDDLE by Joel Kauffmann



#### THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

compiled by Anglican Archivist Melanie Wallace

- 50 years • 1960 The (then) Rev. Canon David Somerville is appointed the new Dean of Residence at the Anglican Theological College (now VST).
- 45 years • 1965 Diocesan Executive Council sends a telegram of encouragement to Martin Luther King on his "campaign for justice and democratic freedom."
- 20 years • 1990 Diocesan Communications Committee sets up first internet "computer users network" for parishes and clergy.
- 15 years • 1995 Anglicans in Chilliwack take a stand with other community leaders against the infiltration of the Aryan Nation organization seeking to set down roots in the area.
- 10 years • 2000 The "Dialogue" process begins between paired parishes regarding the blessing of same-sex unions, with the purpose of "listening to one another with care and respect."

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

Cooperative ministry is something that has been steadily increasing in churches throughout the Diocese of New Westminster and nowhere is this new spirit more apparent than in the **North Vancouver Deanery**. All North Van parishes are engaged in MAP (the Ministry Assessment Process) and the work is going very well.

Last summer all 7 parishes united on a Sunday morning to worship together at St. Catherine's Capilano and the result was a resounding success.

On **Ash Wednesday, February 17th** three churches hosted Ash Wednesday worship of Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes with the support and participation of the other three deanery churches. **St. Clement's** celebrated the morning worship, **St. Agnes'** the noon and **St. Martin's** in the evening. ✦

Don't forget! [www.holidayservices.ca](http://www.holidayservices.ca) the Diocese of New Westminster's adjunct website has listings for **Lent, Holy Week and Easter** worship and events. ✦



A freestyle skier image reflected in the Cathedral's windows has become an iconic image of the event.

During the two and half weeks of the Olympics, **Christ Church Cathedral** enlisted over 100 volunteer greeters both lay and ordained and opened the doors 12 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Cathedral Church of our diocese welcomed more than **9,000** visitors. The biggest day without a doubt was **Saturday, February 20th** when over one thousand people came through the double doors at the corners of Georgia and Burrard. ✦



Cathedral Parish Council Co-Chair **Tom Callen** presents a Cathedral commemorative pin to a delighted young woman who was the **1000th** visitor to the Cathedral that day.

**Holy Trinity Church** at 12th and Hemlock also reported a very successful Olympic outreach experience. The Rev. Dr. John Oakes opened up the doors to Holy Trinity, rolled out the big screen, turned on the digital

projector and invited the neighbourhood in to watch selected Olympic Games and events in the church sanctuary. ✦



The week of **February 21st** was a busy one for **Bishop Michael Ingham** as he flew to London, England to participate in the first ever African/Canadian Bishop's Dialogues. Bishop Michael reports that the event was a great success and brought greater understanding between the two groups of bishops. A visit with **The Most Rev. Rowan Williams**, the Archbishop of Canterbury was also a highlight of the trip. Information about this event is available on the diocesan website and will also be featured in the May issue of *Topic*. ✦



Late in the morning of **Wednesday, March 3rd** a good sized barn owl took up residence in a tree near the entrance to the Allstream Building at 401 West Georgia. This is the building that contains Suite 580, the offices of the Diocese of New Westminster.

The presence of the owl in the midst of the urban setting caused quite a stir. The muted click of cell phone cameras accompanied the traffic noises and the gentle sounds of an early spring breeze.

After two and half weeks of increased human presence in the downtown core caused by the Olympics a little piece of nature in the form of a sleepy owl was much appreciated. ✦

In early March 2010 a new diocesan website went up on-line. The new HR website can be found at [www.vancouveranglican.com](http://www.vancouveranglican.com).

This website is designed to provide a resource for many of the human resource (HR) questions you may have, whether in the parish or at the synod level. It has been under development for a long time and continues that way now and for a time into the future. Most of the material available on it at the moment is to assist clergy and parish leaders integrate people new to parish life or people who are taking on new roles in the parish by making sure that they are properly briefed, screened and trained. ✦

On **Friday, March 5th in Langley** there was a special Eucharist of Celebration to mark 10 years of ordained ministry for **The Rev. Scott Gould** incumbent of St. Andrew's, Langley and soon to be the new incumbent of St. Helen's, Point Grey. **The Venerable Stephen Rowe**, Archdeacon of Fraser, presided, **the Very Rev. Peter Elliott**,

Dean of New Westminster and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, preached and **Canon Peter Davison** of the Diocese of Kootenay presented the intercession. Scott is an associate member of the Christ Church Cathedral choir and he was honoured to have 16 of his colleagues from the choir and Christ Church Cathedral Organist and Music Director, **Rupert Lang** present to help lead the music in worship along with the Choir of St. Andrew's, Langley under the direction of **Martin Anderle**.



LEFT Procession out for Rev. Scott Gould. RIGHT Rev. Scott Gould thanks Christ Church Cathedral's choir.

The principal organizers for the evening were St. Andrew's curate, **the Rev. Janice Lowell** and Rector's Warden, **Paulene Harris**.

Also participating in the event were **the Rev. Neil Grey** of Holy Trinity, White Rock, who served as host and "roast master" for the après worship reception, **the Rev. Craig Tanksley** (Fraser Regional Dean) and **the Rev. Paul Guiton** of St. Dunstan's Aldergrove. Many of the people in attendance both lay and ordained have had and continue to have a substantial connection to Scott, his partner **Susanne Morgan** and their children, **Chester, Veronica and Phineas** over the course of Scott's career in ministry. ✦

**The In Between Time • St. John the Evangelist.** Walk the Labyrinth, journal in a notebook, express yourself in art, sit in silent prayer on **Easter Saturday, April 3rd, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm**. Bring your own bag lunch. Tea, coffee and snacks will be provided. Please register by e-mail [stjohnnv@telus.net](mailto:stjohnnv@telus.net) or phone 604.986.1151. Donations welcome. ✦

**April 23rd** will be the **25th anniversary** of the murder of one of our priests, the late **Rev. John Taylor**, who at the time was Rector of **St. George's Parish, Maple Ridge**. The Parish Council writes that on that day John "went to his office at St. George's as he normally would. He did not come home for lunch. He was found by his wife, in his office, dead, by a single gunshot to the head. As of now, no one has been convicted of his murder. Many speculated that he had been shot because of counseling he may have done." The Bishop asks that throughout the Diocese that **Sunday services on April 25th** make special note of this quarter-century remembrance. ✦

**Ceilidh!** (We aren't too certain about the spelling: but it's Irish for Party!) **Friday, April 30th from 7 - 11 pm**.

**Christ the Redeemer, Cloverdale** would like to invite you to celebrate the season of the Resurrection with a party. We are going to hold a Ceilidh, (pronounced *kay-lee*) a traditional Celtic evening of music and fiddling and dance. There will be live music with Vancouver's own **Blackthorne Celtic Folkband** ([www.blackthornband.com](http://www.blackthornband.com)) and we will be calling some Celtic dancing. Don't worry about a "date," the dancing is akin to "line dancing" which, even if you have some residual Baptist in you somewhere, you'll be wanting to get up to try it. Or sit back and enjoy some great music in a pub-like atmosphere. There will be traditional Irish themed food and beverages

and some awesome Fraser Valley hospitality. This will be a family friendly event and we will be providing onsite childcare.

Tickets are available in advance by contacting the church office at 604.576.2216 or phone 604.575.0092. \$12 advance purchase, \$30 advance family ticket. Children 6 years and younger, free. Tickets purchased at the door on the night will be \$15. Doors open at 7 pm and the festivities will end at 11 pm. ✦

**The Rev. William V. Derby** will end his time as Rector of **St. Thomas, Vancouver on April 30th**, in order to begin as Rector of a parish in his original sponsoring Diocese New York at **St. Edward the Martyr, Spanish Harlem, New York City, effective June 1st**.

William has served parishes, including the Cathedral, in the Diocese of Montreal, and came here as Interim Priest for St. James, Vancouver after ten years of service in St. Michael and All Angels, Cuernavaca, Mexico. He was featured on the front page of the April 2010 issue of *Topic*. ✦



Rabbi Robert Daum.

Preparations are well underway for Diocesan Synod. The Synod (AGM) will take place **May 14th and 15th at Christ Church Cathedral**. The 2010 Synod title is *Moving Back into the Neighbourhood*

and the general tone of the conference component of the meetings will reflect the diocesan focus on "missional church." **Rabbi Robert Daum**, Director of the Iona Pacific Inter-Religious Centre will be the Diocesan Synod Partner. ✦



The Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada invite you to participate in a national worship conference, *Taking Care of the Neighbourhood - Worship as public work for the common good*, Sunday July 4th to Wednesday July 7th at the University of British Columbia and Vancouver School of Theology. Register online at [www.nationalworshipconference.org](http://www.nationalworshipconference.org). If you are interested and do not have internet access please speak with your priest or parish administrator. This conference is recommended by RAWWG the diocesan sponsored Renewing Anglican Worship Working Group. ✦

**The Rev. Emilie Smith** will be in Vancouver for a brief time in the late spring early summer on leave from her mission to Guatemala (see article on Page 5). The only time and location available at this writing to hear Emilie is **June 22nd at 6:15 pm**, Soul Space at **Christ Church Cathedral**. More schedule details are available on the diocesan website [www.vancouver.anglican.ca](http://www.vancouver.anglican.ca) ✦

**Errata** • In the March issue of *Topic* a photograph caption on Page 5 in support of the closing of **St. Richard's** identified **Janet Morris** as a "parishioner." Ms. Morris is in fact a long-time parishioner of **St. Catherine's, Capilano**. *Editor* ✦



# CHURCH IN THE WORLD

## Mission Report from Guatemala

EMILIE SMITH

Priest of the Diocese of New Westminster

Currently Priest-in-Charge of San Juan Apostol, Chichicastenango, Guatemala

*Sell everything you own,  
give your money to the poor,  
and follow me. Luke 18:18-19*

In October 2008, in Chimaltenango, Guatemala, at the Holy Fire of Maya Kakchiquel Aj-Kij, Rosenda Camey, I heard the voice of the God of Life: *Come, here, this is your path, your place, your beloved people.* After months of consideration back in Canada, working things through with my sons, discerning with wise friends, was this indeed an un-ignorable command, or yet another of Emilie's wild ideas? A year's hard work it was, but things unfolded like a banner being unfurled and I walked out over the abyss onto a bridge that was yet to be built.

Guatemala is a harsh and suffering country. The genocide suffered by its majority Maya people, a terrible, event forgotten by the world, and fitfully ignored even by Guatemalans themselves, is the ever-present under-reality in every encounter. The ugly face of Canadian mining scrapes across the highlands, carting off the riches, leaving behind ravaged earth, broken and bitter communities, and little dribblings of gold, to keep the people quiet. In all of Guatemala, poverty beyond telling sears the country - the UN fears that this year more than four hundred thousand families are in danger of famine. This in a country rich in soil and ancestral knowledge and the Mayas know how to tend to their sacred corn.

So here I am, priest-in-charge of *San Juan Apostol* in *Chichicastenango*, congregation of about 100 faithful Maya-K'iche' Episcopalians, and also serving as assistant to the suffragan bishop, assigned to attend to all of the western highlands. The dream of the 12 or so congregations here - is in 3 to 4 years, to create their own diocese. And in Santa Cruz del Quiche, the departmental capital, half an hour up the road from Chichi, I was commissioned to found a new congregation... this January and February found me up to my ears in scrub-brushes and paint, and crud, soot, dirt and dust, performing a miracle, and turning an old crumbling colonial house into the *K'aslemal Joromil Ja*, the *House of Life and Peace*.

Peace House, an ambitious and spirit-filled community project, has consumed my passion, as I have reached out to Quichelenses with this proposal, an offering of the



TOP Emilie with kids.

LEFT TOP Ladies peeling some onions.

LEFT BOTTOM Enjoying some tamales.

RIGHT Making new friends.

Episcopal Church, to the wider community: come to this place of rest, beauty and quiet, this open place, leave at the door your bitter suffering, let me wash your feet at the fountain (not quite installed). The response has been overwhelming, and plans and ideas, and collaborative endeavours are growing every day. I'm not doing anything, really, just following orders, just a twig floating down the stream, as I have written home to others.

Santa Cruz del Quiche is where my sister-in-law, Beatriz Barrios, was from. She was buried here after she was vilely assassinated in 1985. In June of last year, as I was sitting at table with her lovely son, my nephew, in Cambridge, Ontario, I received the modified invitation from the bishops of Guatemala to come and live in Quiche (instead of

Chichicastenango as originally proposed). Yes, I said, yes.

These months have been a falling-off-the-face-of-the-earth-as-I-know-it endeavour. I have cried bitter tears, and experience what can only be described as pure ecstasy... roaring down the road on Christmas Eve, after Mass, in the back of a pick-up truck, in the bitter cold, to the house of Reverend Pascuala, my colleague and friend. There we feasted on tamales in her dirt-floor kitchen, and toasted tortillas over the fire, and drank sweet coffee while outside firecrackers exploded. God has come into the world to bring release to those who suffer. Hallelujah! And three times — Hallelujah!

Emilie Smith is returning to Vancouver late in the Spring of 2010. Here is a list of opportunities to worship with Emilie and hear her speak: June 6, Preaching and Presiding at Sunday Services, St Paul, Vancouver. June 13, Preaching at Sunday Services at St. Hilda, Sechelt. June 20, Preaching and Presiding at Sunday Services at St. Barnabas, New Westminster. June 22, Soulspace Eucharist and Program, 6:15pm at Christ Church Cathedral. June 27, Preaching and Presiding at Sunday Services at St. Francis-in-the Wood, West Vancouver. ✠

## Aid to Haiti

Thanks to Canadian donors the Anglican Church of Canada's international emergency aid organization PWRDF (Primate's World Relief and Development Fund) has collected over \$1.14 million from donors. Together, Anglicans are making a difference for a strong and healthy future for Haiti.

This story has dropped out of the news but Haiti is far from safe, stable, strong or healthy.

As of this writing (early March) the rains will be coming and there will be more need in that battered country.

Watch for updates on PWRDF's Haiti response by visiting [www.pwrdf.org](http://www.pwrdf.org). ✠



## Grandmas Reach Out to Africa

SUSANNE MILNER

This article originally appeared in *The Source / La Source* newspaper (Vol. 10, No. 29)

"Grandchildren are the icing on the cake of life," said Val How, a proud grandmother of four and member of the South Van Grandmothers to Grandmothers group. These groups — nicknamed "Gogos" after the Zulu word for grandmother — work locally to support their African sisters. She hopes one day grandmothers in many sub-Saharan African nations will also be able to experience the joy of their grandchildren without the full responsibility of raising them. The HIV/AIDS crisis has left many communities in Africa with an added challenge to care for more than 11 million children orphaned by the disease.

According to the Stephen Lewis Foundation, approximately 40 per cent to 60 per cent of these children live in grandmother-headed households. In fact, it is Canadian Stephen Lewis, former special envoy to the United Nations for HIV/AIDS in Africa, who has spearheaded a movement here at home and abroad to support these women.

On the eve of International Women's Day, March 7th, 2006, Lewis challenged Canadian grandmothers to join in solidarity with their African counterparts. Grandmothers all across the country including many in Greater Vancouver responded to his call. Greater Vancouver Gogos has grown from a membership of four groups in August 2006 to 20 groups presently active. Grannies all across the region, spanning the Sunshine Coast to Abbotsford, are finding unique and innovative ways to join in the fight against HIV/AIDS. What unites these groups is their three-fold mandate — to raise awareness amongst Canadians about the plight of the African grandmothers, to build solidarity between the two regions and to fundraise for grassroots projects in 15 sub-Saharan countries supported by the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

One advantage for the Gogos in building awareness is their status in society. "Grandmothers are seen as wise members in their communities here and they are often connected through work or social links to influential members of society," said Nina Matthews, co-chair of the Greater Vancouver Gogos.

Events, such as the Grandmothers' Walk through downtown Vancouver held in June since 2008, raise greater awareness about the issue. Bringing their African sisters to share their stories with a wider audience in Vancouver helps locals to feel a greater connection to the plight of those oceans away. Through awareness comes advocacy work of which the grannies are very proud.

On Wednesday, November 27th, Bill C-393 passed a vote in the House of Commons. This vote marks a victory in the ongoing work to help make retroviral medicines more accessible. If the bill successfully comes into legislation, it will simplify processes through CAMR (Canada's Access to Medicine Regimes) to supply low-cost, generic medications to developing countries dealing with the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Members of the groups across Canada, which number 220 strong, have been working tirelessly for the past two years to petition for this bill by collecting 32,000 signatures of support and by writing letters to politicians urging them to back this bill.

For Matthews, a Vancouver resident and native of South Africa, the campaign's pillar of solidarity acts as a driving force. "Whenever you get discouraged, you just have to think of the grandmas fighting against the odds." Matthews joined the cause in 2006, a year after leading a church group through her homeland. That trip took her

to visit many AIDS-related projects.

According to the 2007 UNAIDS report, 12 per cent of South Africa's 48 million people are infected with HIV/AIDS.

Upon returning to Vancouver, Matthews was motivated to act. Luckily, through media around the 2006 AIDS Conference in Toronto, she became aware of the Grandmothers' campaign. Here she found the right avenue.

Matthews and more than 500 members in the Lower Mainland have raised more than \$650,000 dollars since 2006. Each Gogos group decides on their fundraising projects, which range from the very popular tote bags (with sales of \$150,000 alone) to pub nights. Monday, May 3rd at 6:30 pm the Greater Vancouver Gogos will embark on their largest fundraising project, *An Evening with Stephen Lewis* at Centennial Theatre in North Vancouver. All of the money raised is funneled through the Stephen Lewis Foundation back to the region ravaged by the scourge of HIV/AIDS. These monies fund school fees, provide housing grants, pay for grief counseling and other projects to help meet basic needs for the AIDS orphans and their primary caregivers. True to their motto, the local grannies "will not rest until they can rest!"

For more information, visit [grandmotherscampaign.org](http://grandmotherscampaign.org) or e-mail [g-vangogos@hotmail.com](mailto:g-vangogos@hotmail.com). Tickets are on sale now at Centennial Theatre for *An Evening with Stephen Lewis*. \$75 available on-line at [www.centennialtheatre.com](http://www.centennialtheatre.com) or by phone 604.984.4484. ✠

# OUTREACH

## Food (and Shelter) Outreach Diocese of New Westminster.

*Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'*

*The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:37-40*

The general consensus is that Anglicans and Canadians (of which most readers of *Topic* are both) are "tacet" when it comes to blowing our own horns. Our Canadian humility was pointed out several times by the international press during the recently concluded Vancouver Olympics and in fact became a recurring theme. (A good friend who shall remain nameless 'Neale Adams' believes that we love people telling us how modest we are which is in fact extremely prideful. Hmmm... He's probably right.) On this page and in the next two issues of *Topic*, diocesan communications will inform readers about a particular component of mission and ministry of diocesan parishes and how they are living out their call as Disciples of Jesus Christ, feeding and sheltering those in our greater communities who need some help. The reasons for this three part series are simple:

- Everyone should have the opportunity to know about the missional work being done by diocesan parishes and organizations.
- By sharing this information and by supplying some contact information, dialogues and discussions about the formation of similar ministries in other regions can be born.
- Opening the doors (kitchen doors) is an excellent example of how we can respond to the Plan 2018 strategic priorities, as this kind of ministry encompasses at least half of the ten identified priorities.

The following listings are not about statistics and they are not an "ask" for donations; they are information, information to be shared with people inside and outside the church. When someone asks you what the Anglican Church is doing to help our communities you now have a little bit more information. Food and Shelter is only one component of ministry; there are many more, but it is foundational and intentional and although there is always room for improvement, we're pretty good at it. The first installment of the three will look at outreach offered on the North Shore of the Lower Mainland and the Sunshine Coast.

### North Shore & Sunshine Coast

#### ST. AGNES, North Vancouver

St. Agnes, located in a residential neighbourhood just off Grand Boulevard, features a variety of Food Outreach Initiatives which include **Weekly Community Meals** (partnered with St. Andrew United), **Sandwiches for Lookout Shelter** and **Cooking with the Karen Refugees**.

#### Weekly Community Meals

A sit-down, soup and sandwich meal is served every Thursday from 12 noon till 1 pm at St. Andrew United Church. Up to 15 volunteers serve homemade soup and sandwiches prepared from bread donated by *Cobs Bakery*, Park Royal. This year-round meal is guided by *Sharing Abundance* with Director Rev. Lizz Lindsay. [lizzlindsay@hotmail.com](mailto:lizzlindsay@hotmail.com)

#### Sandwiches for Lookout Shelter

Two Monday evenings per month at 7 pm, meet to prepare fillings and make sandwiches for Lookout Shelter. Occasionally help is needed. Contact Marion Edwards 604.987.0432.

#### Cooking with the Karen Refugees

The Rev. Lizz Lindsay, working with Wilna Parry at St. Clement's Church, demonstrates North American cooking

to Karen Refugees. Every 4 – 6 weeks. Funding sources: North Shore Legion, Lions, Whole Foods and Churches.

#### ST. CATHERINE'S, Capilano [www.saint-catherines.org](http://www.saint-catherines.org)

St. Catherine's is located in Edgemont Village, an affluent North Vancouver neighbourhood, and features a couple of on-going projects which include **Cookies for Lookout Homeless Shelter** and an on-going collection for **NS Harvest Foodbank**. A **Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner** was prepared and served last year to 200 people in the community who are needy and/or lonely.

#### Cookies for Lookout Homeless Shelter

Every 4th Tuesday of the month, year-round. Contact Phyllis Mittlestead [phyllism@telus.net](mailto:phyllism@telus.net) for more information or to assist.

#### ST. CHRISTOPHER'S, West Vancouver

St. Christopher in West Vancouver offers a year-round **Food Bank service**. Food is available at the church for pick-up if needed. Parishioners also donated food on a year-round basis for North Shore Harvest Food Bank.

#### ST. CLEMENT, North Vancouver [www.stclementschurch.ca](http://www.stclementschurch.ca)

St. Clement's in the North Shore's Lynn Valley neighbourhood features diverse Food Outreach Initiatives such as the **Bread and Sandwich Ministry**, **Soup to Share**, **St. Clement's Support of North Shore Harvest Food Bank** and **Cooking with the Karen Refugees**.

#### Bread and Sandwich Ministry

In partnership with *Cobs Bakery* (*Cobs Bakery*, Park Royal provides all the bread for St. Clement's Food Outreach), bread is distributed to supplement lunches for needy children, supply a Breakfast Ministry at a Downtown Eastside church, a Refugee House in Burnaby, the North Shore Youth Safe House, monthly soup lunches at St. Clement's and the *Sharing Abundance* community meal also on the North Shore.

#### Soup to Share

Monthly Soup and Sandwich lunch served at St. Clement. The soup is donated by parishioners and financial donations



towards lunch are directed to the Deanery Karen Refugee Fund. 25-30 served. Soup to Share is on hiatus for the summer. This ministry is coordinated by Wilna Parry [parryfamily@shaw.ca](mailto:parryfamily@shaw.ca).

#### St. Clement's Support of North Shore Harvest Food Bank

Regular donations are made by the parish to this food bank, supplemented in summer time by fresh vegetables grown by St. Clement's Church School. Parish support of North Shore Harvest is year round.

#### Karen Refugees

Cooking classes are offered to the Karen Refugees by Wilna Parry from St. Clement's, working with *Sharing Abundance*

director Rev. Lizz Lindsay of St. Agnes. Numbers served varies but the usual is approximately 20. Support is year round but will be phased out as refugees become self-sufficient.

These ministries do not receive any outside funding and are all supported by the parish. *Cobs Bakery* is at the moment the one community partner.

#### ST. BARTHOLOMEW, Gibsons, Sunshine Coast

St. Bartholomew is located in Gibsons. Under leadership of Rev. Linda Varin, the church is involved in a **Thursday School Lunch Program**, with sandwiches and veggie platters delivered on Thursdays during school term to Gibsons Community School. Funding sources comes from *Sunshine Coast-Gibsons Rotary*. Contact The Rev. Linda Varin at [stbarts@dccnet.com](mailto:stbarts@dccnet.com).

## Can't Stay Sober

CONTINUED FROM COVER PAGE

of his early adult working life in the military where liquor was prevalent and excessive drinking not all that unusual. Growing up, all members of his nuclear family were alcoholics. He was married in his 20s but after a few years Norm's wife was unable to cope with his addiction. They did not have children. At the age of 34 he was living in a flophouse in Ottawa, drinking controlled his life to the point where he would regularly miss work, concocting medical ailments to disguise his true condition. One morning he woke up and felt his entire upper body constrict in painful spasm, he thought he was having a heart attack. Prior to this event he had not been particularly religious but that morning he prayed, asking God to save his life, bargaining with God that if his life was spared he would never "use" again. He stopped drinking that day but he knew that he would need to seek help from others because in Norm's words "a person can't stay sober just from fear."

Norm began attending AA meetings. AA was good for him but it wasn't the ultimate solution. His engagement with AA ebbed and flowed in the first four years of sobriety. During this time he didn't drink but he knew he wasn't stable.

At the conclusion of his first sober year he went to an AA conference in Ohio where he met people from Quebec who lived in a large house on a working farm that functioned as a drug rehab facility. Over time and after numerous conferences and retreats he connected with these folks and ended up working for this facility called SPERA (Latin for HOPE). Norm worked at SPERA for 6 months as one of a number of people responsible for 25-30 teenagers and a few young adults, all dealing with addiction.

Following the SPERA experience, Norm went back to Ottawa, borrowed some money and bought a little gift shop. He continued his involvement with AA and noticed there were increasing numbers of young people at AA who had drug dependency issues but didn't feel welcomed in that established 12 step program. Norm listened to their concerns and referred some of these youngsters to SPERA. The majority of people that he referred had very positive experiences which raised the question, "why can't there be a similar facility in Ottawa?"

Norm spoke to some friends about his desire to bring the SPERA model into the urban environment of mid-1970s Ottawa. They pooled their resources and bought a big, old house with many bedrooms and began their lives there February 14th, 1977, 6 years after Norm's bargain with God. This was the first *Our House*.

Finding participants was not difficult and before long the house was full of young people living communally, united by their desire to "clean-up." The *Our House* staff

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## OPINION

### Regarding Terrorism

ALLAN KERR  
St. Helen, Point Grey

Christian consciences are quickened by tragic social events and our voices need to be heard if we are to preserve free speech. The Christians' task is 'to seek peace and to pursue it!' In our everyday, individual lives, it means our behaviour, status and influence must never strike fear into anyone. Indeed, nothing less than profound respect unto love must be our holistic commitment to all others.

There has always been much cruelty and vengeance in the world and Christians have often sided with it. I think that 'tough love' is also necessary to show our opposition to violent tendencies; people in our society who assault others must be taken out from the community and not allowed to continue their ongoing habits of cruelty.

Some background considerations should help us to partially understand bullying by cowards who have yet to learn appropriate ways to negotiate their differences. Some suffering is caused by thoughtlessness such as our abuse of the earth, via ecological folly, cruelty to animals and indirectly profiteering against the desolate. Lack of appropriate parenting fosters delinquency. Poverty,

starvation and disease in third world lands will force the disenfranchised to feel hopeless helplessness. There is freedom-fighter glamour for a minority of suicidal bomber drivers and pilots. It is heart-wrenching to acknowledge that their families might receive a bounty award for the sacrifice of a beloved son or daughter.

Jealousy of first world countries causes reactions. Hysteria ferments unsavory philosophies. 9/11 in the USA was retaliation as that country's 'first symbolic slaughter' and it has been felt for a long time by Israel and many other countries. Britain, where the meeting of world leaders regarding aid to Africa was pillaged on July 7th, 2005, and more absolutely senseless attacks on innocent persons will ensue elsewhere. The Brits have stoically embraced their carnage much better than have other countries. US foreign policy raises the ire of militants; exceptional support to Israel and western military occupation of other lands (e.g. Afghanistan, Iraq) builds hatred. I think that militant terrorists attack their own people when their people favour the west and the west becomes suspicious and therefore wary of innocent Muslims. Muslim leaders must loudly shout their opposition to all bloodshed! Fear is prominent.

Canada's *Air India* assault is unsolved because the truth may be too dangerous to

proclaim. All such horrors done by anyone at all in retaliation of some injustice or disaster is never justified. Some folk elsewhere do not entirely share the view that pluralities of relations, democratic individual free choice, the equality and freedom of women, their right to choose a mate to identify more with the emerging cosmopolitan mosaic, and such like, are here to stay in the west regardless of what happens.

Gang wars with ethnic involvement can stem from new found wealth and freedom and a lack of cultural and family awareness of established principles commonly accepted by most Canadians. We need to note however, that not all aspects of our western free living demonstrate quality wholeness, truth, morality, honesty and respect. Nevertheless, militant terrorism and civic tyranny never clears the deck and the suffering deaths of innocents justifies and proves nothing.

Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King showed leadership; many Christian saints spilled their blood as the seed of the Church. Social circumstances change over time but our memories recall those who instilled spiritual freedom. We look forward to honouring more Sikh ghanis and Muslim imam peacemakers who condemn violence. May we Western Christians always be aware that our wants could cause others terrible

suffering. Let us seek peace and pursue it.

### More Thoughts from Allan • An Invitation

The Church is a hospital for sinners. Common needs unite us. In a hospital there is a real sense of community among the patients. Each person is dependent upon the medical staff for improvement. Each person has a certain sense of helplessness. All of the patients know how similar their needs and feelings are to those of the other patients. So the Church is the place where God's healing power is offered to us. All of us depend upon a common source for healing. We are equal members in a community which looks to God for its life.

The Church is a place where people with common needs gather. You are invited to join this community of the needy, this community of the sick, this community of sinners. You will experience God's love and acceptance there. You will experience a community of people there who have been accepted by God and who in turn accept you. ✠

### Can't Stay Sober

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

didn't expect immediate success. They knew there would be backsliding and they realized recovery takes time. The majority of the *Our House* clients in Ottawa were very young so the rules had to be tough and consequences for infractions severe. Often the parents of clients were involved in the process and participated in the recovery of their children.

Participants in the program evolved into staff and many alumni of the early *Our House* communities went on to successful careers not only in the caring professions but in many diverse walks of life.

By 1980, *Our House* had grown substantially and had incorporated as a registered not-for-profit. The Board suggested that Norm sell his gift shop business and work full-time as the Director of *Our House*. He agreed.

Two years passed and the *Our House* drug rehab program was growing and branching out. Success was encouraging; however, increasing bureaucracy was changing the culture of the place, preventing the organization from developing naturally along the path that had brought it that far. Through the mid-80s Norm's unease with the increase in institutional process became too much and he resigned in 1987. Norm has no regrets and is happy to report that the house is now being used as a women's shelter.

Norm left the caring professions and for the next 15 years he worked as a driving instructor, an occupation where he flourished and where he put into practical application many of the skills he acquired working closely with people in difficult circumstances.

Fast forward to 2004. Norm has moved from Eastern Canada and has done what many Canadians choose to do; retire to the West Coast. In retirement, Norm discovered that he enjoyed writing down his thoughts in short articles inspired by his Christian faith and his years serving others, particularly those who like him suffer from addiction. In the early days of his West Coast retirement Norm connected with an old friend from Ottawa, a former *Our House* participant who subsequently introduced Norm to a young author. Norm gave the young writer a sample of his work to read. They writer was highly complimentary and they began discussing a concern they both shared which is that there isn't a lot of informative or inspirational literature on substance abuse recovery that isn't produced by AA or NA. Their consensus was that Norm's work could fill that gap.

Those conversations continued and developed to the point that Norm's collection of writings entitled *Sanity 365* was published.

The publication of *Sanity 365* marked Norm's entrance back into the world of serving those who are drug addicted and in despair. He and his old friend from the Ottawa *Our*

*House* days began hosting meetings at the Main and Hasting Carnegie Contact Centre in the heart of Vancouver's downtown eastside. The meetings were tough, everybody was stoned and it was hard to promote much in the way of sharing and healing. Everyone who attended the meetings in the early days of the Vancouver *Our House* initiative were given a copy of Norm's book.

Norm realized that he had to do something more intentional in order to live out his calling to help and serve others so he decided to return to the original *Our House* model. He moved from his West End apartment to a house in Vancouver's Oakridge neighbourhood. This would be the first location for the Vancouver *Our House* project. Participants in the new house were invited to join the household if they were sincere about changing their lives. Norm and the current *Our House* residents were always on the lookout for people on the streets who might benefit from the *Our House* experience and the West Coast version of the program continued to grow.

Soon after the Oakridge location was established it was necessary to move on so Norm packed up the household and moved to the current location at 1131 Union Street in East Vancouver.

As mentioned earlier, Norm was living in Vancouver's West End in 2004. He had prior experience with the Anglican Church during his Ottawa days. St. Barnabas is an urban Ottawa church that suffered a congregational split in 1982 because of the decision to ordain women to the priesthood. Norm's *Our House* participants began attending St. Barnabas and helped rebuild the congregation after the split. Norm also attended St. Barnabas and he found that the style of that urban Anglican Church really appealed to him. He was delighted to find after his move to Vancouver a church much like St. Barnabas' in his new West End neighbourhood, St. Paul's.

He admits that he is not a biblical scholar and that he is sometimes confused by the variety of interpretations of scripture even within our own denomination. Whenever he feels confused or disoriented he returns to scripture, specifically Jesus' updated version of Deuteronomy 6:4-6 in Mark 12:29-31.

Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.

These are the words by which Norm lives out his service to others. God's healing through Jesus Christ is the central focus of recovery at *Our House*.

Church leaders both lay and ordained throughout the Diocese of New Westminster are realizing that the church needs to focus more on ministering to neighbourhoods where the churches are located. This change in approach



helps fulfill God's mission for the church which is to spread the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ not just through worship but also through action. When the clergy and parish leaders of St. Paul's were approached by Norm and representatives of *Our House* to establish partnership in ministry they were welcomed. Norm believes that the connection with St. Paul's provides *Our House* with stability. If this relationship with the parish were not present they would feel isolated. The parish connection provides community and a supportive but neutral location where those whose lives are jeopardized by addiction can reconnect after they have strayed, a place where they will be welcomed, not judged.

Norm does not want to have a financial or business connection with the church because that might create expectations, causing tension counterproductive to the goals of both organizations.

Norm is quick to add that the parish is very generous to *Our House* in many ways through donations of clothing, household items and food.

As of this writing anywhere from 8-15 *Our House* participants regularly attend worship at St. Paul's. The majority of these folks have no prior church affiliations. Norm proudly reports that there are currently 4 *Our House* participants who are regular financial contributors to the parish.

The relationship between long time parishioners and the *Our House* contingent started out a bit awkward, "them and us" but now they are living into their relationship as two distinct but integrated components of one community worshipping together then going out into the world to love and serve the Lord.

If you would like to obtain a copy of Norman Sharkey's book *Sanity 365 - Daily Help for Sane Living* or get more information about *Our House* and learn about opportunities to support this organization please visit [www.wix.com/sanity365/OurHouseVancouver](http://www.wix.com/sanity365/OurHouseVancouver). ✠

# Memories of St. Andrew's, Burnaby

THE REV. MARION GROVE AND LYNDON GROVE

*Topic* is an 8 page newspaper and a great deal goes on around the Diocese of New Westminster every month so dedicating space for Letters is tricky.

Given that I receive a number of emails and calls correcting the mistake in the February *Topic* article about the closing of St. John the Divine, Burnaby, that printing the following letter seems totally appropriate. *editor*.

A good story appeared in the February issue on the closing of St. John the Divine (*The Memories Flow Deep*) but what, unfortunately, was missing was mention of St. Andrew's.

For decades the building that latterly housed the congregation of St. John the Divine was home to the parish of St. Andrew's (St. Andrew's, Nithsdale, to give it its full title).

Rectors over the years included: Norman Tanner, Lionel Priest, William 'Father Bill' Youngman, A. E. Davies and John Parker, fine men all, and individualists — some perhaps a little quirky and eccentric in the grand tradition of Anglican clerics (at one vestry meeting, Father Bill worried that the service of Morning Prayer was becoming too lengthy. The choir director said, "Have you noticed that, in the Order of Service, it says a sermon may be preached?").

St. Andrew's had a robust choir, a large, active, engaged and eclectic congregation, and so many Sunday school


students that five classes, subdivided according to age, ran simultaneously. Christmas concerts, often with original plays, e.g., "The Christmas Eve Bandit" were wonderful. Through the week, an excellent kindergarten program was conducted in the parish hall. At graduation ceremonies, students wore tiny mortar boards and gowns.

For many years, Sunday mornings would find our troop of six bustling down Smith Avenue to St. Andrew's. Our son Peter was baptized at St. Andrew's. The funeral service for Marion's father, the heroic World War I veteran W.A. 'Bill' Baker, was held there. And we returned, with Jim Cruickshank as officiant on our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary for a renewal of marriage vows. In 1968, we were privileged to be delegates from St. Andrew's to the diocesan synod that elected David Somerville coadjutor bishop.

Our children loved St. Andrew's, and for many years, after they had moved into adult careers and we had become members of other parishes, would insist that we return there at midnight each December 24 for the first Mass of Christmas.

It is always sad to see parish churches vanish. We hope that some appropriate use will be found for that handsome building, respectful of its past as both St. Andrew's and St. John the Divine. ✦





## 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**  
Diocesan Youth Coordinator Phil Colvin  
[pcolvin@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:pcolvin@vancouver.anglican.ca)  
604.684.6306 ext. 225 (Wednesdays and Fridays)

## Diocesan Youth Movement at Synod

Diocesan Synod is a great place to be a youth delegate! As well as helping to shape the direction of our diocese for the future; it's a time to gather with others from across the diocese to connect and deepen our engagement with ministry. At Synod this year, there will be two particular ways for youth delegates to be involved:

### Synod Sleepover • Friday May 14th

After the close of Synod business on Friday evening; we'll be heading over to a local parish for our annual sleepover event. You'll have a chance to get to know other youth, to find out how things work at Synod, and to explore this year's theme: *missional church!*

More information about the sleepover will be sent to all youth delegates. If you don't get it (perhaps because you're a Synod delegate aged 25 or under but not a 'youth' delegate) then just get in touch with Phil Colvin at Synod Office.

### Pizza Lunch with the Bishop • Saturday May 15th

One of the traditions of Diocesan Synod is a chance for youth to spend some time in conversation with Bishop Michael over lunch on Saturday. Look out for the details of where this event is taking place during Synod. ✦

## Dear Haiti

LAUREN BYRNE  
*St. Mary's Kerrisdale*

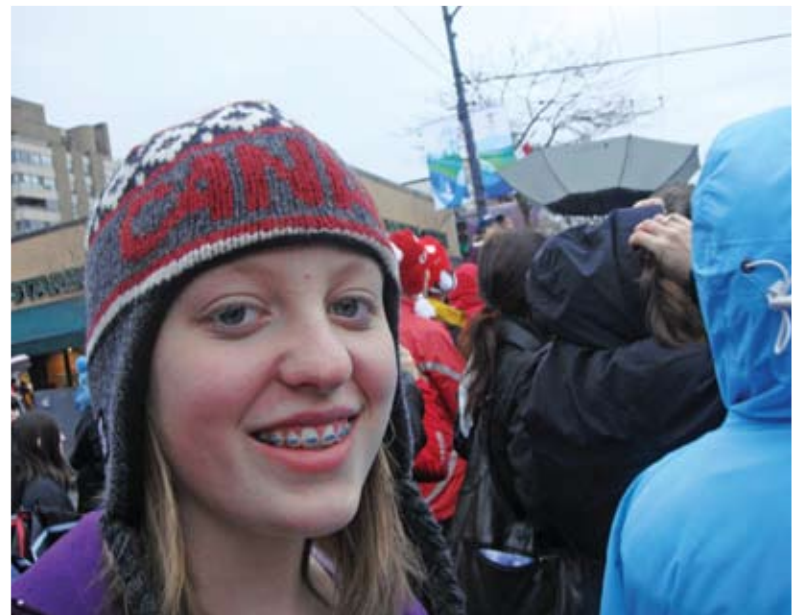
I would ask how you are but I already know, everyone knows. You are not well. I see pictures of your destroyed buildings and starving people everywhere. It makes me sad that you are struck with a disaster such as this. It makes others sad too. I saw a girl collecting money for you at my school, and she was devastated, as if her friend had died. You are our friend, Haiti, and when you are in trouble we need to help you. I am sorry we did not help you sooner, because you were in trouble before the earthquake. We are trying very hard to help you. Millions of dollars, prayers, and aid are being sent your way, or at least are trying to be sent your way. Is what we are giving helping? Are we doing the good we think we are doing when we drop those coins, or take those few minutes to remember you? I heard someone say that what you really need is for the world to help other countries who are in the same amount of trouble that you were in. If I were you Haiti, that would be what I would want.

I cannot imagine what it must be like for you to see so many of your people die. All I see is numbers, and sometimes pictures, but you knew them, they were your people, and now they are gone. I cannot imagine what it must be like for you to see so many of your people starving, and you cannot provide for them. I cannot imagine what it must be like for you to have to rely only on other countries, unable to help yourself. I do not like feeling helpless, and right now you are so helpless, Haiti.

I have nightmares of your troubles, but I want to have dreams of your getting better. I want to see pictures and videos of help and hope being given, not of mass graves and crushed buildings. I want to be able to say that this earthquake made a difference for you, Haiti, and other countries like you. I want to say that this earthquake turned out to be the thing that saved you, and now you are stronger than ever. But you are weaker than ever, and I do not like saying that.

I do not mind if you do not read this letter, Haiti, I know you have lots to worry about. I hope others read this letter though, because you are special, Haiti, and the world cannot lose you and your people. You are too important for that.

I hope you get better, Haiti. I need you to get better because I do not like the sadness of your troubles, I want there to be the happiness of your recovery. ✦



Lauren Byrne.



*This piece originally appeared in the St. Mary's Kerrisdale Newsletter. During the Vancouver Olympics, Lauren was a Student Reporter and you can read more of her articles at her blog: [www.laurenebyrne.blogspot.com](http://www.laurenebyrne.blogspot.com)*

Lauren (LEFT) beside her sister Linley.