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Remembering Archbishop David Somerville

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Vestments &
Holy Hardware
shipped to
Malawi.

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The Diocese of
New Westminster
Youth Team
in Taiwan.

YOUTH PAGE

Fall of 2011

An Autumn to Remember in the Diocese of New Westminster

This coming fall there will be a lot happening in the Diocese of New Westminster. *Topic* invites everyone to participate in some of that activity by registering for the two *Road to 2018* events scheduled for the fall.

The first event, *It's What We Do Here* will take place at St. Dunstan's in Aldergrove (3025 264th Street), **Saturday, September 24th**. Presented by the Stewardship and Gift Planning Committee of the diocese in conjunction with Road to 2018, *It's What We Do Here* will be a day-long event of presentations and workshops offered to promote year-round stewardship and generous faith communities, facilitated by stewardship educator, **Terry Parsons**.

Terry Parsons has worked as a magazine editor, marketing consultant for small businesses, director of development for a not-for-profit agency, and developed a training program for women executives. She was a founding board member of *The Episcopal Network for Stewardship* (TENS) and served on the board until 2008. She conducted feasibility studies and served as counsel for capital campaigns in one diocese and several congregations before becoming the **Stewardship Officer for the Episcopal Church** (1996–2008).

During her years on the national staff working out of the national offices in Manhattan she served scores of

congregations and dioceses of every size across the USA. Her stewardship work has included annual giving, planned giving, and capital campaigns.

She was a presenter for the North American Conference on Christian Philanthropy held in the United States, the North American Stewardship Conference in Canada, and a keynote speaker for an international conference in England. She has taught as a guest lecturer at *Luther Seminary* in Minneapolis, and taught three terms as an adjunct professor at *The General Theological Seminary* in New York where she received a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies in May, 2010. Since then she has been busy continuing her stewardship work in a variety of dioceses and congregations, including being the keynote speaker at this year's D of NW Synod business day, May 28th, 2011. The reviews were stellar. Over 90% of those who responded to the Synod evaluation rated Terry's presentation **Excellent** or **Good**, the two highest ratings.

The cost for the daylong event is \$20 and lunch is included. You can register on-line by typing <http://contact.oZaZqV> into your internet browser or search engine, email Bettina Gruver at bgruver@vancouver.anglican.ca, or speak with your rector or wardens about registering as part of a parish group.

The second event, *Branding Faith, Building Hope—Telling our story in a consumer-oriented culture* is planned for Saturday, October 22nd at Holy Trinity in Vancouver's beautiful South Granville neighbourhood (1440 West 12th Avenue).

This day-long event consisting of three one hour plenary lectures interspersed with group conversations is presented by The Evangelism Unit and the Communications Committee of the Diocese of New Westminster who are connecting their ministries, offering this opportunity to hear from one of the world's leading experts in the field of faith in media, **Phil Cooke**.

Phil Cooke has produced media programming in more than forty countries around the world, and in the process, was shot at, survived two military coups, fell out of a helicopter, and in Africa, was threatened with prison. Meanwhile, he's helped some of the largest non-profit organizations in the world navigate periods of dramatic disruption and change. He's appeared on MSNBC, CNBC, CNN, and his work has been profiled in the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*. He's lectured at universities, including Yale, University of California at Berkeley, UCLA and is an adjunct professor at

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*"Terry Parsons was amazing—
a breath of fresh air on an
anxiety-ridden topic."*



*"Please continue to arrange
for excellent guest speakers
like Terry Parsons."*

"I particularly loved Terry Parsons."



*Phil Cooke
Branding Faith,
Building Hope
Telling our story
in a consumer
oriented culture*

Fall of 2011

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The King's University and Biola University in Los Angeles.

In *Jolt*, his most recent book, Phil points out that the world is changing at light speed but there are strategies that we can follow so that we no longer feel overwhelmed with changing technology, culture, trends and values.

If your goal is to share your message of faith, preach the gospel, build compassionate service and resources through Christian Stewardship to help achieve these goals then you and others from your parish should attend this daylong learning experience.

At the request of the Rev. Dr. John Oakes, Incumbent of Holy Trinity and Chair of the Evangelism Unit, Phil has developed three dynamic one-hour presentations to address the interests and realities of our diocesan faith communities:

1. What is the church's mandate to make the most of media?
2. Are traditional media, like print, still worth using? Which ones are best?
3. How small to medium-sized congregations can make the most of websites and social networking sites.

The cost for this event is \$25 and lunch is included. If you register with a group of 5 to 9 persons the cost is \$20 each and if you register with a group of 10+ the cost is \$15 each.

You can register on-line by typing <http://conta.cc/ojAdth> into your internet browser or search engine, email Bettina Gruver at bgruver@vancouver.anglican.ca, or speak with your rector or wardens about registering as part of a parish group. ✚

Here is a letter of commendation sent in early August to clergy and parish leaders from Bishop Michael Ingham regarding these two events.



Diocese of New Westminster
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

August 5th, 2011

Dear Friends:

I am writing to commend to you the Diocese of New Westminster's two fall lecture/workshop events: **It's What We Do Here – promoting year round holistic stewardship** with Terry Parsons being held September 24th at St. Dunstan's in Aldergrove and **Branding Faith, Building Hope - telling our story in a consumer oriented culture** with author, film maker and church media expert, Phil Cooke taking place October 22nd at Holy Trinity Church in Vancouver.

The first event is being presented by the Synod Program staff co-sponsored by the Diocesan Planned Giving and Stewardship Committee. The second is presented by the same Synod department in conjunction with the Evangelism Unit and the Diocesan Communications Committee, made possible by a grant from the Ministry Resources Committee. Both of these events are part of the diocesan **Road to 2018** program.

Stewardship and communications have long been two of the most important aspects of the mission and ministry of the Church, and as the world changes their importance increases. We need to focus on developing our resources at every level in order that our mission can grow. We have new opportunities to communicate what we as disciples of Jesus Christ can offer our neighbourhoods, towns, and regions.

Registration for these events is simple. You can access on-line registration through the links contained in the Parish Mail email sent to all clergy, and lay leaders, July 22nd, 2011 or visit the diocesan website, www.vancouver.anglican.ca and click the registration links contained in the two news stories about these events, or call Bettina Gruver at 604.684.6306 ext 226.

The cost for these events is affordable and there are discounts offered for parish groups. Many thanks for your continuing faithfulness and labours in the mission of Christ.

Kindest regards,

The Right Reverend Michael Ingham
Bishop

Kenyan Sunday at St. Thomas, Chilliwack

JOHN SOVEREIGN

Incumbent, St. Thomas, Chilliwack

Daniel Kibarita speaks passionately of his homeland Kenya and the needs of its people. Since 1997, Daniel and his wife Anne have been leading mission teams, and finding ways to help out the people in Kenya. Through mutual friends in Abbotsford, Daniel and Rev. John Sovereign began talking about taking young adults from St. Thomas on just such a mission trip, last fall.



TOP The Rev. John Sovereign (left) and Pastor Daniel Kibarita (right).

BOTTOM 6 year old Mburu Mangere. PHOTOS Sarah Sovereign and Caitlin Bregani

That vision has come home powerfully to St. Thomas. At a service we called **Kenyan Sunday**, on May 15th, 2011 it was all about Africa and our Kenyan Mission with *Compassion Works International*. Daniel led our morning service, along with Shiro Olson, and our own teens and young adults. It was a great mix of freestyle, exciting African worship mixed with familiar elements from our Anglican tradition.

The offering received May 15th has been directed by Compassionate Works International to help one little boy undergoing kidney treatment at Kenyatta National Hospital. His name is Mburu Mangere and he is 6 years old. Mburu has been diagnosed with cancer of the kidney and he has lost one kidney. Currently he is undergoing chemotherapy to save the other kidney. This treatment is costing his family over \$1200 every month. They do not have universal Medical Care in Kenya so the cost of the treatment is very difficult for his family.

Cost of our proposed African Mission trip will be considerable, and the May 15th worship was one way of helping our whole congregation to understand the scope of what is happening. Five or six youth are prepared to make the trip, plus a couple of leaders. We are planning to go to Kenya in the summer of 2012. No travel arrangements have been made as yet.

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The Anglican Church of Canada

A community of 640,000 members organized into four ecclesiastical provinces, including British Columbia and the Yukon.

The Diocese of New Westminster

The Anglican Church in the Lower Mainland and on the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia, 74 parishes and one ecumenical congregation.

The Bishop of New Westminster

The Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham.

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Thank you!

The Most Reverend Thomas David Somerville

November 11, 1915 – July 25, 2011

NEALE ADAMS

Christ Church Cathedral

Archbishop David Somerville died on Monday afternoon, July 25th, 2011 a little after 3 pm PDT. During the previous two weeks he was surrounded with love by his niece Monica, and many friends, including clergy who kept vigil with him as his earthly life drew to a close.

He was in his 96th year.

His life was celebrated at a memorial service on August 6th at St. Catherine's, Capilano (full coverage of the service will be available in the October issue of Topic).

The following is adapted from Julie Ferguson's 2006 book, *Sing a New Song*.

Born in Ashcroft, British Columbia, Somerville lived with his father Thomas, a police officer, and mother Martha, in nearby Lytton as a child. Thomas died in the influenza epidemic of 1918, and his mother took him to England for three years. At age seven, David returned to British Columbia with his mother, and settled in Salmon Arm. They moved to Vancouver seven years later in 1929, in order that David could attend King George High School.

They joined the parish of St. Paul's in the West End, and David was confirmed by Archbishop Adam de Pencier. According to biographer, Julie Ferguson, it was at St. Paul's that David felt called to the priesthood at age 17.

He attended Anglican Theological College at the University of British Columbia, forerunner of Vancouver School of Theology, earning a BA in 1937, and a Licentiate in Theology in 1939. He managed to attend college with the help of bursaries and working as a college caretaker during summers.

Ordained deacon by Archbishop de Pencier in 1939, David served for a year at St. Mary's Kerrisdale. He was priested by the archbishop in the fall of 1940 and sent at age 24 to serve in his first parish at Princeton, BC, also serving congregations at Hedley, Copper Mountain and Allenby. His mother, who never remarried, came to live with him.

In 1945 David was sent by Archbishop Sir Frances Heathcote to St. John's, Sardis, with responsibility for St. Peter's, Rosedale. After five more years in rural parishes, he was assigned to St. James' Vancouver at the request of Father Wilberforce Cooper, the rector, who had encouraged David's calling as a teenager at St. Paul's.

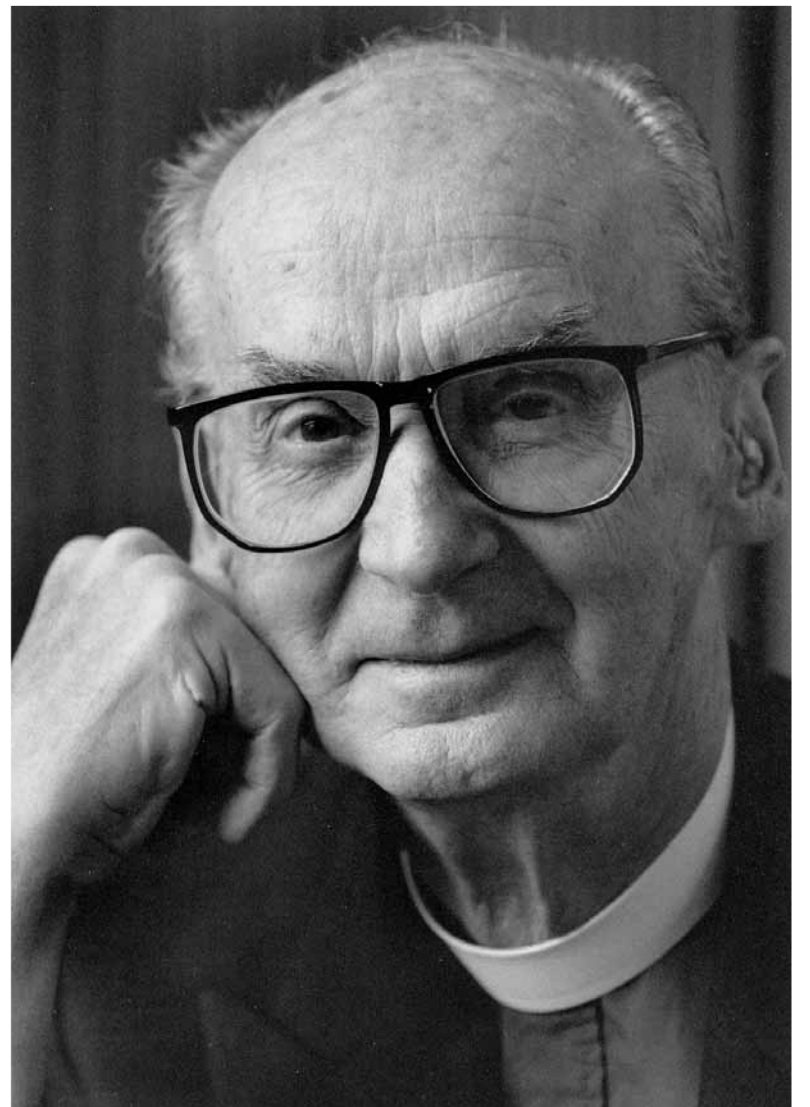
David stayed at St. James' for eleven years, describing it later to Ferguson as "his golden age." He enjoyed the sacramental emphasis of the diocese's largest Anglo-Catholic parish, and the company of Father Cooper, his mentor. When Cooper retired, David became rector of St. James' in 1952.

During these years David's affiliation and affection for the youth of the parish and the diocese continued to grow and flourish and during this time he became a life-long supporter of Camp Artaban. During his Episcopacy he dedicated the pan-abode cottages that are currently in use there.

He worked hard to make sure the inner-city parish interacted with the East End community in which it is located, sending members of the congregation out to visit the neighborhood. He and his parish established an Old Age Pensioner's Society for single men who lived nearby. They met in a room below the church.

At St. James' David mentored several young men entering the priesthood, who became known as "David's Boys." Among them was Michael Peers, later to become primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.

In 1960 David left parish work for Anglican Theological College to teach pastoral care, doctrine, and church history. At ATC he was an early proponent of sending students out to parishes during their senior year to get practical experience. While at ATC, he became more and more convinced



of the need for reform in the Church. When Pierre Berton's book, *The Comfortable Pew*, was published in 1965, David wrote a favourable review in the diocesan newspaper.

Berton wrote the book for the Anglican Church's General Board for Religious Education. It was a scathing critique of the church, blasting among others "status-seekers and respectability-hunters, the deadwood who enjoy the club atmosphere... the ecclesiastical hangers-on and the comfort-searchers." The head of the Board had commissioned Berton. After it came out, he resigned.

David was asked to come to the Anglican Church of Canada's national headquarters at Church House in Toronto and take over leadership of the Board. Its staff had strongly supported their former boss and were hostile to the new guy. David said later his first year at Church House was "the worst year of my life."

David was happier the next year in a new role at Church House as Director of Planning and Research, and became involved in streamlining the national administration of the Anglican Church of Canada. "He felt compelled to rid much of its patriarchal, authoritarian methods and implement participatory leadership," according to Ferguson.

After Archbishop Godfrey Gower expressed the need for a co-adjutor bishop in 1968 (a bishop-in-waiting who will succeed when the diocesan bishop steps down), David let his name stand in the election in Vancouver, not believing he would be elected. But he was, by a final overwhelming vote of 294 to 46.

He broke tradition by being consecrated not in the Cathedral but at the Agrodome at the Pacific National Exposition, a ceremony that drew over 4,000 in January, 1969. When criticized for choosing a "cow palace," he replied he thought the location appropriate since, after all, Jesus had been born in a stable.

In 1971 David became the sixth Bishop of New Westminster when Archbishop Gower stepped down. As bishop, David handed over many administrative duties to his archdeacons, and focused on his clergy. He established the annual clergy conference, and set up a Ministry Committee to advise him on parish appointments. He implemented meetings of regional deans.

David encouraged renewal of liturgy, and supported Dean Herbert O'Driscoll's experimentation. He approved the plan proposed by O'Driscoll and approved by the Christ Church Cathedral parish to replace its stone building with a new worship space designed by architect Arthur Erickson, plus an office tower that would bring in revenue for the Cathedral—the development was turned down by the City Council.

As bishop, David supported allowing children to partake of the bread and wine at the Eucharist. When some complained that children didn't understand the sacrament, the bishop replied that he couldn't understand the mystery of the Holy Communion either.

After election as Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and the Yukon in 1975 and receiving its title of Archbishop, David renewed his determination to see the Anglican Church of Canada ordain women. The issue had dominated several General Synods of the Church, and David had been a strong supporter. He had ordained the Rev. Elspeth Alley as a deacon, in preparation for the time of ordination as priest.

Finally, after the 1975 General Synod indicated that 80% of lay delegates wanted women ordained, the House of Bishops agreed that they could be in November of the following year.

On St. Andrew's Day, November 30th, 1976, three candidates were presented to Bishop David for ordination. Two were women: Elspeth Alley and Virginia Briant. When the part of the service came in which someone could object to the ordination, the Rev. James Penrice of St. David's, Vancouver, arose. Penrice came to the front holding a paper with his objection. The priest was so nervous he was shaking. The bishop calmly took the paper, opened it, and held it so Penrice could read. He thanked the priest, but said the service would go on.

Bishop David was involved in early attempts by homosexual Christians to be fully accepted within the Church. In 1980 he allowed the establishment of a diocesan chapter of Integrity, the organization supporting Anglican gays and lesbians and their families and supporters. He found a

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PONTIUS PUDDLE by Joel Kauffmann



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

compiled by Anglican Archivist Melanie Wallace

- 30 years • 1981 Parishes mark the 1600th anniversary of the Nicene Creed.
- 15 years • 1996 The Diocese of New Westminster becomes a sponsoring diocese with Education for Ministry (EFM) Canada.
- 10 years • 2001 Ecumenical Parish opens as Whistler Village Church.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

The End of an Era Anglican Women's Auxiliary Memorial House

CLIFF CAPRANI
St. Thomas, East Vancouver

As you drive along 14th Avenue, near City Hall in Vancouver, it's easy to miss Memorial House, the ACW's headquarters since just after WWII. The handsome house, standing slightly above street level, is nearly 100 years old. A plaque to the left of the door is the only clue: Anglican WA Memorial House.

July 18th was a significant day here, as the women of the ACW held their final meeting, prior to moving to new premises on Merritt Avenue in Burnaby. Thirty-five members of the ACW were in attendance. They helped with packing up the memorabilia, furniture and other items intended for the new, smaller digs. Anyone who has ever moved house or downsized will appreciate the effort involved.

Sheila Puls, president of the Diocesan ACW, gave me a tour of the house. She explained that it had been purchased for a very low price in 1946, by a group of resourceful Anglican women. They had recognized the need for a location that would serve as both a headquarters for their work, and also provide accommodation for visiting missionary clergy, in town to raise money for their next trip.

The ground floor, with its elegant wraparound deck, has a small chapel (recently de-consecrated), a kitchen, and a large meeting/function room that runs from front to back. The upper floor, once used for priestly accommodations is now where the caretaker lives.

Below stairs is the sorting area, where donated clothes, household linens and other items are tagged and baled prior to shipping to parishes in the north. I asked if parishes north of sixty are still in need.

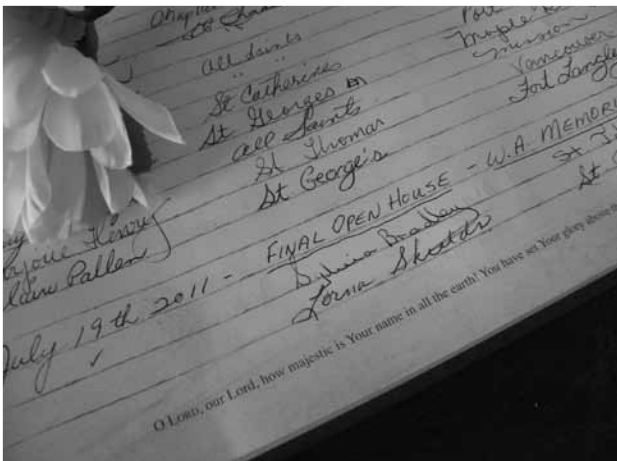
Sheila told me of a recent trip that she and her husband had made. In the Yukon to see the sights, they visited some of the parishes that receive ACW bales: Sheila was keen to see if these goods were still needed. In Atlin, whose parish is considered as part of The North, they were told that the ACW shipments are greatly appreciated, especially during winter, when trips to "nearby" Whitehorse entail a two hundred mile round trip on icy roads.

I wondered what would become of the house. According to Sheila, the purchaser plans to turn it into three apartments, and to add a coach house at the back. I asked why the house was being sold at all. Sheila said that the deck that I so admired had begun to sag, and that the cost of repairing it would be prohibitive.

I then joined the ladies for a delicious lunch, after which Sheila made a short speech. She thanked all members, past and present, for their work at Memorial House. She expressed sadness at having to move, but conceded that it was the fiscally responsible thing to do. Although it is cliché to say it, this meeting DID mark the end of an era, and signaled a move from genteel city surroundings to a more practical abode in the suburbs. The work, however, does not stop.

The following week, I visited their new Burnaby digs. It's not Mount Pleasant, to be sure, but it is admirably suited to their needs, with ample room for the tagging and sorting that is such a vital part of their mission.

I asked Sheila if there was anything that she wanted



TOP Anglican Women's Auxiliary Memorial House on West 14th Avenue.
MIDDLE LEFT Sheila Puls, president of the Diocesan ACW.
MIDDLE RIGHT Last tea and snacks at the ACW.
BOTTOM The last entry in the ACW Guestbook.

included in this article. She said that she wanted the wider Anglican congregation to know that the work is ongoing and still vital, and that they need volunteers—"no experience necessary." One morning a week—Monday—would be of great help. Oh, and the volunteers can be male or female. ♣

Diocese of New Westminster Receives \$155,000 in Costs

On Friday, July 29th, the Diocese of New Westminster received a cheque in the amount of \$155,000 from the legal representatives of the 22 individuals, clergy and lay (*Plaintiffs*) who brought suit against the Diocese and Bishop Michael Ingham over control of the assets of four parishes in 2009.

In total, the *Plaintiffs* brought three proceedings against the diocese, first in the BC Supreme Court, then in the BC Court of Appeal, and finally in the Supreme Court of Canada.

In the first decision, the Diocese was considered by the court to be the party that was substantially successful and, at a subsequent hearing, the Diocese was granted court costs.

The BC Court of Appeal upheld the original decision and also granted court costs to the Diocese. And finally in June of 2011 the Supreme Court of Canada denied the

Plaintiffs Leave to Appeal from the decision of the Court of Appeal and also awarded the costs of that process to the diocese.

In the Canadian court system, costs are generally awarded to the party that has been substantially successful, with those costs paid by the opposing litigants, but costs are awarded according to a variety of scales at each level and often the costs are a moderate percentage of the actual costs incurred.

The desire of the Bishop and Diocese is to put this era of legal wrangling behind us as much as possible and move forward with ministry. As a result, the costs were negotiated by counsel for both parties without going through the further potentially costly legal process of assessment in the fall of 2011. ♣

The Compassionate Listening Project

DONALD GRAYSTON
Acting Chair, Building Bridges Vancouver

This past spring I travelled to Israel and Palestine as part of a "delegation" organized by the *Compassionate Listening Project*. It was a marvelous experience, with first-class leaders. They made it possible for us to meet Israelis and Palestinians of a wide range of viewpoint and political stance, and offered us the challenge of listening compassionately to people some of whom we liked and agreed with and some of whom we didn't!

Dates have now been set for next year's delegation: March 18–28, 2012. Full information is available at this web address: <http://bit.ly/o8FSWT>

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains potentially one of the, if not *the* most dangerous realities of our world. On its resolution depends the future of the critical relationship with "Islam" and "the West"—I use quotation marks there, because each term is so complex and loaded in public perception. And on that relationship depend many other geopolitical realities, including the possible use of nuclear weapons.

So anything we can do now to move the conflict towards resolution is a contribution to the peace of the world as a whole. And there is no doubt that international awareness and action makes a difference—indeed, it already has. Having worked on this issue since 2006, I have seen in the last 12 months a quantum leap in public awareness—things are shifting! And going on a Compassionate Listening delegation is a wonderful way to be part of that shift. ♣

For more information Reverend Donald Grayston can be contacted through the Synod Office.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Moving from North to West Van •

Bishop Michael Ingham has announced that the Rev. Jeremy Clark-King formerly Incumbent at St. Martin's North Vancouver has been appointed Interim Priest-in-Charge at St. Christopher's West Vancouver effective, September 1st, 2011.

This will be a two-year appointment. Jeremy's appointment came four weeks prior to the June 30th, 2011 official retirement of current St. Christopher's Incumbent, the Ven. Lou Rivers.

Archdeacon Lou was installed as rector of St. Christopher's, November 1st, 1987 so he began his retirement just four months shy of completing 24 years of ministry at the West Van church. Lou will also retire as Archdeacon of Capilano. A successor has not yet been named.

Jeremy was installed as rector of St. Martin's February 1st, 2005 not long after he and his partner Ellen (the Ven. Dr. Ellen Clark-King, Priest Associate, Christ Church Cathedral, Archdeacon of Burrard) arrived from the UK to begin their ministries in Canada.

In addition to his ministry as Incumbent of a parish, Jeremy has been very active in regional ministry, taking leadership in North Vancouver Deanery MAP and at the diocesan level, chairing various committees and instrumental in the development of the Diocesan Strategic Plan.

St. Christopher's celebrated Lou's remarkable ministry with two cabaret nights in the Parish Hall last June. Both nights were sold out! ✠



• 70th Wedding Anniversary Celebration •

St. John's Squamish played host to a very rare celebration on June 4th, 2011.

Lifelong Squamish residents Jo (88) and Owen (95) Reeve were joined by a host of family and friends as they commemorated the impressive milestone.

The two were married at Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Vancouver on May 31st, 1941 and after just one year of marriage Owen enlisted in the Canadian Infantry and spent the next four years in Italy. The couple has three children, seventeen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. ✠

Congratulations!

PHOTO Peggy Tinney

• Synod Staff Visits the Emerald City •

Early in the morning of May 31st, 2011 the staff of the Synod office left the cozy confines of 401 West Georgia, boarded an Amtrak train at the old CN terminal on Main Street and travelled the 180 *klicks* south to Seattle, Washington.

The purpose of the trip was to connect Bishop Michael Ingham and the staff of the D of NW with the staff of the Diocese of Olympia and Bishop Greg Rickel, have some food, share some information about our ministries and attend the "nooner" game, June 1st at Safeco field between the Seattle Mariners and the Baltimore Orioles as guests of the Diocese of Olympia. The Mariners lost 2-1. A highlight was seeing the personal greeting from the Mariners displayed on the Centre Field sign. ✠



The Mariners greeting lights up the scoreboard.



Two Bishops and a Canon sporting "rally caps" couldn't help the Mariners in the 9th inning.

• The Rev. Douglas Fenton •

St. John, North Vancouver on Trinity Sunday

On June 19th, 2011 the recently appointed Diocesan Director for Mission and Ministry, the Rev. Douglas Fenton accepted Rev. Gary Hamblin's invitation to preach the Trinity Sunday sermon.

Fr. Douglas began his sermon by pointing out that Incumbents and Priests-in-Charge traditionally find someone else to preach on the *difficult* subject of the Trinity. Douglas added that Trinity Sunday is referred to as "Curate's Sunday" as often the most junior cleric would be charged with the task of preaching on this somewhat problematic subject.

Douglas went on to recall that during his years as a student, the nuns at catechism class told him that the Trinity, is a "mystery." He supported that by paraphrasing a quote from St. Augustine, *If you can understand what something is, it can't be from God.*

Douglas went on to say that none of that wisdom has prevented people from trying to explain the Trinity so he would also offer an illustration:

The Trinity is like a candle:

the candle = GOD

the light = JESUS

the heat = THE HOLY SPIRIT

Douglas concluded the sermon by comparing the recent and current journey of the St. John, NV community in the *Ministry Assessment Process* to an ontological experience.

What does it mean to "be" a faith community and how is this connected to the Trinity?

For Douglas "the Holy Trinity directs us to our interior life to take our place in God's Mission." ✠



IT'S WHAT WE DO HERE

A Diocesan sponsored workshop offered to promote year-round stewardship and the development of generous faith communities.

Saturday, September 24, 2011
10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Send your parish team to this all-day workshop with noted **Stewardship Educator Terry Parsons**

Learn how to plan and implement a year-round stewardship program to meet the needs of all age groups in your parish community.

It's about keeping our eyes fixed on the real and important work of being God's agents of peace and forgiveness so that the world may become a better place. It's about being generous because we worship a generous God. It's about being who God means you to be—and setting the world on fire.



LOCATION
St. Dunstan's
3025 264th Street
Aldergrove, BC

COST \$20
Includes lunch

REGISTER NOW
<http://conta.cc/ILdxxN>
or call 604.684.6306
ex. 226

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Charity Band Concert Held Outdoors at Richmond Church •

On June 26th, 2011, St. Edward's Anglican Church in Richmond held its second benefit parking lot performance. Featured guests were the Little Mountain Brass Band under the direction of Jim Littleford. The band played a wide variety of music from marches to Glen Miller. The weather was beautiful and the audience donated generously to the Richmond Men's Shelter. ✠



The Little Mountain Brass Band at St. Edward's.
PHOTO Bob Scott

• New Organ for St. Hilda's •

Bishop Michael was present at St. Hilda's-by-the-Sea, Sechelt on June 29th to dedicate to the Glory of God their new pipe organ and also to celebrate the 75th anniversary of St. Hilda's parish.

The Casavant-Frères organ, *Opus 3272* was built for the Christian Apostolic Church congregation of Vancouver in 1975 and remained in their church building even after the 2005 purchase of the church by a community of Vietnamese Buddhist nuns. It was sold by the nuns to a couple of organ buffs who were going to use it for parts. Instead, they notified various organizations that they thought might be interested in receiving the instrument as a donation as long as the recipient organization would arrange for removal and transport. St.

Hilda's costs were less than \$10,000 to acquire an organ that would likely cost in the neighbourhood of \$200,000.

Organist David Millard performed a varied repertoire of organ music during the June 30th special concert event and also accompanied vocalist Sara Douglas.

There were a variety of 75th Anniversary activities over the holiday weekend including: participation in the Sechelt Canada Day Parade, the unveiling of a heritage plaque for St. Hilda's and the planting of a 75th Anniversary tree on the St. Hilda's grounds. In the image we see Incumbent, the Rev. Clarence Li dousing the newly planted tree with "living waters" as members of the congregation look on in support. ✠



TOP Tree planting for St. Hilda's 75th Anniversary.

BOTTOM LEFT Dedication of plaque at St. Hilda's.

BOTTOM RIGHT David Millard plays St. Hilda's-by-the-Sea's "new" organ. PHOTOS David Moul

• 100 Years of Anglican Ministry in Port Kells •

SUBMISSION Joy Mancinelli

St. Oswald's celebrated 100 years of ministry, July 17th with some inter-generational bell ringing.

The bell at St. Oswald in the Surrey district of Port Kells was rung 100 times by various parishioners taking turns, beginning with Florence Slavinski (*photo on left*). The church was a nearly new four year old

building the year that Florence was born.

In the other image we see one of the youngest parishioners, Andrew McDonald (*photo on right*) taking a turn as his dad and brother Liam look on. ✠

PHOTOS Joy Mancinelli



• St. Matthew, Abbotsford July 17th •

On June 16th, 2011 the Supreme Court of Canada released its Decision refusing *Leave to Appeal* from the November 2010 decision of the BC Court of Appeal. At that time, the Court of Appeal upheld the Trial Judgment, which found that the four parish properties under dispute are to be held in trust by the Diocese of New Westminster for those who wish to worship in the Anglican Church of Canada. The trustees representing parishes currently aligned with the Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC) that launched the litigation against the Diocese of New Westminster do not have any other legal remedies available in this action.

The first of the churches to return to Anglican Church of Canada worship is St. Matthew, Abbotsford where an Anglican Church of Canada congregation has been worshipping in the St. Matthew Parish hall since August 29th, 2010. Worship resumed in the Sanctuary, July 17th and *Bishop's Missioner for the Central Fraser Valley*, the Rev. Father Allen Doerksen has been presiding and preaching at one service per week on Sundays at 10 am.

The October issue of *Topic* will contain coverage of Fr. Allen's September 7th installation as "Missioner," a feature interview and current information about return to

Anglican Church of Canada worship in the other parishes. ✠



Father Allen greets the Rev. Art Turnbull and the Ven. Beverly Stewart following worship, July 31st, 2011
PHOTO Peter Keighley

• St. Clements and St. Clare • Celebrates Rev. Lynne McNaughton's 25th Ordination Anniversary

Members of St. Clements and St. Clare-in-the-Cove held a special service on July 10th to celebrate a milestone for their priest, Lynne McNaughton. The service was marked by many wonderful moments, including: a sermon reflecting on the past 25 years of service and the evolution of the Anglican Church over those years, a handmade paving stone for her garden presented to Lynne by the children of the parish, and a delicious salmon BBQ.

Many who attended the service commented on how fast 25 years go by and provided their own perspective on how much things have changed and ironically, how some things remain the same. ✠

LEFT The Rev. Lynne McNaughton.

RIGHT Lynne receives the paving stone from the children of the parish.

PHOTOS Phoebe Yong



AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Cracked Crab Cruise 2011 •

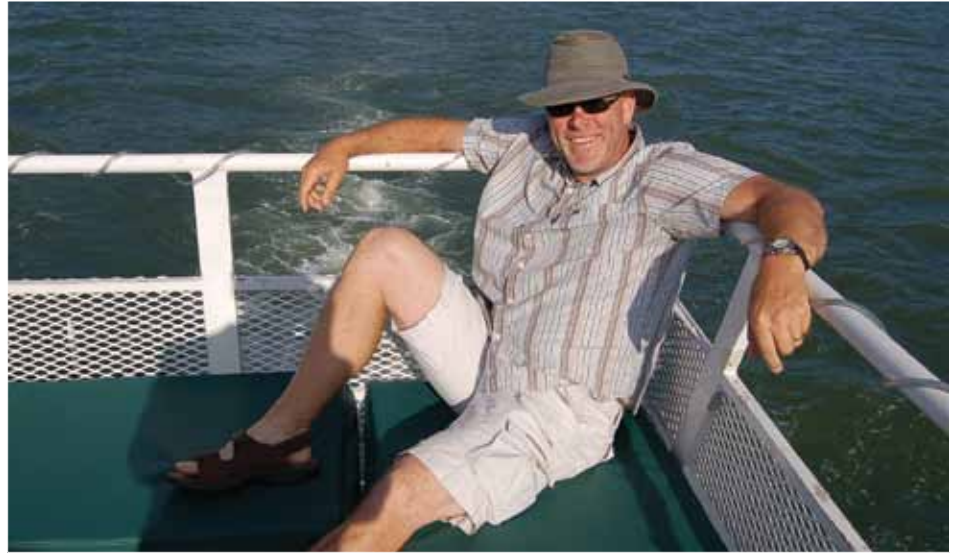
The St. Matthew, Abbotsford community celebrated a summer evening together on July 23rd with a dinner cruise around Chuckanut Bay and Admiralty Inlet in and around the San Juan Islands of Washington State.

The ship departed the port of Bellingham at 6:30 pm and returned at 9 pm (not quite a "3 hour tour" as was immortalized in a 1960's US network sitcom).

The weather was glorious and the views divine as the bright white of the late afternoon sun glinting on the wake shifted to the deep orange of evening. However, as idyllic as this nautical image may be, the

real attraction were the buckets filled to the brim with freshly caught and boiled crab on ice and loaded onto the ship. All you could eat. A great way to get to know your fellow parishioners is by sharing a few shellfish. It's hard to be demure when you are pulling a crab leg off of the shell and cracking it open.

The Rev. David Price, Priest-in-Charge of All Saints, Agassiz took time out from his busy parish to attend the event and five representatives of the Synod office: Bishop Michael Ingham, Eileen and Charles Nurse and Randy and Rose Murray also joined the Rev. Allen Doerksen and the St. Matthew congregation on the cruise. ✠



TOP RIGHT Father Allen relaxing on the cruise.

BOTTOM LEFT The crab's a comin'!

BOTTOM RIGHT Cracking the crab.



• Rupert Lang's Silver Anniversary •

Christ Church Cathedral Director of Music Celebrates Milestone

July 24th, 2011 was a very special day in the life of the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of New Westminster. Following the dismissal from the main 10:30 am Festal Eucharist which featured the *Haydn* Missa Brevis in F, for two sopranos, chorus, organ and strings, the Christ Church Cathedral congregation gave a standing ovation in recognition of Rupert Lang's 25 years of outstanding music ministry to the community.

Dean Peter Elliott and longtime Cathedral parishioner and chorister, Lynda Catchpole presented Rupert with two large bouquets of summer flowers while the choir sang an original text written by the Very Rev. Peter Elliott to the well-known *Haydn* tune from the *Kaiser Quartet*.

To tune Austria,

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
loved musician Rupert Lang
For a quarter century,
your compositions here we sang.
Organist and choir conductor
Liturgies galore you planned.
Hymns and canticles, psalms and anthems,
Preludes and postludes with a bang!
So today we celebrate you,
Know that we love you, Rupert Lang! ✠



*From all of us at the Diocese
of New Westminster,
Congratulations Rupert!*

• KA Club Meetings for Fall 2012 •

The KA Club, for active and retired clergy, meets monthly at 12 noon on the third Thursday of the month, beginning September 15th, 2011. The KA Club meeting is located in Arbutus Manor at 2125 Eddington, in Vancouver.

There is on street parking available ONLY. Please bring a bag lunch.

For more information and to register your intent to attend please contact David Hawkins at 604.222.4689.

The 2011/2012 text for discussion is Sallie McFague's 2008 book, *A New Climate for Theology: God, the world and global warming*. ✠

• A New Reality in Our Church •

That is the title of the accompanying photo of *scooters* parked in a row that was taken by the Rev. Karin Fulcher of St. David's, Delta.

On Wednesdays, St. David's hosts 20 to 30 seniors for worship and lunch.

St. David's Incumbent the Rev. Paul Whoerle and the St. David's community want to raise awareness that *the church* will indeed be challenged to prepare for the "Gray Tsunami" that is building as the *boomers* age. ✠

A new reality in our church.



• 2012 Diocesan Synod Venue Announced •

Fiscal restraints of late have compromised our choice of venues for recent synods. Capilano College was costly because of the need for our planning team to provide rented tables, chairs, audio-visual set-up and outside catering. While we have saved thousands of your dollars in recent synods, many have found the constraints of meeting in churches uncomfortable and not conducive to good community building.

We have chosen a "middle ground" for Synod 2012: the **Italian Cultural Centre** on Grandview Highway, in east Vancouver. They provide tables, chairs, catering and free parking as well as most of the audio-visual

equipment needed. Public transportation is nearby. The cost is well below Capilano College but of course, more than our church-based synods.

It is too early to confirm program schedules but Synod Planning will be given the opportunity to plan programming and business for both days in May 2012 on Friday the 11th and Saturday the 12th. Synod 2012 will be a Two Day Synod.

There will be more information to follow on that subject later in the fall.

We have vetted the venue already and made a deposit, so it is in ink! Please mark your calendars accordingly. ✠

• Donations to a Good Home •

- Canadian made Willis & Co. piano circa 1915-1920 in good working order.
- Two manual with pedals Thomas Transistor organ, multi-voice with multiple stops. Cipher in one key, other wise fine working condition.
- Theological library
- White linen surplice.

Please contact Maureen at 604.987.9796 for more information about these items.

Maureen admits that both keyboard instruments need some cosmetic help.

Maureen's late husband, the Rev. Tom Speed, owned the theological library and surplice. ✠

Donations Shipped to Malawi Arrive Safe and Sound



Cliff (left), Terry (middle) and Nancy (right) relax following the filing of the paperwork.

“How does one ship 200 pounds of church fabrics, vestments and hardware to a small town in Central Eastern Africa without taking out a mortgage?”

The Church Has Left the Building God Calling us into Mission

CHRISTINE WILSON
St. Faith's and Ross Bliss, St. Paul's

During the last weekend of May 2011, Ross Bliss and Christine Wilson represented the Diocese of New Westminster at the *Vital Church Planting West Conference* sponsored by the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton and The Wycliffe College Institute of Evangelism.

Approximately 200 people from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon and BC from several denominations engaged together in worship and learning at this wonderful, life-giving, spirit-filled event designed to explore different ways of *doing* Church.

The weekend consisted of four keynote addresses, three worship services, and four workshop times. The participants were asked to select workshops to attend from several options offered. It was also an opportunity to meet some wonderful people and share good food together.

Thursday evening began with an experiential “interface” worship service which featured liturgical dance and an interactive exhibit depicting Jesus’ “Journey to the Cross.” St. Paul’s Anglican Church was draped in colourful silk with paintings adorning the walls. During the service an artist created a painting of the worship and all were invited to contribute words which will be used to compose a poem.

Friday afternoon, *Standing Stones* infused Cree symbols and song into a Christian worship ceremony seeking wisdom in aboriginal stories and scripture. During this worship, those gathered asked for God’s healing in water and prayer and celebrated God in their lives through the sharing of bannock and berries.

The workshops discussed *Church Planting* focusing on the key elements of starting a new church and models of *Fresh Expressions* designed to reach out and build community with people who are not part of the Church. One workshop entitled *The Person is the Plant* was about different ways individuals can live out the life of Christ where we are and as we are.

Throughout the weekend something that resonated was the way two different streams, *Church Planting* from a more



The Interface painting.

charismatic evangelical perspective and *Fresh Expressions* from an Anglican perspective, really came together. The general feeling of the group was that the recognition of this call to mission goes beyond ecumenism into the heart of what unites all Christians.

And at that heart is God calling us to share Christ’s light and love in the world. In the words of one conference facilitator, “*God’s actions in creation are missionary. The dance of the persons of God was so beautiful God created out of love in order to share it. Our natural response to God’s missionary action is to love God with all our heart, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. Wherever we go we are the Church so we must be missionary—not ‘must’ in terms of obligation or necessity, but simply because as Disciples of Christ we cannot do otherwise.*”

Christine and Ross are thankful to the Diocese for the opportunity to take part in the Vital Church Planting Conference and would welcome opportunities to share more about their experience. They can be contacted through the Synod Office. ✠

Last Easter, Bishop Michael received a compelling Easter greeting from his friend the Rev. Fr. Steven Sikoti of Holy Cross, Anglican Church in Chilomoni Parish, Malawi.

Bishop Michael and Steven met at the first *Dialogue of Canadian and African Bishops* held in London in 2010. Bishop Michael had been paired with Bishop James Tengatenga of Malawi, however Bishop James was unable to attend due to his responsibilities as Chair of the *Anglican Consultative Council* and Steven attended as his designate. Bishop Michael had many discussions with the shy young cleric.

In the email communication of Easter 2011, Steven asked Bishop Michael if he might consider sending a request out to the Diocese of New Westminster for donations of vestments and “holy hardware” for his church as they have few resources. Bishop Michael liked the idea very much and with the generous support of the Rev. Christine Rowe (who has a great deal of experience in African ministry and has been to Malawi) and St. Catherine’s, Capilano a call went out around the diocese for donations.

For six weeks the items poured in and were stored in the office of St. Catherine’s Director of Music, Siiri Rebane. Once critical mass was attained the question that needed to be answered was: “*How does one ship 200 pounds of church fabrics, vestments and hardware to a small town in Central Eastern Africa without taking out a mortgage?*” The answer to this question fell to the Synod Staff and undaunted they forged ahead.

Communications Officer Randy Murray connected with a young man in Marpole who manages a packaging service company that specializes in shipments to the “Third World.” He cautioned Randy against using any mode of transport other than air express as piracy is rampant near the East African ports and corruption looms its ugly head at customs depots where trucks are checked for imported goods. He also gave Randy the bad news that this amount of material would probably cost between \$3500 and \$4000 dollars to ship air freight, but there was a solution...

Full-time Air Canada employees and full-benefit Air Canada retirees receive a 75% discount on air freight shipped by FedEx. These shipments “fly standby” but as expedience was not a concern that would not be an issue.

Randy remembered that fellow Christ Church Cathedral parishioner Terry Love had recently retired from Air Canada and approached him with the idea. Terry said “yes” and immediately Terry made an exploratory trip to the FedEx World Service Depot on Hornby Street in Downtown Vancouver and investigated the process. He spoke to Rob the manager and the entire process was outlined. The next step now was to sort, catalogue, choose and pack the donations.

Another CCC parishioner who is also a member of the Diocesan Communications Committee, Nancy Southam agreed to help Randy with the packing and they met at St. Catherine’s on the morning of July 26th. Sorting the donations necessitated making some difficult decisions. Among the liturgical fabrics donated were some very nice draperies and sconces. Unfortunately they were extremely heavy and without knowing the interior design of the sacred spaces where they might be used, they were set aside. There were also a number of lined vestments donated. Although aesthetically pleasing it was determined that they might not be useful in the Central African heat. Processional crucifixes and an assortment of brass fittings for candles were also set aside primarily due to their weight and/or length and breadth.

By 2:30 pm that day 130 lbs of vestments, stoles, beautiful chasubles, chalice and paten sets and more were packed in four 2 cubic foot boxes and one 4 cubic foot box, then transported to the Hornby street depot where Nancy and Randy were met by St. Thomas parishioner and Diocesan film maker, Cliff Caprani who had arrived earlier to help Terry Love ready the shipment. With the outstanding support of Edward and the FedEx staff, the paperwork was filled in, the bills of landing were in order, the freight charges paid and off the boxes went to the airport to begin their journey.

That evening Randy sent an email to Father Steven to advise him of the shipment tracking number so he could follow the journey of the items and to ask if Steven would let us know when the material arrived. This is the email Randy received in response:

I am short of words to learn that the items have been shipped to here. I will definitely get in touch after the items have arrived.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Steven.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Malawi Donations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

On August 2nd, Randy received the following email from Father Steven in Chilomoni Parish, Malawi:

It is with great joy that I acknowledge safe arrival and receipt of those five boxes that you sent to me. As already pointed out to you in my earlier email, am very humbled and short of words. Only God is better placed to know as to how much and deep, He is gonna bless you people.

I was on your website this afternoon and I tell you Randy that I could not believe my eyes reading of how much effort you people did put together for the items to reach me today while seated in my Church office. May God bless you people. I have really seen God's Love on my life and ministry through you, dear friends in Christ.

Please convey my heartfelt gratitude to Bishop Michael.
Yours In Christ's Service,
Rev. Fr. Steven Sikoti.

Incredible to think that all those donations of vestments and hardware stored in a small office at St. Catherine's, in North Vancouver, BC, Canada could be sorted and packed Tuesday, July 26th, transported to YVR on Wednesday morning, travel by air to Memphis, TN, USA, Stansted



TOP LEFT Nancy hard at work wrapping a cross for shipping.

TOP RIGHT Randy sorting the donations.

BOTTOM RIGHT Nancy takes a well deserved rest while FedEx employee Edward checks-in four of the boxes going to Malawi.

Airport in London, England, then the long flight to Tambo Airport in Johannesburg, South Africa followed by a shorter flight to Kamuza International Airport in Lilongwe, Malawi's capital city. Following the air journey, the boxes were delivered to Holy Cross, Anglican Church, Chilomoni Parish less than one week later on Tuesday, August 2nd, 2011.

Randy has asked Father Steven to please send us some photos of the community at his earliest convenience. Upon receipt these images will be posted on the website and will be printed in future issues of *Topic*. ✠



Kenyan Sunday

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Costs will be formidable — 6 or 7 people at \$5,000 (max) for a total approaching \$30,000 to \$35,000. The adult leaders hope to pay their own way. The youth group has raised about \$10,000, leaving them a further \$15,000 to raise.

This trip is important for several reasons:

- We will have an immediate effect on the lives of people in Kenya.
- We are not only going to Kenya ourselves, we hope to bring needed supplies with us, perhaps a 20-foot or 40 foot container.
- Our Youth Group will be deeply affected by what they see and do.
- All of us, as a parish family, will not only be sending our hearts with those who go, but we will be real participants, as we ourselves get involved with them.

Here is what our Youth have to say:

"We are inspired and enthusiastic about having the opportunity to go on a Mission Trip to Kenya. We want to make a difference in the lives of the people we meet. Though small in size, we are big in heart. With God's help we hope to share our faith, beliefs and love for the Lord."

We expect that our time will be spent in an educational setting. The opportunity to work in a school and share our skills with less fortunate young people will be challenging. We know there will be many hurdles in our path to Kenya but we are sure that we will be able to overcome them all."

Always, God calls us forward in faith to do the impossible, to be his servants and witnesses in the world. Kenya Mission is an opportunity for St. Thomas to go forward in faith and make a difference! ✠

The Most Rev. David Somerville

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

sympathetic parish for their meetings at St. Paul's, Vancouver.

After ten years as bishop, David stepped down at the end of 1980. He joined the Vancouver School of Theology as Anglican chaplain, and taught Anglican studies, once again mentoring new clergy. After three years, at age 68, he retired from the Church.

Then the life-long bachelor decided to get married.

After David's mother died in 1968, David's family became the Rev. Canon Jim Best and his wife Frances, who lived in Qualicum on Vancouver Island. He would escape episcopal duties for a time during visits to their home, and on overseas vacations the Bests accompanied him.

"It seemed perfectly natural, after the Canon died, for Fran and me to continue to be together," David told interviewer Lyndon Grove later. They were married by Primate Ted Scott in the chapel of Church House in Toronto in 1985.

They became parishioners at St. Catherine's, North Vancouver, near their North Shore home, but often also worshipped at Christ Church Cathedral. David continued to be in demand to lead retreats, preach, and fill in for clergy on holiday.

David and Frances were married for over 21 years, until Frances' death in 2007.

Somerville was a keen naturalist, leading groups to watch birds and identify plants at Sorrento Centre, the Anglican retreat centre east of Kamloops. He was passionately fond of the works of James Joyce and other Irish writers. As a younger man, he had a strong, trained voice, and sang German lieder. He was a radio broadcaster, on air discussing music, literature, and leading morning devotions.

Summing up David Somerville's career, Julie Ferguson wrote, "Throughout the strident opposition to reforms that he initiated and those he actively supported, the inevitable delays, and some personal attacks, Somerville managed to remain serene..."

"Somerville always worked quietly, without fuss or confrontation. Many others have remarked on how much his clergy liked him throughout his time as bishop of New Westminster, even when they did not fully agree with his reforms. Somerville had the gift of making even the newest, youngest priests in the diocese feel like equals and colleagues, which inspired their constant loyalty and unwavering support." ✠

Sing a New Song: Portraits of Canada's Crusading Bishops was published by Dundurn in 2006. It is copyrighted by Julie H. Ferguson.

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Holy Trinity Anglican Church
1440 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC

OPINION

Diane Butler Bass visits Vancouver

ROD MACKIN

Christ Church Cathedral, Member-at-Large, Diocesan Communications Committee

Arriving June 10th, jet-lagged and mystified as to the nature of the hockey hysteria sweeping our city, Diane Butler Bass thought she would get some much needed sleep by turning in early in her downtown hotel room. But she was jarred awake by over-refreshed crowds brandishing 'We Believe' signs. Thus, her first impression of Vancouver was that it was experiencing the throes of an enthusiastic religious reawakening.

She told this anecdote as an icebreaker to begin her day-long Saturday study session at Christ Church Cathedral. It elicited knowing chuckles from the mostly grey-haired gathering. Butler Bass had come to preach to the converted—a group of about 100 from several parishes in the diocese plus others from local Lutheran and United Churches.

An Episcopalian from Alexandria, Virginia, Butler Bass is a polished performer who gets plenty of practice. As a road warrior in the cause of liberal Christianity, Butler Bass tours extensively throughout North America supporting her prodigious canon of self-help books for liberal 'main-line' congregations. They're hand knit sweaters for churches who want to stay warm during the oncoming religious ice age that's being driven by popular media and indifference.

Butler Bass spent many years as an evangelical, and an eloquent one. But she has left that behind and has been enthusiastically welcomed into the progressive fold. She wrote in 2007 *Christianity for the Rest of Us*, "Memphis, Tennessee, conjures visions of southern religion. These two words, *southern religion*, evoke images of folks hootin' and hollerin' about God. Eternal damnation and hell. Sweating preachers thundering on about sex, drinking, and Democrats. Southern religion is all heart and fire, the blinding light of Jesus converting sinners to saints in a flash. This is what more reasonable Christians used to ridicule as *enthusiasm*."

Her real issue now is how can a liberal/progressive church survive and maybe possibly grow numerically as an unanticipated but welcome side effect. As an author, speaker, and independent scholar specializing in American religion and culture, Butler Bass has achieved the author's holy grail—her own tagline—*understanding*

religion, culture and congregations.

She blogs for **Beliefnet** and **Huffington Post**. If there is a dartboard hanging behind the green room door at the **700 Club** her glossy black and white headshot is pinned to it. My guess is that when she tours Eastern Canada she will not be making house calls at **100 Huntley St.** any time soon—unless you-know-where suffers a climate change induced freeze up. On the liberal Protestant hockey team forward line she's left wing with John Dominic Crossan at centre and Marcus Borg on the right with John Shelby Spong in the penalty box sitting out a 5 minute major for cross-checking.

We prayed. We sang. And Butler Bass was welcomed by Bishop Michael Ingham and Christ Church's Dean and Rector, the Rev. Dr. Peter Elliott. She had come among us to preview her latest publishing project, *Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New, Spiritual Awakening* coming to your local, independent bookstore in the spring of 2012. Interest is high. Butler Bass is the J. K. Rowling of liberal, mainstream Protestantism, the author or co-author of a six book franchise (See the list at the end of this article).

For those of us who care about this sort of thing, this Saturday seminar promises to be somewhere between a U2 concert and Christmas morning.

But first the bad news, Butler Bass begins with the familiar premise of decline and erosion, cause and effect. And that the Christian Church is changing in its form and practice, because society is changing and continues to change. And from certain perspectives often heard on *National Public Radio* (NPR), not necessarily for the better.

The statistics aren't pretty. Every recent survey of American religious practice confirms that conventional religion is in serious decline. Yet interestingly, poll respondents express high levels of enthusiasm for spirituality. Survey results indicate that "none of the above" and "spiritual but not religious" are the fastest growing religion categories. This is especially true in BC's lower mainland. 604 is perhaps the most secular area code in North America (we also tend to be thinner and smoke less than the other area codes). Here in the Lower Mainland those claiming to be 'spiritual' outnumber those

who claim to be religious by a ratio of 4:1.

It is a relentless trend. Every year fewer and fewer attend religious services across the entire denominational spectrum. Butler Bass cited a study that recently suggested that church attendance in any given week in Canada was down to 9 or 10%. Comparably in the USA it was 21%.

For the **Church of England** the picture is even bleaker with the *Financial Times* reporting that in the last 40 years, attendance at Church of England services has halved and, according to the latest figures, is still falling down to 1.13 million a week, barely 2% of the population of 62 million. Among the young, the drop is said to be 80%.

Butler Bass also cited several surveys that suggest lots of folks bear false witness about going to church. Pollsters infer that respondents want to be seen as churchgoers, but the reality is that they attend infrequently.

"People simply don't show up in the way they used to," Butler Bass summed up.

Her fundamental questions are: "What does the future hold for people of faith? Scripture affirms God's promise of a new heaven, and a new earth. But what about the church? Will we become a new church, or will we become something else, a new way of being in community before God and with one another?"

Mea Maxima Culpa (My Most Grievous Fault?)

Among many Christians there is a sense of personal failure and genuine grief as congregations dwindle, churches close and admired clergy become redundant. But we shouldn't feel this way. Butler Bass, a lay person, offers absolution and continues. It's not our fault. The culture has irrevocably changed. Many people have to work on Sundays and if they do they need a break from their hectic modern lives. And lots of churches have attempted to increase attendance in a wide variety of ways. But very little seems to work.

What's more, attendance decline is a common phenomenon in both liberal and conservative parishes, in mega churches as well as small groups. Whole swathes of the population are angry at religion. And they also buy books. Popular pundit and *Vanity Fair* columnist Christopher Hitchens declared in his best seller, "religion poisons everything."

Listening to her presentation I got the warm, fuzzy feeling that in a talking head TV tag team cage match Butler Bass could single-handedly whup Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens, the Og and Magog of atheism, before the first commercials. And then after the break, mop the floor with Rick Warren, the evangelical Jimmy Buffet and Joel Osteen, the evangelical P. Diddy. She has of course, appeared on CNN, FOX, PBS, Air America and not surprisingly, NPR.

Butler Bass continued; Christians need to confront the facts that we are well into a post-Christian era. She also mentioned that she feels especially 'spiritually at home' here in Cascadia (Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia). One hundred heads nodded like drinking ducks in modest acknowledgment. Yes, today she was among friends.

Rather than letting the despair be overwhelming, Butler Bass is excited by the observable changes animating certain congregations. In her opinion the continent might be on the cusp of a "Fourth Great Awakening." But the church must respond differently than it has in the past, she believes. "The way we did church then doesn't translate into now." More heads nodded in agreement.

As a former professor of church history who completed her PhD at Duke University in North Carolina, Butler Bass is very much at home reviewing the history of institutional religion—the Church—as we have known (and loved it?) for the past 200 years. She identified three basic characteristics.

The Three B's

- **Believing:** we have been taught what Christians believe, about God, about Christ, about the Church.
- **Behaving:** people have been taught what Christians should do, such as follow the Ten Commandments.
- **Belonging:** institutional religion has been about belonging—one belongs and self-identifies with a particular denomination; whether it be Anglican, Roman Catholic or United Church.

Symbolum Apostolorum (Apostle's Creed)

She related the story of her 13-year-old daughter learning about confirmation

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



*The bottom line is,
if congregations do not create
their own new participants
they will all die.
Diane Butler Bass's ideas and insight
offer us hope by reminding us
that during the first five centuries
people understood Christianity primarily
as a way of life in the present,
not as a doctrinal system.*

LEFT Rod Mackin.
RIGHT Diane Butler Bass.

OPINION

Diane Butler Bass

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

classes in their Episcopal Church in Virginia. She would have to attend 12 classes on Saturday mornings, and then take an exam. Her daughter was anxious.

“What if I fail?” her daughter asked. Would that mean she couldn’t be confirmed and not be able to call herself a Christian. Annoyed, Butler Bass told the youth pastor she opposed his approach. The pastor asked her to teach the class. She accepted.

She taught the session on the Apostle’s Creed, from *The Book of Common Prayer*, which adds the detail that Jesus spent three days in Hell, as if on remand, before ascending to his Father’s right hand. Butler Bass decided to focus on just the second word—believe.

“What does it mean to believe?” she asked her class. She talked about the language. A creed is so called because its first word, in Latin, is *credo*, which not only means, *I believe* but also *I trust* or *I commit to*.

What does it mean, she asked this group of kids to say that they trusted in God? That change of emphasis transformed and engaged them. We can infer that the Church of the Future will not so much be about learning creeds *about* God as it will be about discovering how we can come to trust and commit *to* God.

The institutional church “had it down,” said Butler Bass. Answers were certain. It had the creeds. It knew the answers to how to behave. People knew who they were and could put forward propositional statements of identity such as, “I am an Anglican.” But today we want a thoughtful response to, “teach me what I need to know in order that I may believe.”

Old style Christian formation asked, “What do you believe?” then told you how to behave and affirmed denominational identity. The new way reverses the order, first asking to whom do you belong, then what do you need to do, and finally how do you believe Christian doctrine.

Butler Bass told us that research indicates that the only churches growing appreciably are those focusing on the questions people care about today. Small, non-denominational groups are growing. They may not be less orthodox than contemporary mainline churches, but they are more personal.

“What does the Church do with its organization and institutions if this is the new face of Christianity?” Butler Bass asked. She admitted she did not know. “I love questions,” she said, “but being an Episcopalian, I have very few answers.”

She predicted that the Church of the Future will be “reorganized, revitalized,

renovated, and renewed, leading the way into a different sort of world, a more peaceful world, one in harmony with Planet Earth. “If anybody is going to do it, it’s you,” she concluded.

The issue we face now is how to reach people who were never churched as well as the baby boomers who were churched as children, left the church, and now are back. And how to maintain engagement with those of us who have never left. As well as welcome those who have migrated from other denominations and faith practices.

Does this mean that for churches to thrive in the future we will have to go to the world and interrupt people’s lives with the Gospel? Or shall we just keep silence, watch and pray? How much enthusiasm is enough?

At the mid-point of Butler Bass’s presentation Bishop Michael reminded us that where we are growing, new members tend to come to us in three identifiable flavours:

- **Refugees** who have left more doctrinaire Christian fellowships.
- **Seekers** who are sampling the rich and varied smorgasbord of spiritual experience.
- **Pilgrims** who arrive after long and sometimes arduous journeys, and finally feel at home.

The bottom line is, if congregations do not create their own new participants they will all die. Diane Butler Bass’s ideas and insight offer us hope by reminding us that during the first five centuries people understood Christianity primarily as a way of life in the present, not as a doctrinal system. Her writing can lead us to a new bright morning of faith as an active and adventure-seeking way of life rather than a doctrinal-based practice that’s slowly sinking into the sunset.

While nosing about Butler Bass’s neighbourhood on *Amazon.com* I found this anonymous commentary, “*After a few years of exploring Christianity, having been introduced to Christianity by Mennonites and Evangelicals, pretending to be a Presbyterian for a while, flirting a little with Orthodoxy and even less with Catholicism, I finally found a church home with the Anglicans last year and have since been confirmed as an Anglican. One of the beautiful things about Anglicanism is The Book of Common Prayer which I have fallen in love with and use for personal daily prayer.*”

It was a Saturday well spent. We’ll have the lights on when they come to us, not in celebrating crowds carrying ‘We Believe’ placards, but as thoughtful new friends coming home, one at a time, in hope and in faith. ✦

Diane Butler Bass Book List

Strength for the Journey, 2002

Memoir of her experiences in eight different Episcopal congregations over a 20-year period—and her move away from conservative evangelical religion.

Broken We Kneel, 2004

Experiences in one Episcopal parish following 9/11, and an account of the Church’s missed opportunity to witness to God’s love for the whole world.

The Practicing Congregation, 2004

A hopeful vision for change through exploring postmodern culture, “re-traditioning,” and the role of Christian practices in fostering vitality.

From Nomads to Pilgrims:

Stories from Practicing Congregations, 2006.

Christianity for the Rest of Us, 2006

How moderate and progressive mainline Protestant congregations found new vitality through spiritual practices and deeper meaning by pursuing God’s hope for transformation in the world. It was well reviewed.

“This excellent and timely book (Christianity for the Rest of Us) celebrates a vastly important phenomenon that has been too little noticed.”

Rowan Williams,
Archbishop of Canterbury



Sunset over the San Jaun Islands.
Photo taken during the Cracked Crab Cruise 2011.

Letter to the Editor

LESLIE BUCK
St. Paul, Vancouver

Dear Editor:

I am dismayed to learn that Synod this year adopted a motion supporting the possibility of “creating a school which is identifiably Anglican.” This seems quite contrary to the theme of **Moving back into the neighbourhood** which tells us to find God working already in secular education. If God is already working in our public schools why would we want to set ourselves up outside that system?

Sectarian schools can be divisive in the extreme, and hardly conducive to the inclusivity that is urged upon us. My own experience in England was of the class bitterness associated with church schools. This is not to say that they were not well-

regarded. On the contrary, many parents sought places for their children in church schools because that was, after all, where the children from nice homes went. I have no personal experience of Northern Ireland, but I am sure those who have will confirm that sectarian schools can even be lethal in their effects. Please, let us not go there.

“The kingdom of heaven is like yeast,” yeast that has an effect despite its presence’s being invisible. Our presence is needed in our public schools, on school boards and the like, not in our own institutions. If secular forces want to keep us out, then that is a challenge to be met, not one to run away from. ✦

Where is God?

CHRISTINE WILSON
Parish Coordinator and Diaconal Candidate, St Faith’s, Vancouver

Early last spring, I happened to be in the church late one Friday afternoon when I heard a rattling noise outside the doors to the parking lot. Thinking that someone needed access, I opened the doors and discovered a group of six young children from the *Stepping Stone Pre-school* located in the churches lower level, playing on the steps. The *dad* who was waiting with them for their parents to come and collect them up apologized for the disruption. While he spoke, the children peered curiously inside.

“Well,” I answered, “some people believe that God created everything—the trees, the ocean, the flowers and you and me.”

He narrowed his eyes suspiciously as he looked around the church and then demanded “Where is God now?”

I asked him where his heart was and as he put his hand over his heart I responded by putting my hand over mine and said, “This is where God is right now.”

“What is this place?” one of them asked.

After a moment’s pause he declared, “Cool!”

“This is the church,” I answered. “Would you like to come in and see?”

Then he ran off to join his friends who were exploring the marble of the baptismal font with their hands. Dad called out that it was time to go and the children waved goodbye to me as they left.

In they rushed and began to explore the pews.

One very inquisitive young man stopped in front of me and asked, “What is the church?”

As I closed up the church I reflected on the experience. Here was a vivid example of a whole generation who not only had no experience of the church but also did not even know about God. Was this something we as disciples should mourn? As I walked home the Spirit answered. With the pure heart of a child came acceptance of the simplicity of truth: *God lives within us*. To myself, I smiled and thought, “Very cool indeed.” ✦

I replied, “The church is one of the places you can come and talk to God.”

He seemed to consider that for a moment and then asked “Who is God?”

Oh my, I thought to myself, now that is a question indeed.

DYM

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)

Finding My God and Walking His Way

HEATHER PEART
 Youth Leader, St. Andrew's Langley

On July 2nd, five youth and two leaders from St. Andrew's in Langley traveled to San Francisco for a one week pilgrimage. As part of the youth program, *Journey to Adulthood*, this event took place after two years of fundraising and spiritual preparation. Our goal was to find God in our lives and look for ways to serve God while living together for a week. We chose San Francisco and the California coast for its well-known and unique spiritual communities and majestic landscape. *Wonder Voyage Missions*, a non-profit group from the US helped plan our pilgrimage to have a focus on spirituality and service while experiencing the local culture.

Daily morning prayer, discussion and nightly Compline helped us focus on our goal. We soon learned that God was everywhere. We found God in each other as we learned to work and travel together. Our Sunday morning Eucharist was a unique experience with the Dancing Saints at St. Gregory of Nyssa. The larger-than-life mural on the rotunda walls and art work throughout the church set the background as we danced and sang the familiar liturgy. The magnificence of Grace Cathedral and the spiritual calm exploring the labyrinth (a copy of the Medieval labyrinth from Chartres Cathedral in France) was the beginning of an unforgettable day on July 4th. After visiting Alcatraz and swimming in the Bay we attended a Fourth of July celebration and all agreed that we had never seen such impressive fireworks.

Service to the community occurred at *Glide Missions*, well known for working with those who live in poverty. We spent the day serving and preparing meals for more than 600 guests and caught a glimpse of life for those struggling with challenges. We heard personal stories and worked beside volunteers from many walks of lives.

A trip to Alcatraz satisfied curiosities but also made us aware of the isolated lives of prisoners and the injustices done to Japanese Americans, not unlike those that occurred in BC. We were reminded of God's creation throughout our pilgrimage but especially when we helped transplant native plants to recreate habitat for endangered species such as the California Red-legged frogs. We later hiked to see several of the amphibians contentedly "hanging out" in a creek near Mori Point.

Our final days spent at the *Point Montera Lighthouse* Hostel left lasting impressions as we hiked the hillsides above the coast and experienced the power and beauty of crashing waves. We braved cold Pacific waters and "monster waves" where no one else would venture.

"My favourite part was sitting on the beach the last two nights looking out on the ocean by firelight. There was lots of fun and new experiences," wrote Denbigh.

"I saw amazing things and met really cool people but overall I grew close to the J2A group and God. Thank you everyone who helped make it happen," said Monica. ✠

LEFT Walking the Labyrinth at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco.
 RIGHT Pilgrims near Point Montera Lighthouse. Left to right: Trevor Barnes, Heather Peart, Denbigh MacIntoch, Bram Herndl, Kevin Feather, Monica Peatman and Keara Graham. PHOTOS Kevin Feather



"I served the homeless working in the kitchen cutting up fruit and vegetables."

Trevor

"...it felt great to help the homeless."

Keara

"We met some amazing people."

Bram



Diocese of New Westminster Youth Team in Taiwan

All the members of the Diocese of New Westminster Youth Delegation except for Geoff Martin made it to the opening ceremonies of the 2011 International Summer English Camp held in Taipei at St. John's University, July 21st to 29th, 2011.

Geoff had some document problems but thanks to clear thinking and some timely and professional help from the group's travel agent he was able to join the group less than two days later.

As of this writing (in early August) the D of NW contingent have completed the first two segments of their trip, consisting of English language coaching for University Students in the first week and high school aged students in the second week.

In the final segment they will live in the homes of host families who have elementary and intermediate aged children and the English language coaching will take place in that environment.

From all reports the D of NW group is having a great time and their Taiwanese hosts are really enjoying the visit.

The "team" returned home August 5th.

Stay tuned for more information about this trip coming soon on the diocesan website, Facebook pages and in future issues of *Topic*. ✠



TOP LEFT Arrival at the airport.

TOP RIGHT Diocese of New Westminster Youth team all accounted for.

BOTTOM Opening of the English Language Summer Camp. PHOTOS Catherine Lee