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Takeo Yamashiro plays the shakuhachi behind a veil of cranes.

PHOTO Gilles Galzi.

Pray for Japan

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer and Editor of Topic

A congregation of over 300 braved the boisterous crowd of 200,000 St. Patrick's Day parade-watchers and traveled to Downtown Vancouver to participate in *Pray for Japan*, a worship experience that took place at Christ Church Cathedral, Sunday, March 20th at 4 pm.

The service was organized by the clergy and congregation of Christ Church Cathedral and the clergy and congregation of Holy Cross Japanese-Canadian Anglican Church in East Vancouver.

The 80 minute service of music, prayer and reflection brought together people of all faiths united in their desire to send messages of compassion and hope to the people of Japan, devastated by the earthquake and tsunami, March 11th, 2011.

At 4 pm a dramatic candlelight procession through the church accompanied by musicians performing on drums and wooden flute initiated the proceedings. The service then began with words of welcome and reflection from the Rev. John Shozawa, Priest-in-Charge of Holy Cross and the Very Rev. Peter Elliott, Dean and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral. Following the greeting they introduced the first speaker, Hideki Ito, The Consul General of Japan.

Mr. Ito briefly summarized the events in Japan over the previous nine days and expressed his gratitude on behalf of the people and government of Japan to the people of Canada for their "compassion and spontaneous generosity." He went on to say that the outpouring of support brought him much consolation and comfort. In closing, he said that Japan and British Columbia are partners across the Pacific and our relationship is a "shared humanity that goes beyond nationality."

Following the Consul General's words, there was music for reflection provided by Takeo Yamashiro playing the Shakuhachi flute. As the muted, sweet sound of Takeo's playing filled the quiet of the Cathedral, a mobile constructed of origami cranes located on the platform at the chancel swayed gently, creating the perfect atmosphere for prayer and reflection.

The Rev. Markus Dünzkofer read Psalm 130, commonly referred to as the *Song of Ascents* or *Out of the Deep*. At the conclusion of the psalm, Christ Church Cathedral Choir, under the direction of Rupert Lang, performed John Rutter's Psalm 23. The lyrical oboe solo throughout the piece was in fitting juxtaposition to the Shakuhachi

heard earlier. The 20 voice mixed choir accompanied by Mr. Lang on the piano have performed this piece many times but this performance was special, the congregation could feel the choirs' compassion as they interpreted Rutter's dynamics and phrasing.

It was fitting that these two psalms often read and sung at Anglican funerals were chosen for this service.

After the reading of Revelation 21:1-7 by Teruko Iwasaki in Japanese and English, Bishop Michael Ingham presented his homily. He began with a quote from the poem *Grief* by Canadian-Japanese poet and author, Joy Kogawa and then he went on to explore the Christian understanding of two kinds of evil—*moral evil* and *natural evil*. (Bishop Michael's homily is available in PDF format in both Japanese and English. An audio version is available. The links are provided at the conclusion of this article.) After Bishop Michael had concluded, Michiko Tatchell, Parish Administrator at St. Michael's Anglican church in Vancouver approached the microphone and delivered the Japanese translation of the Bishop's words.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Moving Forward in Mission Film Project



On Saturday, March 26th, Diocesan Communications began work on this year's Synod Project, a film based on this year's Synod theme, *Moving Forward in Mission*. The film is sponsored by the *Plan 2018 Action Group*, the group responsible for encouraging the implementation of the Mission Priorities that emerged from the Plan 2018 Report. The film will profile three very different initiatives taking place around the diocese: All Saints Ladner's Monthly Messy Church, St. Alban, Richmond's Tuesday Night Community Meal and the North Vancouver deanery's MAP Regional Council's current and future combined ministry projects.

Each profile will include interviews with the organizers who have agreed to share their knowledge and experience. The film will contain scenes from each of these offerings in action as well as coverage of their panel presentations at the pre-Synod Day, May 7th, 2011 at St. Mary's Kerrisdale.

The filming got off to a great start at All Saint's Ladner. The crew was warmly welcomed by the Rev. Elizabeth Northcott and the All Saint's Messy Church community. The high level of cooperation enabled the crew to shoot footage of all the components of the Messy Church experience: crafts and playtime in the narthex, a "hands-on" Bible Story and Communion in the sanctuary and a hearty meal in the parish hall. In the narthex, the messy participants created multi-coloured sand for sand-painting, iced and decorated sugar cookies shaped like Easter eggs, painted hard-boiled eggs and played with a large variety of interactive toys. The Bible Story was centred around a portable sandbox, which provided a great vehicle for Elizabeth's sensitive and whimsical interpretation of Jesus' 40 days and 40 nights of exile.

The second day of actual shooting and recording was Tuesday, March 29th. The day began with a voice-over recording session for an animation segment at Ross Cambrin's home recording studio in Kitsilano. Ross is a parishioner at St. Mary's Kerrisdale. It was great fun to reunite the team of Cliff Caprani and Stephen Rowe who had spent many hours together exactly one year ago working with Diocesan Communications on the film *Relinquished* which was shown at Synod 2010.

Following a successful recording experience, it was off to Richmond to film interviews and footage of the St. Alban's Richmond Tuesday Night Community Meal. The crew was greeted by Community Meal Coordinator and St. Alban's Warden, Fran Bates who had done a wonderful job preparing the interviewees for our visit while continuing to meet her considerable responsibilities as the coordinator of a large-scale community meal.



TOP LEFT Cliff Caprani filming the food table.

TOP RIGHT Head Chef Rose Rourke in the kitchen getting ready to serve up the meal.

BOTTOM Cliff filming the messy participants colouring some eggs.

All the interviewees were knowledgeable, friendly and ready to share their stories for the film. As of this writing we are still very early in the film-making process but it is safe to say that the "on-the-run" interview with Tuesday Night Community Meal Head Chef, Rose Rourke is going to be a highlight. Rose wore a lapel mic and continued to prepare food and lead the kitchen crew of 6 while answering questions. Rose never missed a beat as she related the story of how this local parish's compassionate service ministry has grown over the years with the selfless support of dozens of volunteers and other organizations. You could hear the sizzle of the numerous full-sized pork loins — quickly removed from the ovens so Rose could baste them with savoury juices while she continued speaking about her role in this remarkable ministry.

Janet Sutherland who is responsible for the overall fundraising strategy for the St. Alban's-based projects outlined how the Extreme Weather Shelter Ministry has developed over the past four years and St. Alban's Youth Ministry Coordinator and daughter of Rose, Melissa Rourke explained the evolution and the current process of the after-dinner clothing distribution ministry. The story of the making of *Moving Forward in Mission* will be continued in the June issue of *Topic*. ♣



Bishop Michael's Homily and the origami cranes. PHOTO Gilles Galzi.

Pray for Japan

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The Rev. Grant Ikuta, priest at Steveston Buddhist Temple was called on to offer prayers and chants. He began by thanking his hosts for inviting him to participate and reminded those gathered of the special significance of a common Buddhist symbol, the Lotus Blossom. The lotus blossom "signifies purity." This beautiful flower grows in the dark of the depths of murky water. The parallel is that purity, like beauty, comes from the suffering of our existence. Before beginning his chants Rev. Grant read the 15th century letter by Rennyō Shōnin, *On White Ashes (Hakkōtsu no Gobunshō)*.

The service concluded with the offering of dozens of origami paper cranes, many of them made by the Holy Cross Japanese-Canadian church community and some made that day by those attending Sunday School around the Diocese of New Westminster. Many of the cranes contained written messages of hope and consolation.

As people left the Cathedral's sanctuary following a moving performance by the taiko drummers, representatives of the National Anglican Church emergency aid agency, the *Primate's World Relief and Development Fund* collected donations to be forwarded immediately to the continuing relief efforts in Japan. As of this writing, donations are still being accepted by PWRDF for Japanese earthquake and tsunami relief. If you would like to help, please speak with your parish PWRDF representative or email pwrdf@vancouver.anglican.ca

Please go to the following links for Bishop Michael's Homily:

Audio at <http://bit.ly/g1fUVf>

Japanese PDF at <http://bit.ly/fHkLsw>

English PDF at <http://bit.ly/fU0SMX> ♣

The dramatic procession featured Taiko drummers.



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Thank you!

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• A Baby Shower for a new Canadian! •

You may remember previous articles in *Topic* regarding the successful sponsoring of two families from Burma (Karen tribe) by members of the North Vancouver Deanery. Kler Paw, Eh Moo Si and baby Eh Tha Nay arrived almost 2 years ago and settled into their new life in Surrey. Recently we learned the happy news that Eh Moo Si was expecting a baby. On March 6th, members of the Deanery sprang into action and decided to introduce Eh Moo Si to the Canadian tradition of a baby shower. Churches and individuals contributed very generously to gifts, Eh Moo Si's friends and relatives looked after food and Connie Wilks, a member of Church of the Epiphany, Surrey hosted the event.

Eh Moo Si handled it all with aplomb, even the fitting of a handcrafted bonnet, constructed with bows, ribbons and a paper plate! It was a great party. *Topic* is happy to report on the birth of a healthy baby girl named Juliana on March 21st. ✦



Eh Moo Si (left) and her sister, Delia (right) enjoying the shower. PHOTO Connie Wilks.

• The Prayer List •

On Sunday, April 3rd at St. Christopher's in West Vancouver, Music Director, Lesley Sutherland and Incumbent, Archdeacon Lou Rivers welcomed the congregation to a unique worship experience called *The Prayer List*. This was a liturgy built around the extensive "prayer list" of this church, a prayer list that encompasses the community both inside the parish and outside the parish into the neighbourhoods beyond. St. Christopher's members focused on 'prayer' for their Lenten discipline and more specifically the prayers of post-modern Roman Catholic theologian Michel Quoist.

The service consisted of readings from Quoist's 1954 book, *Prayers*, readings of sections of the St. Christopher's prayer list all appropriately punctuated with music provided by the Contemporary and Senior Choirs of St. Christopher's under the direction of Lesley Sutherland.

Lesley's feature article about The Prayer List and other innovative evening services that have been celebrated at St. Christopher's

will appear in the June (Summer) issue of *Topic*. ✦

Lesley Sutherland and Archdeacon Lou Rivers.



• St. Andrew's Welcomes Paula •

On March 17th St. Andrew the Apostle, Anglican Church in Langley was filled to capacity for the Induction of their new rector, the Rev. Paula Porter-Leggett.

More than two dozen clergy joined the near capacity congregation of St. Andrew's parishioners to wish Paula "Many Blessings" in her new ministry.

Bishop Michael celebrated the Eucharist and the Rev. Paul Guiton preached. Paul,

currently the Incumbent of St. Dunstan, Aldergrove had served his curacy at St. Andrew's several years ago during the incumbency of the Rev. Scott Gould.

A highlight of the worship (which just happened to take place on St. Patrick's day) was the enthusiastic greeting of South Fraser Regional Dean, the Rev. Craig Tanksley, resplendent in large green sunglasses. ✦

• Pray for Japan in Guatemala •

The Rev. Emilie Smith a priest of this diocese currently in mission in Guatemala sent this photograph taken in mid-March, of women in the community making origami cranes. ✦

Women in Guatemala making origami cranes in tribute to the people of Japan.



• We are Saddened by the Following News •

• May He Rest in Peace •

✦ On April 4th, the Rev. Dr. Harry S.D. Robinson, who retired as Rector of St. John's, Shaughnessy, died of a sudden heart attack near his home on Mayne Island. He was 84. Harry was a leader and mentor of the evangelical side of the Anglican Church and widely known, even before coming to this Diocese from Little Trinity, Toronto.

Our condolences to Harry's family. ✦

• A Day in May for Mrs. G •

May 14th, 2011

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

St. James' Parish Hall

(Entrance on Gore Avenue)

May 14th has been selected to remember and celebrate May Cecelia Gutteridge, and her many contributions to and for the people of the Downtown Eastside. Her colleagues and co-workers fondly knew her as *Mrs. G*.

Pictures and family mementos will be displayed for friends, colleagues and those who knew her or are interested in her profound legacy. ✦

• Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation •

Bishop Michael will preside at Services of Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows at Christ Church Cathedral, consecutive Sundays, May 8th and May 15th at 4 pm. ✦

LEFT Bishop Michael at confirmation.

• St. Mark's Ocean Park •

St. Mark's Ocean Park is looking for a full-time, permanent Office Administrator to replace the current administrator who is retiring shortly.

If you would like additional details, please contact Drew Gauntley, People's Warden by email drewgaun@shaw.ca.

Final application deadline
is May 20, 2011

EfM Graduation for 2011

This year's ceremony for graduates of the Education for Ministry (EfM) program will be at Christ Church Cathedral, on June 7th, at 7:30 pm.

Patricia Bays (photo below) will give the homily at the Graduation service. Patricia is a respected and well-known author and educator. Her books include *Meet the Family: Welcome to the Anglican Church of Canada*, *This Anglican Church of Ours*, *This Great Adventure*, *Exploring Christian Faith with Young People* and *Anglican Diversity, Challenges for the 21st Century*. She is also an EfM trainer. ✦

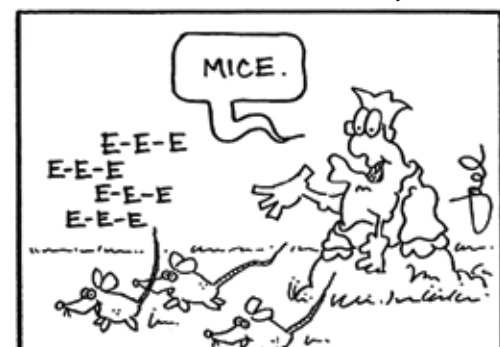


• Easter Broadcast •

Christ Church Cathedral broadcast the 10:30 am Easter Service live on the Internet for the first time. This was done to aid those unable to attend services at Easter and experience a live streaming webcast video of the Cathedral's service.

The service is still available online at www.cathedral.vancouver.bc.ca/easter-2011-webcast/ ✦

PONTIUS PUDDLE by Joel Kauffmann



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

compiled by Anglican Archivist Melanie Wallace

- 45 years • 1966 Talks begin to change the name of the Women's Auxiliary (WA) to the Anglican Church Women (ACW).
- 35 years • 1976 *Topic's* editor of 7 years, Conrad Guelke resigns.
- 30 years • 1981 Archbishop Hambidge installed as BC Metropolitan.
- 20 years • 1991 Diocese assists Kurdish refugees fleeing Iraq through the PWRDF.
- 15 years • 1996 \$30,000 Chinese outreach mission is launched in Richmond.
- 10 years • 2001 Synod votes 226 – 174 for blessing of same sex unions — Bishop says the margin is too close for his consent.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Ministry at Laurel Place

LEONARD E. (LEN) DYER

Deacon, Church of the Epiphany, Surrey and Member-at-Large, Diocesan Communications Committee

It's Tuesday morning and I arrive at Laurel Place, near Surrey Memorial Hospital. I have worked here as chaplain, (they call me *Pastor Len*), since the opening of Laurel Place, June 2008. I am a paid contractor. I started at 20 hours, now working 24 hours a week. I get a cheerful welcome from two residents, our self-styled "greeter," and a former Roman Catholic Sister.

First on the day's agenda is our weekly Rosary at 10 am. After Rosary, we share stories about life, say prayers for anyone who is ill or in need, and I say a few words about the saint of the day. This afternoon, I will visit the Special Care Unit, where I will have tea and cake or ice-cream, with the residents. They suffer from varying degrees of dementia and Alzheimer's. Our recreation aide hosts the party, a chance for everyone to gather around one table and build a sense of community. I often use healing sound as we sit together.

Who knows what the rest of the day will bring? Anything can happen. It could be a conversation with a resident, a call to visit and help a resident with fear or uncertainty, alienation or attend a meeting with the ethics team.

Laurel Place was officially opened June 23rd, 2008 by then BC Minister of Health, George Abbott, with members of the Semiahmoo Band, the Ahmon Group headed by Michael Ahmon and family, (the owners of the facility, management and staff of Laurel Place), and members of the Fraser Health Authority.

With a total of 215 beds, Laurel Place addresses many different resident needs. There are 125 beds for long-term care and 15 beds in a secured Special Care Unit. There are two convalescent units totalling 35 beds plus rehab facilities. The Surrey Hospice leases 20 beds in our building, and the SMH Special Rehab Unit, 35 beds. These are covered by Surrey Hospital resources.

It is the Ahmon group's intention that pastoral care be provided in each of their three Surrey locations, and two Vancouver Island facilities. This is founded in their own beliefs, based on Christian principles, that residents and staff should be treated as family; with respect and dignity.

As a result of this approach, I was invited to pilot the formation of a spiritual care program. My design was to integrate spirituality as a healing and caring component of resident health, along with the medical care of body and mind. In other words, spiritual care is considered a component of overall health, not an add-on.

Due to its location in north Surrey, Laurel Place is mul-

ticultural. There are not only the church of many denominations, but also the unchurched, never-been-churched and rather-not-be-churched. Religious backgrounds vary: Buddhist, various First Nations, Hindu, Christians of many backgrounds, Sikhs, Islamic Sunni and Shiites, and Jehovah's Witnesses.

I felt that the first step in building a spiritual presence was to incorporate religious groups from the community that would provide weekly Sunday afternoon services. Since the majority of the population at Laurel is Christian, various denominations provide worship services. I arranged for refreshments to be available following worship along with one-on-one visiting, often with prayer and companionship.

The Salvation Army visits, as does the priest from the local Roman Catholic parish. Regular visitation is carried out by three Roman Catholic Eucharistic ministers. A Baptist visitor comes in weekly, focusing on the convalescent unit patients. I established one-on-one visits to our Sikh residents with chant and prayers. Involvement is strong and reflects the multicultural component of the community.

When it came to equipping our *Multi-faith Spiritual Centre* we were blessed with gifts and donations from many faith communities in the area.

My own ministry at Laurel Place is based on my *Rule of Life* as an Associate of the *Order of Holy Cross*, a Benedictine Order. Our Rule says *we are to welcome all as Christ himself*... the key word of our mission is 'hospitality.'

What I attempt to do is identify spiritual distress and

"...I am among you as one who serves."

Luke 22:28



find ways to meet the needs of the residents through regular visits. Often, this is difficult, especially when cognition is impaired, or dementia causes virtual loss of identity. Fear, anxiety, loneliness, depression anger; these are all symptoms of disconnectedness from God—from the spiritual. The journey I embark upon with our many residents is that of being first a friend by being hospitable and open. Because of a resident's orientation, I have to be very respectful of their spiritual journey. I ask God how to be their friend and relate to them.

I am 'on call' 24 hours a day. When a resident enters into palliative care, I counsel with the family, pray, provide comfort in their time of fear and uncertainty, anointing the resident when appropriate.

I conduct Memorial services at Laurel Place for residents and families to remember those who have passed. Staff often becomes very attached to their residents, and I frequently help them during this time of closure.

From time to time, I have conducted funerals off-site and at graveside for our residents who have died.

A resident was with us for a short while, had no family ties, and then died. Another leader on the management team and I buried his ashes with prayer, dignity and respect. He did not die forgotten. It moved me.

I have had the privilege to serve in ways that I could not have imagined. From writing a note for someone with a stroke, to phoning on a resident's behalf, to praying for someone suffering from great fear, fear of confinement, of irremediable illness and pain, to fear of loss of self—all these are real and part of the ministry to the long-term care

resident.

This is a sketch of my journey with people at Laurel Place. It is a home for many at the end of their lives. It is also a home for me as I care for those that need God and God's mercy. ✚



LEFT The laying-on of hands at Laurel Place.
RIGHT Len speaking to the community.
PHOTOS Dominique Chassé.

The Diocese of New Westminster Well Represented in the National Church

The first joint meeting between the Anglican Church of Canada's Council of General Synod (COGS) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada's National Church Council began the evening of March 31st in Toronto with a Eucharist celebrated by Susan Johnson, the National Bishop of the ELCIC. The preacher at that service was the Rev. Dr. Richard Leggett, Emeritus Professor, Vancouver School of Theology. Currently Priest-in-Charge of St. Faith's Anglican Church in Kerrisdale, Rev. Dr. Leggett continues in a leadership role on the Joint Anglican-Lutheran Commission (JALC).

The Very Rev. Peter Elliott, Dean of the Diocese and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral has succeeded Suzanne Lawson in a key role as chair of the *Planning and Agenda Team* for COGS.

Suzanne stepped down after being hired by the National Church for the half-time position of national campaign liaison working with *Communications and Resources for Mission* (formerly the Department of Philanthropy).

Following an election and two appointments by the Primate, the Diocese of New Westminster's Jane Osler is now a member of the national church *Vision 2019 Transition Team*.

Richard, Peter and Jane are not members of COGS, the Rev. Dr. Lynne McNaughton of St. Clement's and St. Clare, North Vancouver is the COGS member from the D of NW. However, these three D of NW folks have significant and necessary supporting roles to COGS and the National Church. ✚

The Reverend Heidi Brear's Induction

PETER ELLIOTT

Dean of the Diocese of New Westminster and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral

When Bishop Michael Ingham presented the Rev. Heidi Brear as the new Rector of St. Margaret's Cedar Cottage in east Vancouver, an overflow congregation stood, applauded and cheered. "Enjoy this moment," quipped the Bishop, "it's not everyday that a Rector gets a standing ovation." But the affection and support for Heidi's ministry was clear and the spirit and life of the congregation was infectious. Clergy from across the diocese joined Heidi's family and friends to fill the beautiful liturgical space. The congregation sat in a circle around the Altar—a symbolic expression of St. Margaret's mission statement *Sharing God's Welcome; Food for the Hungry, Life for the Weary*.

The Rev. Marnie Peterson, the preacher, reminded the congregation of the journey that St. Margaret's has been on since 2008 when Heidi first was appointed as Priest-in-Charge. Through the diocesan *Mission Assessment Process* the parish worked hard to look at the mission opportunities within their neighbourhood and after a long period of spiritual discernment have embraced a new vision that values reach-

ing out to the community and growing the congregation as an inclusive, reconciling community. "This is a good news story" Marnie said, "and I'm so excited for you, Heidi!"

The community's commitment to inclusion was evident as gifts for ministry were presented to Heidi. A young family presented the Bible, and other gifts were presented by women and men, young and old—each bringing forward the symbols of the ministry of the whole people of God. "We have this ministry and we are not discouraged," sang the assembly as the closing hymn, "it is by God's own power that we may live and serve."

Not discouraged but enlivened to do God's work, the good news story of St. Margaret's demonstrates how, through prayerful discernment, congregations can find new life and embrace God's mission with enthusiasm and courage. St. Margaret's parish prayer sums it up.

"We pray that we be courageous in inviting and welcoming those whom we know are searching for a Christian community, that together we would serve God in our world." ✚



AROUND THE DIOCESE

Confirmation for the Rest of Your Life

This year's Confirmation workshop and discussion day took place at Christ Church Cathedral, April 2nd. Over 40 people, ranging in age from 12–65, gathered to share their experience and to participate in workshops and activities specifically designed to prepare candidates for Confirmation, Reception (from the Roman Catholic Church) and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows. The day also served to introduce the Cathedral to those who have not visited before, and help demystify the confirmation process.

The Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott welcomed the group by asking for a show of hands in each category: Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation.

He joked that after the panel discussion, the under-fifties would gather together to discuss theological issues and the over-fifties would congregate at the various hands-on *pray and play* stations created for the event around the cathedral's sanctuary.

The Rev. David Taylor, Assistant Priest at St. Mary's Kerrisdale, began the day with some energetic singing and marching, joining together two gospel-style hymns from *Common Praise* the official Hymn Book of the Anglican Church of Canada; *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me* and *Guide My Feet*. This served to wake everyone up and bring the group together in community.

Next on the agenda was a presentation consisting of a panel of four: Bishop Michael Ingham, the Rev. Patrick Blaney (Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Thomas'), Lauren Byrne (St. Mary's, Kerrisdale) and the Rev. Kim Prokopchuk (Deacon at St. Dunstan's, Aldergrove).

Each panelist was asked to reflect on their own confirmation, on the event itself and how they felt.

Bishop Michael was the first to share and he spoke of the unexpected sensation of being filled with an incredible heat, electric in nature but totally different than anything he had experienced previously

when the Bishop laid hands on him. He went on to say that the bishop's hands are a conduit, they do not hold "confirmation." Your participation is **your** confirmation of your commitment to the Christian way. He assured the group that each person's experience will be unique, but all will receive the same gift—the *Holy Spirit*, which is the "Freedom of God."

Patrick Blaney grew up in a family where his parents were atheists. In his late 20s and early 30s he felt drawn to the church and after some church shopping he realized that he felt most comfortable in the Anglican Church.

A few years into life as a churchgoer, while driving to work one morning, a thought came into his head that he should be a priest. The call was strong and persistent. Soon after receiving *the call* he began a discernment process. During his discernment and theological education it was pointed out to Patrick that he had never been confirmed.

Patrick looked at Confirmation as a "hoop," an invasive process that was nothing more than a medieval remnant to compel people to attend worship regularly. He retained this opinion right up to the beginning of the Confirmation service, but when the first hymn began after all were gathered in the sanctuary he began to weep. When Bishop Michael placed his hands on Patrick's head he felt the rushing of what he defined as "divine energy" filling him up with the Holy Spirit. It remains to this day the most profound experience he has had on his spiritual journey.

Lauren Byrne was confirmed in 2010. She recalled being very focused on the day and the event itself. Lauren knew that Confirmation would change her life and she expected a significant experience. Throughout the service she was keenly aware of feeling very close to God.

Kim was 12 when she was confirmed. She confessed to always being a "Jesus Freak" and from that early age, she knew that she would do "something special."

In her early 30s her conversion deepened considerably and she wanted to live out her call in a more intentional and committed

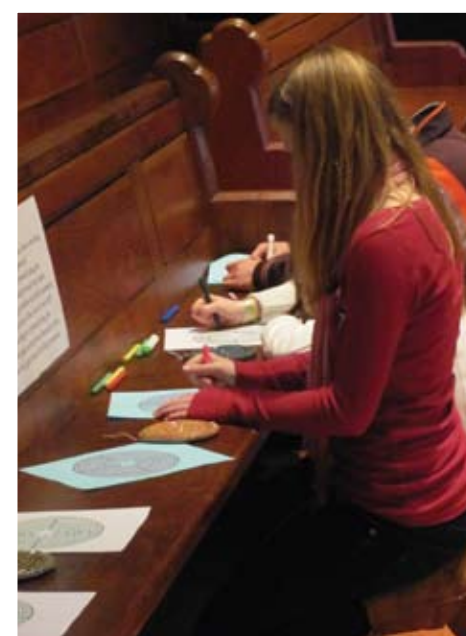


TOP LEFT Contemplating the Font.
BOTTOM LEFT Spiritual inventory.
BOTTOM RIGHT Scrabble prayer station.



TOP The Ransom Prayer station, one of the many activities found at the event.

BOTTOM Labyrinth craft.



way. During this time in her life, she was regularly reminded of the promise of her commitment to Christ that she made when she was 12.

Bishop Michael summarized the Confirmation experience with these words, "yours are the eyes from which one must look out with Christ's compassion on the world and on everyone in it."

The rest of the day consisted of workshops, discussion groups, learning groups and prayer stations.

Diocesan Youth Coordinator Phil Colvin has agreed to write a detailed report of *Confirmation for the Rest of Your Life* for the June (Summer), 2011 issue of *Topic*. ✦

Diana Butler Bass

Author, Speaker, independent scholar
specializing in American religion and culture
and author of 7 books including
Christianity for the Rest of Us

IS COMING TO TOWN!

SATURDAY

JUNE 11, 2011

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

at Christ Church Cathedral

Dr. Bass will hold a seminar

on her next book

*After Religion • The Three Questions
Shaping a New Spiritual Awakening*

.....

COST \$20

Pay online when you pre-register
or by cheque or cash
at registration on June 11th.
*Credit cards will not be accepted for
registration payment on the day.*

.....

REGISTRATION

9:30 AM

Pre-Registration is required

call 604.684.6306 ex. 228

or register at

<http://conta.cc/fuvQjL>



.....
Bring your own lunch or make plans for lunch in the neighbourhood
.....

.....
This event is
co-presented by
.....



Diocese of New Westminster
ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
Vancouver, BC - Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds

Topic Gets Reacquainted with the Reverend Douglas Fenton

In the fall of 2010, the Rev. Douglas Fenton was selected by Bishop Michael Ingham to succeed the Rev. Paul Borthistle as *Director for Ministry and Mission Development* for the Diocese of New Westminster. He began in this ministry March 1st, 2011 after completing 9 years as *Director of Campus Ministries* for *The Episcopal Church*. Douglas' ministry with TEC was based out of the Presiding Bishop's Office in Manhattan.

Douglas first came to the Diocese of New Westminster in 1995 and was a priest in this diocese for 6 years which explains the word reacquainted in the title of this piece.

Topic is delighted that Douglas agreed to do this interview. Welcome Back!

The most commonly asked interview question is "Tell us about yourself?" So... please give *Topic* readers a bit of history about your roots, your education and your ministry experience.

I grew up in Northwestern Ontario on a small subsistence farm and trapline in a Métis family. I'm the eldest of five children. My early Christian education was done in the public school through weekly visits of Canadian Sunday School Missionaries and later Radio Bible School and Old Order Mennonites who visited in summers from Georgia (the state, not the country). The Anglican Church was too far away to go on Sunday. In high school, I did my Catechism in the Roman Catholic Church with my schoolmates who were being confirmed. I was not allowed to be confirmed on the very serious threat of my maternal grandfather disowning me. It was not until I was at university that I could begin to have an active relationship with a worshipping community and that was going along with my roommate and other guys from the Residence at Lakehead University to the Convent across the playing fields to attend Folk Mass with the sisters (a new, suspicious and novel liturgical form of the day!). It was during this time that I also became actively involved with protests and marches with the local chapter of the Ontario Métis and Non-Status Indian Association and the work of the newly developing American Indian Movement. Pressure was being applied to the provincial government for recognition of — among other things — hunting and trapping rights for Métis and Non-Status Indians.

I want to hear from my colleagues their experience, wisdom, and ideas and together design and devise an action, approach or implementation strategy.

It was not until I got to the University of Manitoba that I began to explore further worship opportunities. On campus are the Roman Catholic, Ukrainian Orthodox and Anglican chapels. I knew RC could not be in the running, Orthodox would have worked for my spiritual tastes had I been able to speak Ukrainian... so Anglican won out. (My grandfather thought I might as well have been a 'Catholic' as an Anglican.) It was through the ministry of the chaplain that I was baptized and confirmed. This ministry has always affirmed my commitment and belief in our need to be present on campuses where young minds are being developed, questions asked and faith is being formed.

I majored in Psychology and English and minored in Sociology, completing a BA at the U of Manitoba. I took a year out to work as a Junior Engineering Assistant at

Trans Canada Pipe Lines earning enough money to pay off my student loans and return to Graduate School and seminary at St. John's College, Winnipeg. I read Liberation Theology and focused my studies on the concept of authority.

Five short years following baptism (after a myriad interviews, courses and papers) I was made a deacon in the same chapel I had been baptized. I was subsequently priested ten months later (1981) on a date that I could never quite remember since it does not have a major feast day attached to it but which has now been burned into our collective memories: 9/11. This year will be my 30th anniversary to the priesthood.

I loved the opportunity to re-engage with a group of young people who are excited about making the church a more dynamic and compelling place to live out their faith.

After seminary I returned to my home diocese of Keewatin and served as vicar of the multi-point parish of Ear Falls-Red Lake-Cat Lake, then rector of another multi-point parish of Emo-Rainy River, all the while serving as Diocesan Youth Chaplain and the Bishop's Chaplain. I returned to St. John's College as Dean of Residence and Chaplain before coming to St. Catherine of Alexandria, Port Coquitlam as their intentional interim. From there I was a member of the clergy team at St. James' with Frs. Retter and Herbert and later, Fernyhough.

In February 2002, I left for a place that I had never expected to visit, never mind live: New York City. I had been called to be the Staff Officer for *Young Adult and Campus Ministries* at the Episcopal Church Center. The position supported and resourced the 18-30 age group and those who worked with them.

What did you like most about your ministry at TEC (The Episcopal Church) and what didn't you like about your last ministry position?

I loved the opportunity to re-engage with a group of young people who are excited about making the church a more dynamic and compelling place to live out their faith. It was a group of people willing to take risks, to try new things, accepting of failure and never letting the chance for something new to be lost. It was an opportunity to strengthen chaplains in their ministry, build cooperative ministries, especially with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and to create programming that would foster young people in their faith development.

There was also a willingness to expend the funding to put in place a network of ministry with young adults across the Episcopal Church and raise awareness of how much lip service had been given without the undertaking of *real* development. The subversive tactic used to raise the awareness of young adults in the church (an often believe 'lost generation' was to flood the hearings and halls of General Convention (cf General Synod) with young adults. Notice was taken, funds were allocated and new directions began and continue.

'It's all fun until someone gets hurt' we're often reminded as kids. Well, likewise travelling by air, train, bus and car, living in hotels, eating out many days on and few days off is a great deal of fun and quite exhilarating at the outset. However, it all

quickly wears thin. I recognized it most often when friends would ask I how I liked living in New York and I had to say that I honestly didn't know because I wasn't there very much. It felt like I rented an apartment to store my clothes and things, but it really wasn't a place in which I lived.

What's the biggest difference between Manhattan and Vancouver?

Biggest difference? Noise. My office looked out on 2nd Avenue and from my window I could see the United Nations, one block away. Sirens hailing the 'world leader' being escorted to the UN or shouting and bullhorns blasting from yet another protest in front of a nearby embassy such as Israel on one side, or Nigeria on the other, or India around the corner. Car horns from impatient drivers blasting their way through the traffic light at the intersection (although I have noticed an increase in use of horns in Vancouver since I left nine years ago.)

Pace of life is much calmer here. People tend not to rush about with the same degree of urgency and frustration.

While New York has a great number of parks and green space, access to the outdoors in Vancouver is far greater and the ability to find space of your own without other people is still very possible here.

Did you achieve what you'd hope as Officer for Young Adult and Campus Ministries for TEC?

I think so. I was able to assist in starting eighteen new campus ministries and sixteen are still going well. I helped to raise the awareness of the church's need to pay closer attention to young adults in their midst as well as encouraging young adults to step up and take responsibility for their own place at the table.

Before the financial meltdown we had tripled the budget for the department and added a second staff officer.

Although you've only been back in the D of NW for a month you are re-entering the life of the diocese at a very interesting time. What have you observed has changed since you were a priest of this diocese almost a decade ago?

With the caveat that I have only been here a month and I have traded one ecclesiastical bureaucrat job for another, I see a willingness to ask some hard questions and the desire to creatively and collectively respond to some changing demographics, incorporate some ancient styles of being church, integrate our faith in an outward looking way to the community and world around us, and think through how we might be adaptive and responsive to those seeking support on their faith journey as they develop and explore what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

You currently have a complement of one full-time staff, three part-time staff and shared responsibility with the Business Administrator for the work of: stewardship, planned giving and communications staff and volunteers. How would you describe your management style?

Collaborative and clear. I want to hear from my colleagues their experience, wisdom, and ideas and together design and devise an action, approach or implementation strategy. I prefer to problem-solve together. I don't think of myself as a very top-down manager but wanting to give a good deal of space for creative expression and concepts to emerge and tried.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Remembering Russ

JANE DITTRICH
Christ Church Cathedral

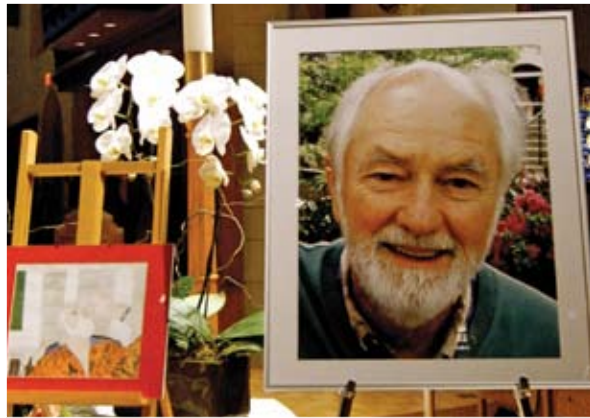
On February 25th, 2011, we lost Russ Harding, one of Christ Church Cathedral's most beloved members. His Memorial service at CCC, March 8th was a fitting tribute to a modest and positive man who loved his church, his family, his friends, and his music.

A lifelong music-lover with a particular fondness for jazz, Russ' ashes were carried through the church accompanied by a Dixieland style band playing a jazzed-up version of "When The Saints Go Marching In" to their final interment in the Cathedral Memorial Garden. This was a very apt conclusion to a beautiful service, which included wonderful and touching homilies by Dean Peter Elliott, Canon Herb O'Driscoll, and Russ' eldest son Mike.

Over his decades of involvement at the Cathedral, Russ held a number of roles within the parish, including: Rector's Warden, Building and Grounds Committee member-at-large, reception duties in the Cathedral office one day a week, and serving as Welcoming Team Leader one Sunday a month.

He was a private and gentle soul, someone who went about his ministries at the Cathedral with grace, and without drawing attention to himself. He left us, after a hard-fought battle with cancer, in the same dignified and quiet manner.

Russ always had a kind word for people, always had a hug for his cherished friends, and showed an infinite capacity to care for and about those whom he loved, right into his final days. He faithfully served his parish and the wider Anglican community with the selfless dedication, humour, compassion, wit and unassuming leadership that was uniquely Russ.



He was an immensely proud and devoted Father to his three sons, Mike, Scott and Brian. He was a devoted husband to his late wife, Shirley.

To honour Russ' memory and his service to the Anglican Church of Canada, donations can be made to his son Scott's Medical Trust. Scott was tragically paralyzed from the chest down, in a hit and run accident in New York City in 2008. For more information about Scott's Medical Trust, please visit www.scottyhardtrust.org.

I cherish the great talks and exchanges that Russ and I shared over the years, the opportunity to reconnect with him (having met him and his family in the late 70s, while he and Shirley were Co-Directors of Sorrento Centre) and more recently the fond memories of the events and services that we've worked together on at the Cathedral these past five years.

I feel that I speak for the entire Cathedral family and beyond when I say that there is a big hole in our hearts. His smiles, warm presence, unknowing inspiration, friendship and his countless contributions within our faith community will be so very missed.

Here is hoping that the musicians can now peacefully and joyfully play in tune and in tempo for you in Heaven, Russ! ✦

Rev. Douglas Fenton

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I appreciate being kept informed of projects, work-flow and new developments so that I can be a resource and supportive of their respective ministries.

Over the past few years, diocesan committees and task forces have identified the need to move toward a model of regional, missional ministry. How do you see yourself playing a role in this process?

At the outset I need to be an observer and one who listens. My 'new-on-the-scene' value allows me to ask questions for clarification and cause some new thinking, new ideas, and new ways of doing ministry to emerge.

We know we are more effective when we work together. That's not new, but we as church have often failed to appreciate our Anglican heritage. We sometimes fail to understand the diocese as the fullness of the church catholic—the complete unit, if you will, with the bishop as chief pastor, the focal point of who we are. We verge on being Congregationalists, separate and disconnected from one another.

The regional model of ministry reminds us of who we are within our Anglican polity. Our missional focus helps us to reassess and realign our priorities enabling us to be more effective in living into our faith and living it out into the world. It should not be dismissed as either trite or 'churchy' if we say that when our ministry participates fully in God's mission, the reign of God is

coming near. This is what it is to be effective in our discipleship and evangelism, our witness to the Good News of God in Christ. It's time to stop hiding our light of faith under a bushel and be witnesses to God's fullness and love—in the community and in the world. And it's also time we become more intentional and proactive in inviting others to "come and see" this Good News of God's love made known to us in Jesus. (John 1:46)

Would you rather sing a Victorian Hymn, Anglican Chant, Plainsong or a Marty Haugen?

Depends on the day and the occasion. I do prefer 5th to 16th century hymnody over the Victorian era, generally speaking, and I might even like to sing Johnny Cash or India Arie or Philip Bailey.

What would a dream vacation be for you?

I'm someone who can only lay on a beach for a few days. I need to be active so I enjoy exploring new places, meeting people, hearing stories. I have never been to India and would love to go there from Durgapur to Kerala. I hope to return to Turkey one day, and cruise the Turquoise Coast of the Mediterranean, snorkel, eat, and enjoy the Turkish people and culture.

I have two more States to see (Alaska and Montana—I didn't have time to work in either) and I have not yet had a chance to visit our northern territories but hope to one day soon. ✦

April 1st Anniversaries

Friday, April 1st, 2011 was a day of celebration for the staff and leadership of Christ Church Cathedral as it marked 15 years of extraordinary service by Building Administrator Gordon Macdonald. Gordon Macdonald has more than fulfilled his role as the principal caretaker of Bishop Michael's Cathedral and continues to set new standards for excellence in building management.

During Gordon's tenure the Cathedral underwent an extremely successful 11 year,



12 million dollar heritage renovation of both the exterior and interior where the building's internal systems were either replaced or updated, putting a tremendous amount of pressure on the Building Administrator position. In Gordon's 15 years he has established a benchmark for building cleanliness and exemplary service to both the parish membership and the greater community of Downtown Vancouver and beyond.

In recognition of this milestone anniversary a group of 30 gathered for the dessert buffet at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver where tributes were paid to Gordon in both words and song.

In the photo (top left) we see Gordon receiving his Anniversary Gift, an authentic Vancouver Canucks "Classic" home jersey.

This could be the year! ✦

Friday, April 1st, 2011 was also the anniversary for another very special person in the life of the Diocese of New Westminster. The Ven. Ronald Harrison (photo bottom left) marked 10 years as the Executive Archdeacon of the diocese. As the Senior Staff member responsible for assisting the Bishop in carrying out his Episcopal office, Ron has an enormous amount of responsibility. He coordinates clergy appointments, assists parishes in finding clergy during times of transitions, coordinates the discernment and ordination process for clergy and helps parishes understand and implement the diocesan Canons and Constitution. He is always available to answer questions and solve problems. For 10 years he has fulfilled his role with commitment, skill and good humour.

Ron celebrated his 10th Anniversary weekend by traveling to Abbotsford to preach and preside at the Eucharist for the St. Matthew's congregation currently meeting in the St. Matthew's Parish Hall.

Thank you Ron for your ministry. ✦

St. Oswald's Little Church, Long Reach

JOY MANCINELLI
St. Oswald, Port Kells

Clang! Thump!

Another giant garbage bag full of kitchenware and clothing is loaded on to a truck to be escorted by a member of St. Oswald's church to aid flood victims in Colombia.

It's not the first time that the parish has rallied to fill an international need. Oh, ordinary things like sponsoring a child through World Vision for many years, but also other, more eclectic projects:

- ✦ *Bankies for Bosnia* • The co-sponsoring of a family of Kosovan refugees.
- ✦ Putting in a well and bathhouse for an orphanage in Mongolia.
- ✦ Buying and shipping a keyboard to a struggling Anglican congregation in Belize.
- ✦ Fundraising for a building blitz in the townships of South Africa.
- ✦ Helping with a water project in Kenya—a project that was so successful that a medical facility is now going ahead in the village.

Local outreach has not been neglected.

The St. Oswald's community:

- ✦ Sent Christmas packages to the Mission to Seafarers.
- ✦ Supported the breakfast program at an inner city school by getting them a freezer and electric skillet.
- ✦ Made blankets for kids in wheelchairs at

another school.

- ✦ Gave financial assistance to the Special Olympics, the Diocese of the Arctic and Camp Artaban.
- ✦ At Thanksgiving, collected food and supplies for Katie's Place Cat Shelter.
- ✦ Leads a worship service at a local care home.
- ✦ Provides food and clothing—*Fill the Font With Socks Sunday!*—for the Whalley Night Shift and food banks.
- ✦ Does knitting, always knitting—who knows where the next request for warm blankets might come from?

The Little Church has a long reach—and a huge heart! ✦



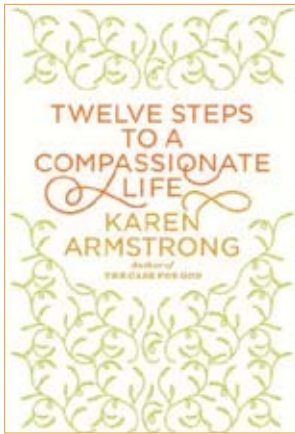
Book Review

ELIZABETH MATHERS
Deacon, St. Clement's, North Vancouver,
Member of RAWWG

70,000 people—and counting—around the world have signed the *Charter for Compassion* (charterforcompassion.org), committing themselves to live by the Golden Rule—treating all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. The Charter's purpose is to counter global and local voices of religious and cultural intolerance by restoring compassion to the heart of religious and moral life across the planet. It is the brainchild of *Karen Armstrong*, the scholar of religion and society, who refers to herself as a “freelance monotheist.”

When in 2008 she won the international TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) Prize, which confers a “Wish to Change the World” on its recipients, her wish was to

bring together a group of leading thinkers from various faiths to draw up principles of universal justice and respect, which they compiled into the Charter. Armstrong has explored these same themes in *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*.



Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life
Written by Karen Armstrong
Published by Knopf Canada
• December 2010

Two study groups in the Deanery of North Vancouver read the book during Lent, meeting weekly for discussion. *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* put our Christian understanding of compassion into a wider context, leading us to examine our own tradition in the light of other world faiths. We didn't always agree—with the author or with each other—but we had good conversation.

But the aim of *Twelve Steps* goes deeper than conversation; its purpose is to encourage its readers to put compassion into practice.

Karen Armstrong's starting point is that compassion is an innate, if under-used, human characteristic that can be nurtured by educating ourselves, developing empathy

and practising kindness. She explores her theme first by tracing developments in the human brain. Developments which have given rise to the capacity for altruism, and then by outlining the call to compassion in the mythologies and religions of the world, from the ancient Greeks and Confucianism through Hinduism and Buddhism to the Abrahamic faiths—Judaism, Christianity and Islam. She gives illustrations from myth, the scriptures of different faiths, and individuals who have lived by the Golden Rule, from the Buddha and Jesus to Dorothy Day and Nelson Mandela.


The first of the twelve steps move from learning about compassion to meditation on the “four immeasurable minds of love”—friendship, compassion, sympathetic joy, equanimity—and their application to ourselves and widening circles of friends and family, workplace, community, nation and the world. By engaging our imaginations, recognising how little we know and being willing to learn about other national, cultural and religious traditions, we become open to empathy and “making place for the other,” which finally allows us to love even our enemies.

The suggested method of reading the book is to read it once through, to get an

overall impression, then to work through the twelve steps slowly, making each step part of our daily practice before beginning the next. This slow pace creates the space for reflection, mindfulness, the unlearning of old habits and the development of compassionate practices—changing our negative thought patterns, appreciating our dependence on the labour of others, investigating another culture, offering hospitality to the stranger.

Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life is written in an accessible and engaging style. I would have found a glossary helpful, given the terms that were unfamiliar to me, as well as an index, to help keep track of who's who. There are wide-ranging suggestions for further reading that open up new areas of study to explore.

I appreciate Karen Armstrong's deep commitment to the idea and practice of compassion, and the long immersion in the study of religion that has informed the writing of this book. Each of the twelve steps brings together her scholarship with practical exercises that can enable us to live our lives with greater compassion, to walk through the world in greater harmony with our sisters and brothers of all faiths, cultures and nations. ✦



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
604.684.6306 ext. 225 (Wednesdays and Fridays)

TOP LEFT Geoff Martin demonstrating the importance of a whistle.
TOP RIGHT One of the program sessions included shelter building.
BELOW TOP Danielle Taylor films and directs the action documentary.
BELOW BOTTOM Closing. The final night of Apocalypse Wow!

Apocalypse Wow!
I wish you could have seen it

STEVE BAILEY

Deacon, St. Laurence, Coquitlam and Chair, Synod Planning Committee



The last weekend of March saw the Diocesan Youth Movement host their annual spring retreat for youth and youth leaders, *Apocalypse Wow!* at Camp Artaban. Rev. Steve Bailey, deacon at St. Laurence, Coquitlam, was there as one of the theme speakers and here he reflects on his experiences over that weekend. Phil Colvin, Diocesan Youth Coordinator

You can't help but have your hope for the present and future vitality of our diocese increased significantly when you attend a diocesan youth event.

Apocalypse Wow! represents an aspect of our life together as a diocese that I wish we could all have attended. Many of us older folk might not appreciate just how well organized, focussed and joyful in their faith in Jesus Christ our diocesan youth are. Phil Colvin, *Diocesan Youth Coordinator*, and his skilled team of volunteers know how to organize youth events that inspire, challenge and validate young people for who they are and who they can be.

And the Camp Artaban setting only adds positively to the mix. Many of our youth leaders are ‘graduates’ of leadership training they received through our camp programs—at Artaban, Sorrento, or similar settings. Many of our youth are in the leadership training process at these places now. An inevitable conclusion? Our support of places like Artaban and Sorrento are not optional; these places are not optional in the life of our parish and diocese. They represent an essential investment in people—young people in particular. Let's support them in any way we can.

Invited as one of the speakers for the weekend, I came away with much more than I came to share—a renewed sense of the wonderful community that Christian camping creates, of the relationships God builds among young and old, of the sheer dedication of our youth to renewing and revitalizing the Church, of appreciation for the volunteers who give of their time and talents to plan and carry out

events that bring our youth together for wonderful times of celebration and faith-building.

As the title *Apocalypse Wow!* would suggest, the theme of the weekend was a look at possible scenarios for the ‘end of the world’ and our relationship to those scenarios. Participants experienced everything from end of the world game shows, building survivalist shelters in the woods, an end of the world dance, Bible study around the Book of Revelation, and spirited worship with inspired singing that covered the range from exuberant praise songs to *Compline* with traditional Anglican plainsong chant. The Rev. Dr. John Oakes delivered two challenging talks including a challenging sermon at an outdoor Eucharist which capped the weekend. By the way, if you want to see something amazing, you need to witness an enthusiastic bunch of teenagers moving, in the space of about twenty minutes, from a raucous rec hall dance to the quiet contemplation of a candle-lit outdoor *compline* service of plainsong chant.

What came out of it? A strong sense that our hope is in Christ, and that the consistent message of the Scriptures, including the Book of Revelation, is one of hope, not fear. Youth returned to their parishes and their daily lives with new insights into the meaning of their faith in Jesus Christ. Whether your parish has a small or large number of youth, one of your great parish resources is an ongoing commitment to our **Diocesan Youth Movement** and to our ministry of Christian camping. Give these things all the support you can and help make a difference.

The Diocesan Youth Movement coordinates youth ministry across the diocese and their next event will be hosting a sleepover for youth delegates at Diocesan Synod on May 27th.

If your parish isn't already connected to DYM, get in touch with Phil Colvin at Synod Office who can make sure you don't miss out on future events and opportunities! ✦

