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Orange Shirt Day

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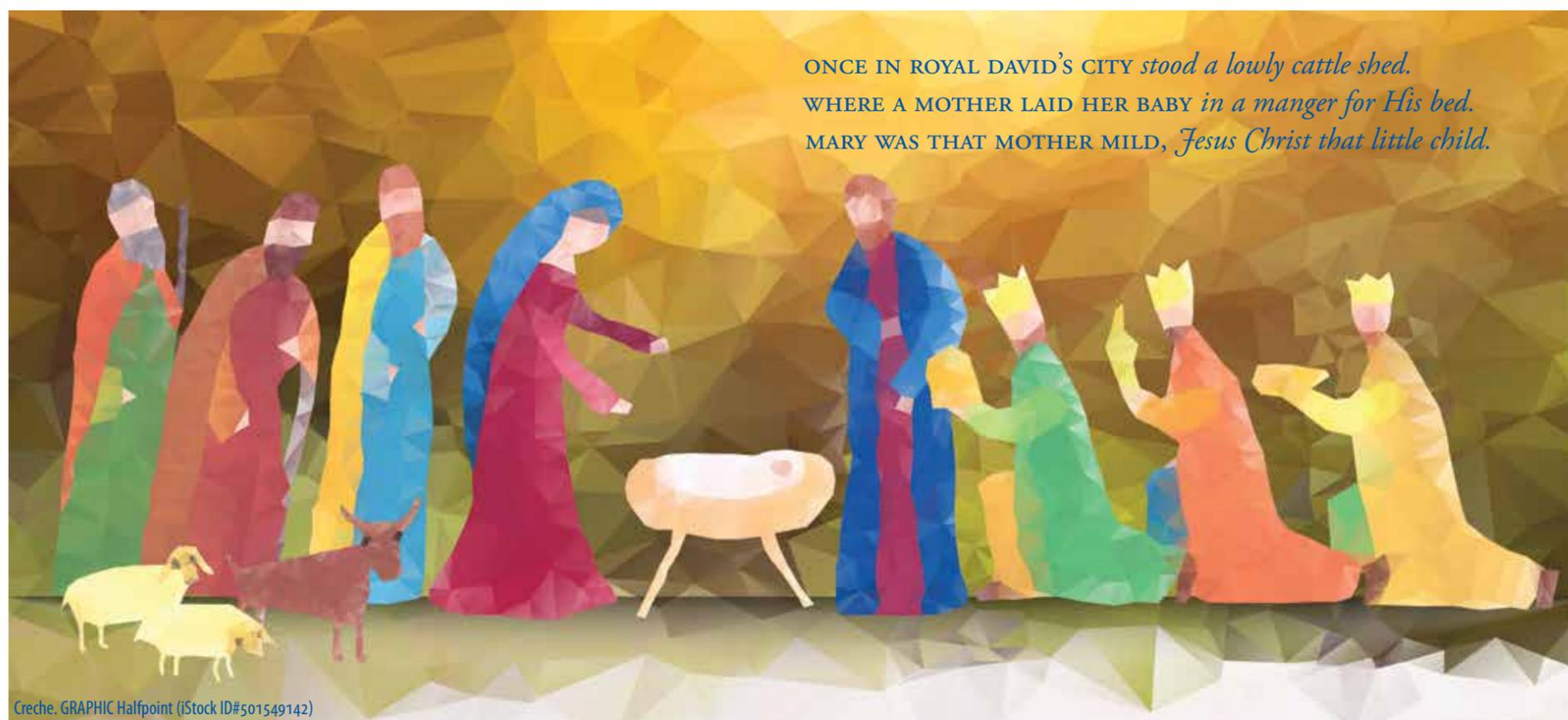
Cookies of Gratitude

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The Sundancer & Christ

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ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY stood a lowly cattle shed.
WHERE A MOTHER LAID HER BABY in a manger for His bed.
MARY WAS THAT MOTHER MILD, Jesus Christ that little child.

Creche. GRAPHIC Halfpoint (iStock ID#501549142)

From a Newborn Child, Jesus Grew to be God Amongst Us

Bishop John Stephens' Christmas Message



Luke Primus of Christ Church Cathedral, the first person to be confirmed by the Rt. Rev. John Stephens, 10th Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster on Saturday, October 23, 2021 at Christ Church Cathedral. Fifty people were confirmed, three were received into the Anglican Church and there was one reaffirmation. These 54 represented 13 parishes of the diocese of New Westminster. Each parish sent a minimum number of presenters, and each confirmand was allowed two guests to keep the numbers manageable for COVID-19 protocols. More coverage of the first Celebration of Confirmation, Reaffirmation and Reception of Bishop John Stephens' episcopacy is available on pages 15 to 17 of this issue of *Topic*.

The music of the season of Christmas, and the time of Advent leading up to it, is something that can awaken deep nostalgia in many of us. Memories of years long past and potentially of those people with whom we shared important occasions and celebrations. Memories that continue to shape us and form us. The music of this season stirs our hearts, brings in joy, revises our attention, challenges our notions, invites new perspective. The music of this season is central to inspiring our emotions to think much more deeply about our purposes and meaning as we walk on this planet. The carols of this time arouse all of this and perhaps much more, touching something deep in our soul.

And so perhaps for you as well, the words of the hymn, *Once in Royal David's City* sung by a solo voice in a darkened church, save for a few sputtering candles held by the expectant congregation, will elicit a strong sense of the wonder and beauty of this time. But I also hope that it can stir you to focus your attention much more fully on the meaning of Christmas and the Incarnation of God in our midst.

Perhaps this traditional Christmas hymn invites you to explore more fully what it means to be a follower of this Jesus of Nazareth in our time.

In some ways, the story of Christmas from our Bible is similar to a story that plays out every single day of the year. For around the world on this very day, more than one child will be born into poverty and laid in whatever will make do as a cradle or bed for the infant. Thousands of children are born into this situation and for the most part the world pays little or no attention. Those born into poverty are often kept in that place for the rest of their lives. The cycle of poverty is difficult to break in all parts of the globe but in those places where disease is rampant, famine is known, water is scarce, war is present. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), this past year saw 82.4 million people forcibly displaced worldwide because of conflict, persecution, human rights violations and violence. Currently in the world there are approximately 26.4 million refugees and 42% of the forcibly displaced

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

From a Newborn Child, Jesus Grew to be God Amongst Us Bishop John Stephens' Christmas Message

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

persons are children under the age of 18. These numbers from the UNHCR website are staggering, but there are other scenarios in the world that invite our attention.

During this ongoing pandemic, we here in Canada have seen for the most part, easy access to vaccines, but there are places in the world where many wait desperately for their first COVID-19 vaccination.

This past year in Afghanistan, when troops from around the world withdrew, the entire country was thrown into chaos and disturbance. The scenes from the airport in Kandahar were heart-breaking as the world watched people desperate to find safety. Women and girls fear for their lives as they continue to try to live with many lost freedoms including employment and education.

Climate change continues to affect people all around the world, especially those who live in poverty; are we too late to see a reduction in temperatures around the globe? We need to be acting quickly in this emergency.

Here in Canada the discovery of grave sites at former residential schools sent shock waves across the country. Children baptized in churches of this diocese were very likely some of the ones buried in these sites. Truth and Reconciliation continues to be the cry and the hope but there are fears that those voices are not being heard.

All of this is central to what we celebrate and honour at Christmas. For that little child that we sing about and cherish at this holy time of our year, that little child grows to become known as our Saviour, teacher, Lord, and guide in Jesus the Christ. That little child will challenge all of us about what is most important, about our relationship with God, about grace, about death and resurrection. That child

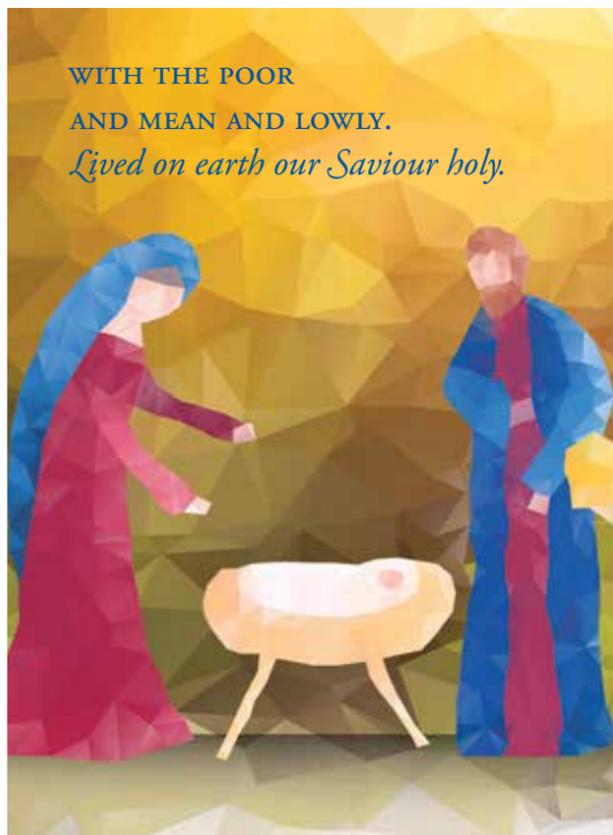
will grow from being laid in a manger to preaching about blessed are the poor in spirit and blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. That child will grow to call us to be salt and light in the world. That child will grow to invite us to seek God's forgiveness of our sins "as we forgive those who sin against us."

The Christmas carol *Once in Royal David's City*, while possibly filled with cherished memories for us, offers more than one verse. The hymn goes on to say:

*With the poor and mean and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.*

And herein is our hope and our calling. Jesus was God amongst us. He was God incarnate. He is still known to us in the poor, the lowly, the hungry, the thirsty, the sick, the imprisoned. He is still known to us in the actions and compassion of others, and in our actions and renewal of our hearts and souls. That child linked heaven with earth and our lives to all others on this planet.

May our Christmas be filled with wonder and joy, with music and festivity, with laughter and celebration. But may we also not lose sight of what we are celebrating: the birth of Jesus, the one who came to us to reveal God with us, Emmanuel for now and for always. ✚



Dear Topic Readers

As COVID-19 protocols continue to be reduced during the Fourth Wave of the pandemic, diocesan parishes are increasing the opportunities for onsite/in-person worship and events while at the same time continuing to increase and improve their online presence.

You can help communicate the Good News of the arrival of the Light of the World by passing on to friends, family, and neighbours the web location of the diocese of New Westminster's Find-a-Church pages at www.vancouver.anglican.ca/find-a-church.

There are 66 easy to access parish pages grouped in 11 deanery sections with regional location information on the entry graphics and detailed location information for each parish. Many of the parish pages will also include specific listings for Advent and Christmas worship and events both in-person/onsite or online, inviting everyone to participate. All are welcome!

It is our privilege to produce Topic and we are extremely grateful for our readers and the wonderful support we receive from Around the Diocese



TO YOU AND YOURS
THE MERRIEST OF CHRISTMAS'S
AND MANY BLESSINGS
FOR 2022!

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

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



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The diocese of New Westminster
The Anglican Church in the Lower Mainland, the Fraser Valley and on the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia, located on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish First Nations, consisting of 69 worshipping communities.

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Thank you!

PWRDF's Ride for Refuge 2021

JANE DITTRICH

Diocesan Communications Contributor, Christ Church Cathedral

For the eighth year, Team PWRDF Vancouver participated in *Ride for Refuge*, an annual fundraising event for the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF). As with last year's event, there was not a large group, or a truly "official" ride organized due to the continuing COVID-19 health protocols. Members of the team cycled on their own or with a friend to achieve their committed kilometres, and a small group walk happened on the official event day of Saturday, October 2.

For 2021, the PWRDF is raising money for their *A Light for Every Birth* initiative, supporting the efforts of its partner organization EHALE in Mozambique. This will give women in rural Mozambique the opportunity to go through labour in a well-lit space, even in the darkest night by way of solar suitcases. A solar suitcase is a wall-mounted unit that opens like a suitcase and includes phone charging ports, a portable headlamp, and a fetal Doppler to monitor the baby's heartbeat. It is connected to a roof-mounted solar panel.

Team PWRDF Vancouver for 2021 consisted of: Jane Dittrich of Christ Church Cathedral; Liz Macdonald, ODNW of All Saints, Ladner; Betty Boland, ODNW of St. Faith's, Vancouver; Susan Ohannesian, retired organist of St. Mary's, Kerrisdale; the Rev. Margaret Marquardt, Chair of the Diocesan Eco-Justice Unit; diocese of New Westminster PWRDF Unit Chair Emeritus Peter Goodwin, ODNW of St. James' Vancouver; the Rector of St. John's, Squamish the Rev. Cameron Gutjahr; and Member at Large of PWRDF's National Youth Council, Jessica Steele.

Jane did two rides in Vancouver (one to the North

Shore, and one with a friend to Fraser River Park); Liz rode in Ladner 40KM along the Boundary Bay bike trail; Betty and her friend Laurel Fahrni (also of St. Faith's) rode on the Richmond bike paths and dike for 26KM; Susan rode through the westside of Vancouver to Kitsilano Beach; Margaret rode various routes through East and Downtown

Vancouver. On Saturday, October 2, Jane, Liz, Peter, Cameron and Jessica walked from Christ Church Cathedral to Coal Harbour and around the Stanley Park seawall.

As of early October, Team PWRDF Vancouver raised the impressive amount of \$5,895. Donations were accepted until October 31. ✦

For further information, please check out the link for *A Light for Every Birth* on the PWRDF website at <https://pwrdf.org/solarsuitcases2021>.



The Rev. Cameron Gutjahr, Jessica Steele, Jane Dittrich, Liz Macdonald and Peter Goodwin outside of Christ Church Cathedral before their October 2 walk. ALL PHOTOS Jane Dittrich



The Rev. Margaret Marquardt in East Vancouver.



Susan Ohannesian at Kitsilano Beach.



Liz Macdonald and Peter Goodwin on the Stanley Park Seawall.

More Ride for Refuge

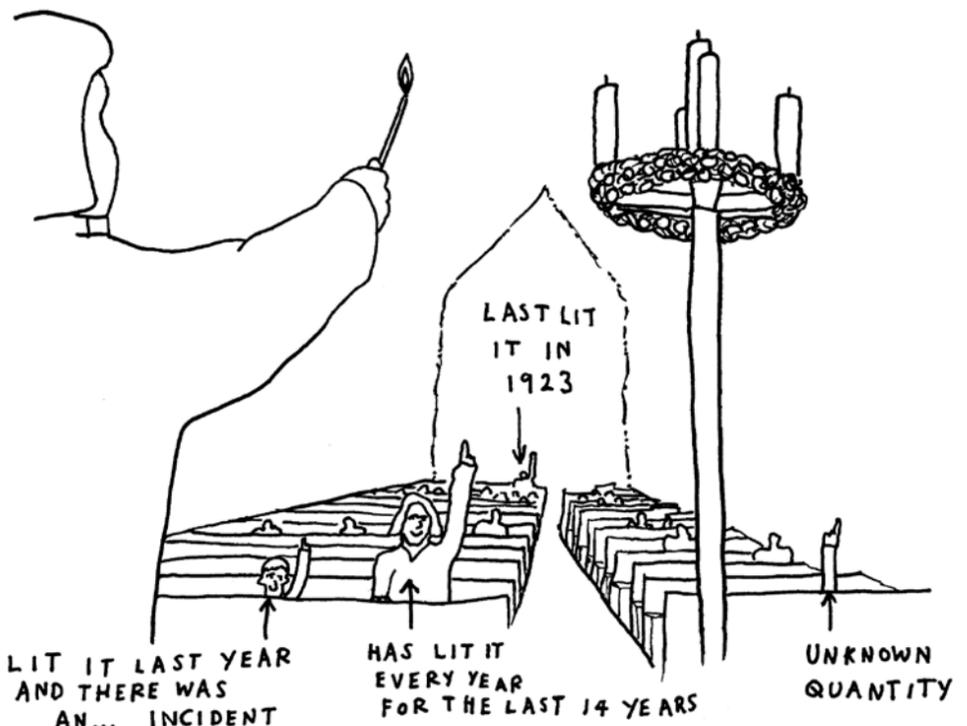
Many thanks to the Rector's Warden of St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge, Janet Coghlan for sending this photo from the October 2 efforts to raise money for PWRDF. The photo was taken by Ross Bremner and shows the St. John team — *The Divine Dashers*.

The walkers travelled 5KM and George rode 30KM. Funds raised by St. John's totalled \$702.25. According to Janet, "Rather less than last year I'm afraid, but still worth doing!" ✦



ADVENT

DURING THE SUNDAYS IN ADVENT THE VICAR MUST CHOOSE SOMEONE TO LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE. IT IS ONE OF THE YEAR'S MOST DIFFICULT DECISIONS



Celebrations of New Ministry 2021

On this and the next few *Topic* pages you will find coverage (photos, text and links) of the three Celebrations of New Ministry that took place around the diocese of New Westminster on September 21, 28 and October 18, 2021. For a variety of reasons, a Celebration of a New Ministry: Induction of a Rector or Installation of a Vicar would not lend themselves to Zoom or to a livestream of a liturgy where the numbers are restricted. We needed to wait until folks could gather again, with fewer COVID-19 restrictions, allowing for the principals to be present: wardens, bishop,

executive archdeacon, regional archdeacon, regional dean, deacon(s), and of course members of the parish, present onsite to officially welcome the newly appointed ordained leaders of their shared ministry together. In the November issue of *Topic*, we covered the Celebrations of New Ministry that took place between August 3 and September 1. There were 12 in total during the time period of August 2 to October 18. Prior to August 3 there had been one installation of a vicar, the Ven. Luisito Engnan at Christ the Redeemer,

Surrey, on the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, June 29, 2020; the induction of the Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev. Christopher A. Pappas and his installation as Dean of the Diocese, the Feast of Holy Cross (transferred), September 12, 2020; and the installation of the Rev. Adam Yates as Rector of St. Faith, Vancouver on St. Matthew's Day, September 21, 2020. And then, the COVID-19 numbers spiked through the fall of 2020 severely limiting opportunities to gather in community. ✠

Getting to Know Marnie is a Fun Thing The Induction of the Reverend Marnie Peterson as Rector of St. Anne's, Steveston

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor.

On the Feast of St. Matthew, September 21, 2021, the Rev. Marnie Peterson was inducted Rector of St. Anne, Steveston by the Rt. Rev. John Stephens, Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster. In the 12 months prior to August 3, 2021 (the first of the late summer early fall 2021 slew of inductions and installations) there had not been a Celebration of a New Ministry Eucharist in the diocese and many of the 12 new rectors and vicars now in parish ordained leadership had been appointed many months prior to the "official" inductions or installations. This was not the case with the Rev. Peterson who had completed her ministry as priest associate with responsibility for the St. Brigid's congregation and the Maundy Café compassionate service food ministry at Christ Church Cathedral in early September 2021.

The previous rector of St. Anne's, the Rev. Brian Vickers resigned his post in March 2019, and concluded his incumbency April 28 of that year. For most of the time since then and up to the end of summer 2021, the parish has been served by priest-in-charge, the Rev. Roberta Fraser who with the laity of the parish did a superb job guiding the parish through the transition not to mention the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the generosity and commitment of the parish, St. Anne's boasts a topnotch Zoom and livestreaming capacity which has served to keep the parish engaged and active during the many months of gathering restrictions.

The liturgy was broadcast via Zoom, however, the congregation included many members of the parish, a number of visitors from Christ Church Cathedral and a good cohort of diocesan clergy. Marnie who has been active in ordained ministry for much of the last two decades is well-known around the diocese for her work on Synod Staff and for her years of leadership at the Diocesan School for Parish Development as well as her leadership at All Saints', Ladner and the aforementioned Christ Church Cathedral.

The preacher for the Eucharist, was the Rev. Andrew Halladay of St. Andrew the Apostle, Langley. Andrew and Marnie are clergy colleagues, and both were in leadership as instructors at, and principals of, the Diocesan School for Parish Development. Andrew took the conversion of St. Matthew whose feast day is celebrated on September 21 for the text and asked some questions about how Marnie and the members of the parish will find their common purpose and work together. Early in the sermon, Andrew said:

"This new beginning is also a time of discernment for all of you. Where do we all need to be matched up? What will you and Marnie be good at together... right away? Where will Marnie's gifts and skills present a challenge to the congregation here asking you all to stretch and grow? And where will the congregation's gifts and skills push Marnie to a place where she will have to stretch and grow? You may have some ideas, some answers to those questions already, but the next few months will really be a time to dig into these questions, to get to know one another more deeply, more intimately. Learning each other's dreams, learning each other's 'no-go zones.' It's going to be fun. I know from experience that getting to know Marnie is a really fun thing to do."

The Rev. Halladay gave some background on St. Matthew and his conversion and went on to speak in detail of the arrogance and the ignorance of the "colonial church" of which the Anglican Church of Canada is certainly a member.

"The colonial church would've put Matthew the tax collector in jail and might even have had him executed... the colonial church had no time to sit down and get to know people over dinner, it was too busy trying to fix them. But, my friends, let's not make that same mistake again. So many of our churches



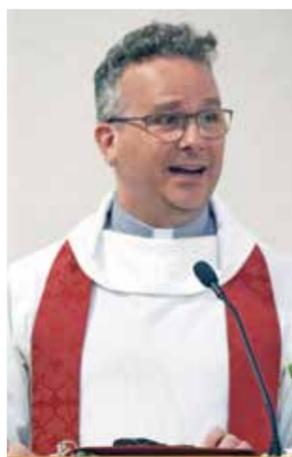
The unmasked Rector and Bishop shot. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray



The new rector and lay leaders at the pre-liturgical rehearsal.



The preacher and the bishop at the rehearsal.



LEFT The Rev. Andrew Halladay preaching. MIDDLE Receiving the water of baptism from Brigitte Solomon Stavrou. RIGHT Roger Ferrier, ODNW the voice of the people for the Presentations of the Symbols of Ministry.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Getting to Know Marnie is a Fun Thing The Induction of the Reverend Marnie Peterson as Rector of St. Anne's, Steveston

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make that same mistake of spending all their time wondering how they can draw people in, rather than heading out into the world to meet people where they live. So often we waste time waiting for people to come to us... the lesson from today's Gospel reading is that we never follow Jesus into the church, or into the temple or into the synagogue (we all remember what Jesus did when he went into the temple), we always follow Jesus into our everyday lives, and if we want to embody Jesus' ministry we should not ask people to follow us into the church, that's simply not what he did. Instead, he followed them into their lives, and this is what we must do too, we must meet people where they are at, ask them 'How they are doing?' and then shut up and listen. There is a great benefit in learning the spiritual practice of shutting up and listening. What a beautiful place the world would be if more people maintained the spiritual practice of shutting up and listening."

The liturgy unfolded as all Celebrations of a New Ministry do with the Covenant in Ministry, the Examination of the New Rector, the Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry, the Welcome from the bishop, parish, regional dean and regional archdeacon, the Intercession and the Eucharist.

Many parishes are including in the Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry, the presentation of a pot of soil with a small green plant to signify the baptismal vow to strive to safeguard the integrity of the earth. Like the seed planted into the small container of fertile soil presented to Marnie that evening by Caroline Burgess may the shared ministry of the Parish of St. Anne, Steveston, open, burst through, and flourish. ✠

The video of the Rev. Andrew Halladay's sermon is on the diocesan's website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/medial-2021-09-21-we-don-t-follow-jesus-into-the-church-we-follow-jesus-into-our-everyday-lives>



Marnie fills the font.



Prayer book presented by Noel Eaton.



Caring for Creation.



Marnie smiles as the congregation welcomes her with applause.



Preacher, Kathy Duncan who led the Prayers of the People, and the new rector.



The Eucharist.

Celebration of a New Ministry on the Feast of St. Michael & All Angels

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

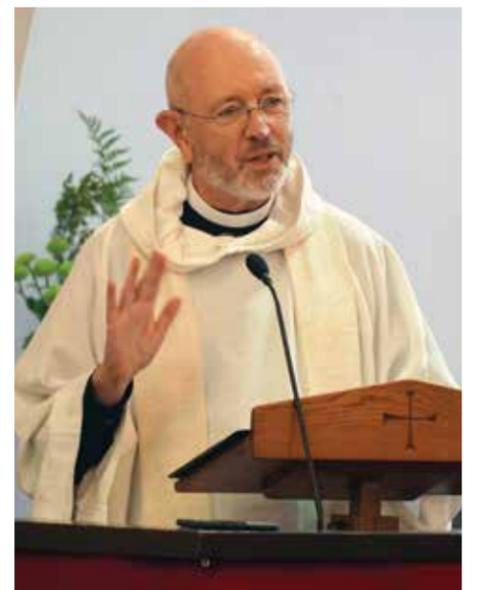
On Tuesday, September 28 at 4pm there was a Celebration of New Ministry at St. Stephen's, West Vancouver. The Rev. Ken Vinal was inducted rector of the oldest Anglican parish in the City of West Vancouver.

The Rev. Vinal had been living in the Whistler area and had decided that he would like to get back to parish ministry. Bishop John Stephens and Archdeacon Douglas Fenton were happy to oblige as the West Vancouver parish had requested that the bishop make a direct appointment, bypassing the process of striking a canonical committee.

The parish's previous rector, the Rev. Canon Jonathan LLOYD was inducted in the fall of 2016. He completed his ministry in the spring of 2021, celebrating his final Eucharist as rector of the parish on Sunday, April 25, Easter IV with Bishop Stephens as preacher. Canon LLOYD retired from parish ministry and returned to his home in England where he rejoined his wife, Sue and met his first grandchild.

Bishop Stephens was unavailable for this Celebration of New Ministry, but his role was ably filled by the regional archdeacon, the Ven. Stephen Muir, Rector of nearby St.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



LEFT The regional archdeacon, the Ven. Stephen Muir reads the bishop's license during the Covenant in Ministry. RIGHT The Very Rev. Peter Elliott. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray

Celebrations of New Ministry 2021

Celebrations of New Ministry 2021

Celebration of a New Ministry on the Feast of St. Michael & All Angels

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Agnes' in the North Vancouver Regional Deanery. The preacher for the Eucharist was the retired Dean of the diocese of New Westminster and retired Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott who in part took the Feast Day of St. Michael and All Angels for his sermon text. Although he explored the concept of angels in scripture, he did pivot to a more localized focus making reference to the ongoing plans for the redevelopment of the parish's property as the members of the parish strive to adjust to ministry in the 21st Century. The Very Rev. Elliott said:

"For well over 100 years, St. Stephens has been a place where God's blessings have been celebrated: this is the mother church of West Vancouver, a spiritual home for many and a place deeply enriched by great leadership. As Jonathan's incumbency was ending, this congregation bravely took first steps towards redevelopment of this site: it's potentially a big change for this parish. Today I'd like to invite you to think of this redevelopment to pass on the blessings of this parish to a new time in a new way.

What's exciting, as I think about what you're beginning to imagine, is the sense that the message that you are called to proclaim—God's blessings for all people—will always be true. What might be different is how that is expressed through how you shape your mission and exercise your ministry.

Let me tell you a story. Many years ago, a church in a depressed urban city centre was facing challenges. The size of the congregation was decreasing, and with the finances strained they made a courageous decision—they opened up their church building to their neighbours. And the neighbours came in, first in small numbers, then in groups and over the years it became a place where there was housing and services provided for people who were living on the margins of society. And remarkably, over the years, a new worshipping community emerged continuing God's work in a new way, still passing on blessings but with a new sense of mission with ministry appropriate to their new context."

The liturgy took place at 4pm which was a more convenient time for the members of the parish and worked very well. Director of Music, Annabelle Paetsch and the St. Stephen's Choir were assisted in the liturgy by Tak Maeda (now a music in worship leader at St. Agnes') on trumpet and



Minister of Music at St. Stephens, Dr. Annabelle Paetsch.



LEFT The Rev. Vinal reads the Oaths and Subscriptions. RIGHT Rector's Warden, Tom Gunn was the voice of the people for the Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry.



Receiving the water for baptism from People's Warden, Valerie Barrett.



Welcomed to the Sea to Sky Deanery by regional dean, the Rev. Cameron Gutjahr.



Administering the Body of Christ during Communion.

Archdeacon Muir's son Adam, who is a very fine baritone.

Members of the parish participated in the readings and in the Covenant in Ministry and there were three vested clergy present seated in the congregation: the Rev. Philip Cochrane, Rector of St. Paul's in the West End; the Rev. Tellison Glover, Director of Mission and Ministry for the diocese of New Westminster; and the Rev. Cameron Gutjahr, Rector of St. John, Squamish and Regional Dean of Sea to Sky Deanery. Following the Covenant in Ministry and the welcome of the new rector with applause, the Rev. Gutjahr welcomed the Rev. Vinal to the Sea to Sky Deanery. The two priests had recently become acquainted as the Rev. Gutjahr has been building an Anglican ministry in the Whistler area—St. Bernard's.

About the Rev. Vinal

The Rev. Vinal comes to St. Stephen's and the diocese of New Westminster from the Episcopal diocese of Central Florida where he served as Chaplain of Trinity Preparatory School from 2000 to 2017. He is originally from Jacksonville, Florida. Ken was raised in the Presbyterian church, and in university joined the Episcopal Church.

Ken holds a Bachelor of Science in accounting from the University of Florida, and a Master of Divinity from the University of the South (Sewanee). He was ordained a deacon and priest in the diocese of Florida. He served as assistant rector at Good Shepherd in Lexington, Kentucky; as assistant rector at Holy Trinity in Melbourne, Florida; as rector of St. Johns in Kissimmee, Florida; and as Chaplain of Trinity Preparatory School in Winter Park, Florida. Ken also served as an associate priest at St. Matthews, Orlando. In addition to his chaplain ministry, Ken oversaw the school's building of 17 Habitat for Humanity houses. He also coached a boy's cross-country team to seven state championships, and two small-school national championships.

Please keep Rev. Ken Vinal and the Parish of St. Stephen's in your prayers as with God's help, they journey toward a challenging but exciting future together in this next phase of ministry. ✠

The Very Rev. Peter Elliott's homily in video, audio and text is available on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2021-09-28-celebration-of-a-new-ministry-on-the-feast-of-st-michael-and-all-angels>



Preacher, Rector and Archdeacon.



Tak Maeda.

Celebration of a New Ministry on the Feast of St. Luke

The induction of the Reverend Lorne Manweiler as Rector of St. Philip, Dunbar

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On the evening of Monday, October 18, 2021, there was a Celebration of a New Ministry Eucharist at the Parish of St. Philip, Dunbar. During this liturgy the Rev. Lorne Manweiler was inducted the 11th Rector of the parish by the Rt. Rev. John Stephens, Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster and the 9th Rector of that parish from 2001 to 2016.

The Dunbar parish had experienced a comparatively short interim period following the departure of their previous rector, the Rev. Stuart Hallam. The Rev. Hallam had been appointed July 23, 2017, but was not inducted until May 22, 2018. The Rev. Hallam resigned his ministry at St. Philip as of February 28, 2021, and returned with his family to England. During the interim, St. Philip's was served by experienced priests providing Sunday Supply, and the four-month interim appointment of the Rev. Philippa Segrave-Pride.

The preacher for the Eucharist was Rev. Manweiler's friend and colleague from the diocese of Edmonton, the Rev. Billy Isenor, OSF who was inducted Rector of St. Mark, Ocean Park on August 25, 2021.

Br. Billy began his sermon with a prayer in Michif the language of the Métis and then he said:

"I have known Lorne as a colleague in the Edmonton diocese as a dear friend, and most importantly as a sibling in Christ. So, it is truly an honour to be preaching tonight."

Br. Billy then explored the Epistle, 2 Timothy 4:5-13 and the Gospel, Luke 4:14-21.

In his summation of what we can learn from the Gospel passage he said:

"We are lucky today, for we have hindsight. We know that Christ crucified bore the victory of our salvation through a healing love that will one day restore both the heavens and the earth, in their rightful places and will restore us, the faithful—all of us here... back to God's self in the image that we are made to be, not in the image that we think we can cultivate. We will be exposed as who we really are, and I hope for all of us that we experience the grace-filled restorative, rejuvenating love of the divine physician, if we place our care in Christ and allow the soothing balm found in the gospels to heal us."

This Feast of St. Luke induction celebration was the 12th in a series of inductions of rectors and installations of vicars in our diocese with worshippers gathered in the pews onsite that began in Tsawwassen on August 3.

The Rev. Manweiler is also the fifth priest from the diocese of Edmonton to be appointed in the diocese of New Westminster over the last two years.

Music in worship is a big part of liturgy at St. Philip. The music in worship was led by Organist and Director of Music for the past 20 years, Michael Murray who was aided by a contingent of the St. Philip's Chancel Choir. The hymns and Eucharist setting were from the Anglican Church of Canada, *Common Praise* which encouraged congregational participation. Hymn choices for Celebration of New Ministry liturgies around the diocese are often similar, however at St. Philip there were some hymns chosen that are not as often heard: *Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling* and *O Holy Spirit, By Whose Breath* were the Communion Hymns and the *Trees of the Field* was the Closing Hymn. During Communion, Michael Murray moved to the grand piano located in the nave's northern transept. He was joined by warden, Brian Mix who is an accomplished cellist and they offered *Spiegel im Spiegel* a 1978 composition by the Estonian composer Arvo Pärt. This piece with its use of very few chords and simple triads was beautifully played. Following the Closing Hymn and Dismissal, Michael Murray returning to the organ played a Postlude, 20th Century French composer, Jehan Alain's 1937 composition *Litanies JA 119*. The Rev. Manweiler is a musician, an accomplished organist, and he very much appreciated Michael's performance.

Following the Covenant in Ministry, the Regional Dean of Point Grey, the Rev. Christine Rowe, Associate Priest at St. Mary, Kerrisdale and the Archdeacon of Granville, the Ven. Stephanie Shepard, Priest-in-Charge at St. Francis-in-the-Wood, Caulfeild (who also filled in for the Executive Archdeacon of the diocese of New Westminster, the Ven. Douglas Fenton during the opening sections of

the Covenant in Ministry) greeted their new colleague and also presented him with some gifts to warm the heart and bring a smile or two. The wardens of the parish followed the two clergy by also offering gifts and official words of welcome for their new rector.

There were a good number of vested clergy present and a few others unvested in the pews as well as 60+ parishioners both in the congregation and taking part in the liturgy.

Please keep the Parish of St. Philip Dunbar and their

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



LEFT The Rev. Lorne Manweiler demonstrates the "passing the peace" elbow bump. PHOTO Randy Murray RIGHT The Dean of the diocese and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev. Chris Pappas and Bishop John process in. Dean Pappas is one of five incumbents recently arrived from the diocese of Edmonton. PHOTO Derek Simpkins



LEFT Lector, Sheryl MacKay reads the Epistle, 2 Timothy 4:5-13. MIDDLE The preacher, the Rev. Billy Isenor. RIGHT The Covenant in Ministry begins, led by the Regional Archdeacon, the Ven. Stephanie Shepard. PHOTOS Randy Murray



The Rev. Manweiler fills the font during the Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry. PHOTO Randy Murray

Celebrations of New Ministry 2021

Celebration of a New Ministry on the Feast of St. Luke The induction of the Reverend Lorne Manweiler as Rector of St. Philip, Dunbar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

new rector, the Rev. Lorne Manweiler in your prayers.

Here are a few words about the Rev. Manweiler

Before beginning his appointment at St. Philip, Dunbar on October 1, the Rev. Lorne Manweiler was Rector of St. Timothy's Anglican Church, Edmonton, and Diocesan Canon for Worship and Liturgy for the diocese of Edmonton. Hailing from Vernon, BC and an alumnus of the University of British Columbia and Concordia

Lutheran Seminary, he has served Lutheran and Anglican parishes in Medicine Hat, Calgary, Vulcan, Wetaskiwin, and Edmonton. He has most recently served as instructor of organ and sessional professor of theology at Concordia University of Edmonton and Concordia Lutheran Seminary. Rev. Manweiler is a sought-after international recitalist, clinician, facilitator, and lecturer in church music, liturgy, doctrine, and Christian identity.

Lorne is an avid spin class addict, coffee lover, book-worm, potluck casserole aficionado, and Trekkie. ✠

Both a video and an audio track of the Rev. Billy Isenor, OSF sermon are available on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2021-10-18-celebration-of-new-ministry-on-the-feast-of-st-luke>



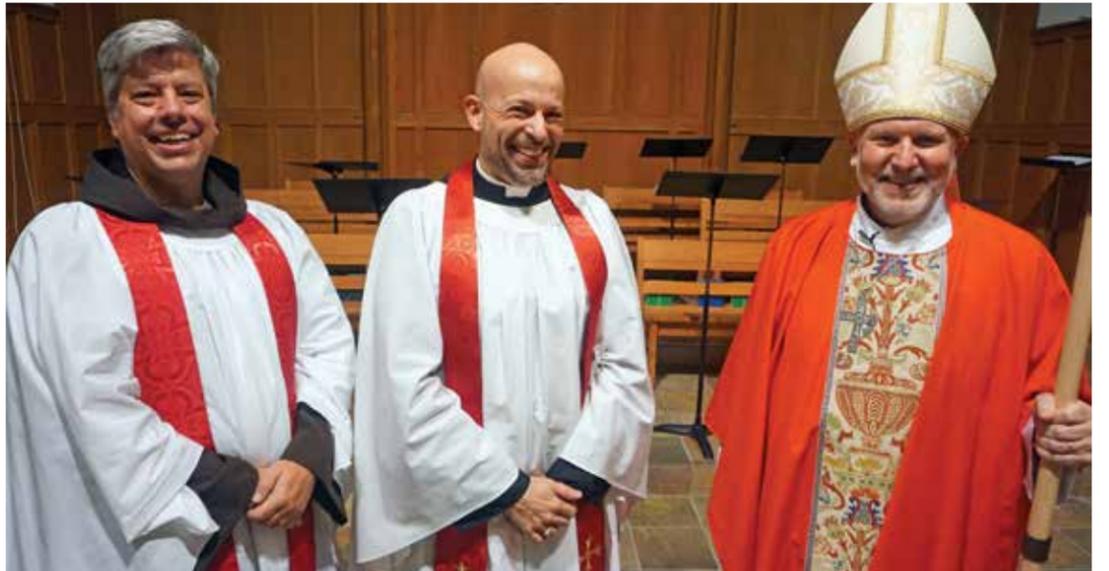
The Bishop's Examination. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Receiving a pot of soil and a plant from a representative of the parish's young adults during the Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry. RIGHT Bishop John enthusiastically leads the applause of welcome. PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT The intercessor, Dianna Bragg, ODNW. MIDDLE The Rev. Magrega and Crucifer/Liturgical Assistant Norah prepare the table during the Offertory Hymn. PHOTOS Randy Murray RIGHT The Eucharistic Prayer. PHOTO Derek Simpkins



LEFT Warden, Brian Mix and Michael Murray play the Arvo Pärt composition during Communion. RIGHT The preacher, the new rector and the bishop pose unmasked for an archival photo. PHOTOS Randy Murray

IN MEMORIAM

The Reverend Vivian Margaret Seegers
 March 13, 1958 – June 2, 2021

In Memoriam of One Pointing a Way...

JOHN MARSH

Retired Priest of the diocese of New Westminster with Permission to Officiate

As I write, her life is already taking on a hagiographic hue—she is being scrubbed clean in memory, her complexity reduced, her flaws flattened, becoming a more two-dimensional figure of ecclesial faithfulness. Yet I hope and pray that the undecidability of Vivian remain. She was one denigrated yet at times admired; one of great anger yet deep love; one who struggled with yet met addiction head on; one exhausted yet always responding as best she could to the next call; one deeply desirous of church recognition, priesthood, yet never fitting in, never quite being heard. She was an exemplar of an impossible person responding to impossible situations at the behest of an insistence of the *impossible*, this going by a variety of names—creator, great spirit, God, or justice or hospitality or reconciliation. She sought, served, perhaps saved, whatever is stirring within the name of God.

As I write, perhaps this is a time of confession except, I'm unsure if I have sinned. Truthfully, if it were not for my involvement, Vivian probably would not have become a priest, not able to survive the institutional processes (obstacles?) leading to ordination. However, as clarity calls me, I am not saying that I alone assisted Vivian, that others did not do necessary work. I am saying she may have given up along the way, or perhaps been forever stalled by bureaucratic deafness posing as hearing. If not for myself and truthfully the community of St. Mary Magdalene's, Vivian's hope for priesthood would have remained hopeless.

Yet I am haunted... she became a priest but I'm not sure if I, we, did her any favours...

The truth is we needed her more than she needed us. We needed her passion, we needed her insistence that it was to such as these—First Nations peoples, residential school Survivors, those bearing the often-insidious marks of centuries of colonialism—that the reign of God belonged.



It was to such as these that work of justice, hospitality, inclusion, and love belonged, this, not work done in the dulcet tones of colonial condescension but a work of reciprocal cooperation and respect.

Vivian was angry and we needed her to be for our salvation...

Vivian was passionate and we needed her to be so we could discover again perhaps for the first time—to echo Marcus Borg—our passion, our passion for a reconciliation involving deeds not simply rhetoric...

Vivian pursued a calling in excess of or perhaps deeper than ordination, and we needed her to do so that perhaps we could risk our own excess, taking the chance of mistake, thereby facing our need of confession...

Vivian pursued the harsh of edges of truths too long denied and buried and we needed her to do so in order to break through the sclerotic hardness of our institutional hearts...

Vivian was a pain in the ass, and we needed her to be to disturb our ass out of the trap of being nice...

(Wilful ignorance is not becoming of God's people...)

Truth to tell, within the complexity of Vivian, the reign of God blinked into existence, the promise of God for brief moments being made real...

Vivian lived all in; the church classified her as part-time but as her son Stephen said, "There was nothing part-time about my mother!"

Truth to tell, I'm not sure I did Vivian any favours but she sure as hell did me favours...

She was my friend; I hope I was hers...

Vivian lived her faith unto death contracting COVID in the exercise of her work and I pray, I hope and pray, it is not too late for me, for us, to pay her life forward...

As I said, I'm not sure if we did her any favours—she had reasons to expect more of us. We owed her more than she was given. Who are we? We are the church and yes that includes me—we owed Vivian and the people she served more than we gave yet perhaps Vivian in her death will be that spectral presence haunting our days, inviting us to respond... ✚

.....
The Rev. Vivian Seegers was the first Indigenous person ordained by our diocese and to date (June 2, 2021), the only one.

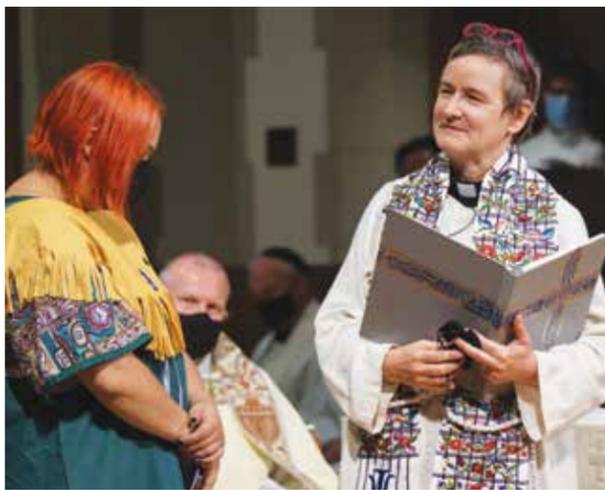
**The Sundancer & Christ
 Memorial Service for the Reverend Vivian Seegers**

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The Memorial Eucharist for the Rev. Vivian Margaret Seegers was held at 11am, Saturday, October 2 at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver. Rev. Seegers died from complications due to COVID-19 on June 2, 2021. The Rev. Emilie Smith in consultation with others, including Bishop John Stephens and Archbishop Mark MacDonald put together the memorial service. The Rev. Smith, a classmate of the Rev. Seegers and a long-time friend and colleague was the preacher. The Rev. Seegers was the first Indigenous woman to be ordained in the diocese of New Westminster. She was ordained to the transitional diaconate by Archbishop Melissa Skelton, January 21, 2021, and priested by Archbishop Skelton in June of that year.

It is rare that a priest dies while in active ministry. The Rev. Seegers was priest-in-charge and founder of Urban Aboriginal Ministry (UAM) and an assistant priest at the Parish of St. Mary Magdalene located in Vancouver's Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) neighbourhood when she died. The vicar of the parish, the Rev. John Marsh played a significant role in the development of Vivian's ministry and an excerpt of a longer piece that he wrote about Vivian is printed above. We are very grateful to the Rev. Marsh for his permission to use it.



Vivian's beloved "Daughter-Niece," Jessica Seegers blesses Emilie before the sermon.



Bishop Stephens officiated at the liturgy and at the Commendation. Archbishop Mark MacDonald, the Anglican Church of Canada's first National Indigenous Anglican Bishop (archbishop as of 2019) presided at the Eucharist and offered the Blessing. The Rev. Elizabeth Mathers who was in ministry with the Rev. Seegers during her curacy at St. Clement's, Lynn Valley was Deacon of the Word and Table and Dr. Megan Otton a long-time liturgical assistant at Christ Church Cathedral was Subdeacon. The Very Rev. Chris Pappas was MC, and the Ven. Stephanie Shepard was Clergy MC providing direction for the more than 40 vested clergy in attendance and seated in the chancel stalls. There were also clergy (Indigenous and non-indigenous) from other denominations participating in the liturgy, including the Rev. Mary Fontaine of the Presbyterian Hummingbird Ministries and United Church of Canada minister, the Rev. Julianne Kasmer. Many more clergy from the Anglican church and other denominations were in attendance in the congregation.

Members of Vivian's family participated in the liturgy. Her eldest daughter, Deanna Burgart offered a song during Communion; son, Steven Seegers shared a Remembrance

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



LEFT & RIGHT Vivian's eldest daughter, Deanna Burgart rehearses prior to the liturgy with Christ Church Cathedral's Director of Music, Rupert Lang.



The Big Drum.

IN MEMORIAM

The Reverend Vivian Margaret Seegers

March 13, 1958 – June 2, 2021

The Sundancer & Christ Memorial Service for the Reverend Vivian Seegers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9



Tsileil-Waututh Matriarch Carla George and Elder Sam George offer the Territorial Welcome and Blessing. Elder Sam George came from a hospital bed to attend. He was one of the Rev. Seegers' presenters at her ordination.



Leading the singing of *Many and Great, O God are your Works* were Patti Powell, Natalie King and the Rev. Emilie Smith.

of his mother; youngest daughter, Clio Straram processed in with her mother's ashes; great-nephew, Hayden Jackman read a passage written by Richard Wagamese; and niece, Jessica Seegerts was very active in the service and amongst other roles offered a blessing to the Rev. Smith prior to the homily. The Territorial Acknowledgement and Blessing were given by Tsileil-Waututh Matriarch Carla George and Elder Sam George. Elder Sam George came from a hospital bed to attend. He was one of the Rev. Seegers' presenters at her ordination in 2018. Members of Rev. Seegers' UAM family were also involved—singing, drumming and smudging. Indigenous Elders read the Scripture in Cree and many of the women stood on the chancel platform and sang *Amazing Grace, Nehiyawewin* in Cree at the Offertory. A special offering for Survivors of Residential Schools was collected. Music in worship was led by soloists: Patti Powel, Deanna Burgart and Tina Laforce with Members and Friends of the Cathedral Choir, and Rupert Lang, Organist and Director of Music.

The homily preached by the Rev. Smith shared insights into Vivian and her journey. Early in the address, the Rev. Smith looked at Vivian's death in the colonial context and posed some questions for the consideration of the congregation.



Bishop John gathers the community in prayer.

"And what questions come to our minds? Did you ever wonder, 'Why Vivian? Why did she get sick? Why did she die?' Was it bad luck? Bad choices? What do you think, out of the 100 or so (sic) priests in this diocese that the one Indigenous priest dies? Why have 11 Indigenous priests in the Anglican Church of Canada died? What the hell? What's going on?"

Could it have anything to do with 300 years of the colonial invasion of these lands? Dare we look at our history? Dare we open our hearts the way that Vivian did? Can we see her life and the lives of all the others who have been lost in the horror and the blasphemy of what is the invasion of and the destruction of these lands? What about that smallpox plague?"

Anybody... here... remember that? 1862 and almost all the Indigenous peoples of this land died. The kidnapping of children, the violence against those precious little ones, the horror of all of this... and then... Vivian. Vivian knew this and Vivian was this. We who knew and loved Vivian saw this. But the thing about Vivian is that she clawed her way through this and was a Sundancer. And though it took her 15 years more than it took me (we graduated the same year), it was 15 years... but she became a priest, 'cause we weren't going to stop her with all of the nonsense that we put before her."

The liturgy was a blending of Indigenous ceremonial traditions and Anglican worship. Much like the Ordination Eucharist on January 21, 2018 (the Rev. Emilie Teresa Smith was also the preacher) the combination wasn't self-conscious or awkward, it was a sincerely spiritual and prayerful worship event that truly reflected the faith, commitment, and service of the Rev. Vivian Margaret Seegers: Sundancer, priest, mother, grandmother, auntie, great-auntie, mentor, friend, colleague, matriarch, prophet and visionary. ✠

To watch the Rev. Emilie Smith's sermon please go to <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2021-10-02-the-sundancer-and-christ>



LEFT Psalmist (Psalm 139) the Rev. Mary Fontaine, founder, Hummingbird Ministries, the Presbyterian Church of Canada led the singing of *Amazing Grace* in Cree. RIGHT Elder Dorothy Vissar reads the Gospel, *Matthew 25:31-40* in Cree.



LEFT The Rev. Vivian Seegers' son, Steven Seegerts offers a Remembrance/Eulogy. RIGHT Hayden Jackman (Jessica Seegerts' son) shares a reading from Richard Wagamese.



IN MEMORIAM



Margaret McAvity and the Rev. Julianne Kasmer, with the prayers of the people.



The liturgy concluded with women singing and drumming *The Woman's Warrior Song*. Vivian's youngest daughter Clio on the left.



The Gifts of God for the People of God, Deacon, the Rev. Elizabeth Mathers and Archbishop Mark MacDonald.



The Archbishop's Blessing prior to The Dismissal.



Members of the Cathedral prepared dozens of lunches (Vivian's Swag Bags) that were distributed following worship. Due to COVID protocols a post worship reception was not possible. Vivian's generosity is legendary, she never let people in need leave empty-handed.

*“The Rev. Vivian Margaret Seegers:
Sundancer, priest, mother, grandmother, auntie, great-auntie,
mentor, friend, colleague, matriarch, prophet and visionary.”*



The Woman's Warrior Song concludes with drumsticks and arms raised. Many thanks to the Rev. Emilie Smith for her assistance in writing the cutlines to go with these photographs.



A unique orange shirt displayed during the walk and at Grandview Park.



Kerry in front of the Aboriginal Friendship Centre prior to the gam start.



Participants on the walk happy



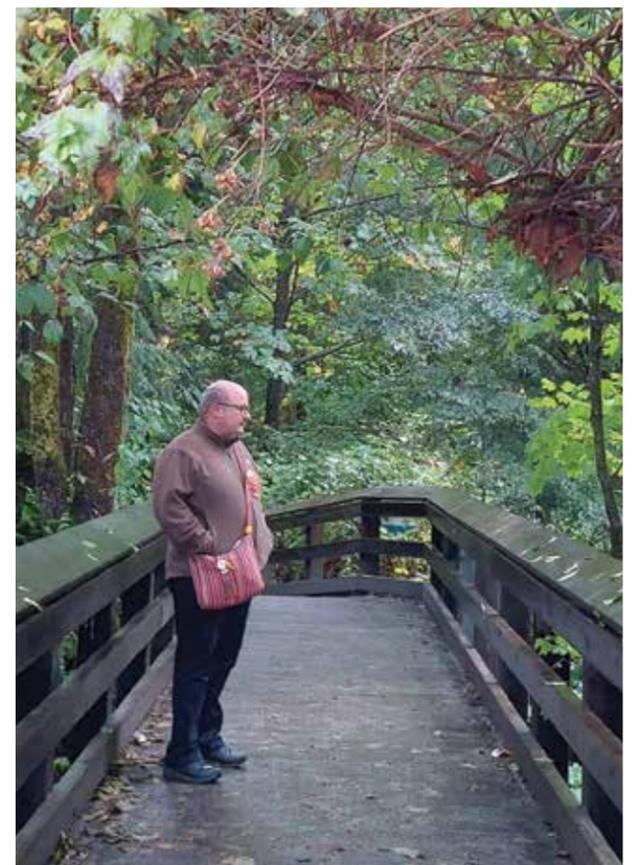
Greeted by Elders/Residential School Survivors at Grandview Park.

Orange Shirt Day

KERRY BAISLEY, ODNW
Missioner for Indigenous Justice, diocese of New Westminster

Two things happened shortly after arriving in front of the Aboriginal Friendship Centre on September 30. I was offered something to eat (a muffin), and then given an orange fabric facemask with a Northwest Coast design on one side and the words “Every Child Matters” on the other. The mask was a gift from the Indian Residential School Survivor Society. It was a day for witnessing, listening and community building.

We walked along Hastings Street on Vancouver’s eastside and then down one side of Commercial Drive to Grandview Park where we were greeted by drumming and a number of speakers sharing their stories of residential schools. I saw my friend Sabian, a man of many talents



Kerry on the bridge at Noons Creek.



Kerry and Sabian.



An Indigenous Healing Table.



to pose for a photo.



Kerry on the walk. ALL PHOTOS Brian Shieh except where noted

Truth & Reconciliation Day

including drum making and beadwork. He is doing good work with Survivors and their family members using Indigenous handwork to develop confidence and accomplishment for many who have had little opportunity to experience the emotional boost of making something for themselves or others.

The second part of the day was spent at Noons Creek Hatchery in Port Moody with Tasha Faye Evans, Deacon, the Rev. Anne Anchor and members of St. John the Apostle, Port Moody. We met at 1:30pm and rehearsed the *T'Kemlups te Secwepemc Honour Song* to be shared at 2:15pm for the 215 who never returned home. Tasha Faye

asked Anne to bring along members of St. John's choir because she was not sure if there would be enough people coming to sing the song. Her worries were unfounded. It has been a very long time since I was at an event where the children outnumbered the adults. Most of those times it was a child's birthday party. In this case it was to honour children who had few opportunities in their short lives to celebrate once they'd entered residential school.

We rehearsed, the time came, and the song was sung well and heartily by a combination of innocent and experienced voices. We then had a photo opportunity with the *Spirit of Kwikwetlem* house post in the covered area next to the

fast-flowing Noons Creek. It was a great day to witness the resilience of residential school Survivors and their extended family, to listen to the experiences and the *Honour Song* for the missing ones and engage in community building as we continue to walk on the pathway of reconciliation.

Whatever you call it, *Orange Shirt Day* or *Truth & Reconciliation Day*, it is and will be an opportunity to find out what is happening in your community. September 30 along with June 21 are days to mark on your calendar. Make an effort to engage with Indigenous, Métis and Inuit peoples who live in your community. It is an opportunity well worth the effort.



A wider POV of the Grandview Park presentation area.



Full view of the Grandview Park gathering.



LEFT Raising voices in song. RIGHT The St. John the Apostle, Port Moody's contingent at the Noons Creek Hatchery, Port Moody Ecological Society to commemorate the National Day of Truth & Reconciliation. The totem pole at the foreground — the Kwikwetlem Nation is having their red fish story told in this 600-year-old red cedar tree. Joining for the "photo op" are BC Lutheran Bishop Greg Mohr and Missioner for Indigenous Ministry, diocese of New Westminster, Kerry Baisley, ODNW (back row centre left).



LEFT All the bishops and archbishops present in-person at the House of Bishops' meetings in Niagara Falls. If you look closely, you can see the primate, the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls holding a laptop with the absent bishops attending via Zoom. RIGHT The Provincial House of Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon taken at the National House of Bishops' meetings in Niagara Falls: Bishop David Lehman, diocese of Caledonia; Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee, diocese of BC; Archbishop Lynne McNaughton, diocese of Kootenay and acting Bishop of the Territory of the People in the episcopal vacancy; Bishop Lesley Wheeler-Dame, diocese of Yukon; and Bishop John R. Stephens, diocese of New Westminster. PHOTOS Submitted



RIGHT The Provincial House of Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon taken at the National House of Bishops' meetings in Niagara Falls: Bishop David Lehman, diocese of Caledonia; Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee, diocese of BC; Archbishop Lynne McNaughton, diocese of Kootenay and acting Bishop of the Territory of the People in the episcopal vacancy; Bishop Lesley Wheeler-Dame, diocese of Yukon; and Bishop John R. Stephens, diocese of New Westminster. PHOTOS Submitted

Confirmation Preparation | Strengthened by the Spirit

JESSICA SCHAAP

Missioner for Christian Formation, diocese of New Westminster

On Saturday, October 16, 2021, over 50 people from throughout the diocese gathered for a day of conversation, learning, laughing, and eating together in preparation for the celebration of confirmation on October 23. Due to the pandemic this was the first confirmation preparation day held in over two years. The rain bucketed down but all were safely gathered and bathed in the warm nave and light of Christ Church Cathedral.

The day, hosted by Bishop John, began with welcome, prayer, and a community building activity where everyone had a sticker placed on their back with a word from the Christian tradition—ranging from *sacrament* to *lectio divina*. Participants had to walk around and ask for clues to their word and then try to guess it. Once all had guessed correctly they returned to seats in the nave and proceeded to fill a fishbowl full of questions on slips of paper for Bishop John to mull over and respond to at the end of the day. Questions ranged from divorce to the racial identity of Jesus.

The group then split for two tracks of programming—one for youth and one for adults. The adults learned a contemplative way to meditate on the Lord's Prayer and the youth did an original Escape Room based on the baptismal covenant and designed by Lauren Odile Pinkney, Families Minister at the cathedral. Everyone gathered again to fill the font with water from different bodies of waters that parishes had brought from their bounds (the geographical area surrounding a parish). The water was

blessed, and all reaffirmed their baptism by dipping their fingers in and making the sign of the cross or touching their foreheads. Then Bishop John led everyone in a lively exploration of Anglican identity. Participants could walk throughout the church and pick a large poster that named an aspect of Anglican temperament that most appealed to them such as: open-minded, moderate, political, aesthetic, intuitive, etc.

Following lunch, youth and adults held separate sessions on spiritual gifts and the Apostle's Creed. An "Anglican style" photo scavenger hunt had teams of four race around the church looking for items such as lavabo bowls, chasubles, and the paschal candle as well as taking pictures of the team representing the Trinity or greeting one another in the narthex. Bishop John then returned to the questions posed by the confirmands that morning and was able to respond to many of them before time was up.

Near the end of the day, the Rev. Melanie Calabrigo led everyone in a candle making practice with fresh beeswax sheets and wicks. She helpfully reminded us that the act of making can bring us closer to the Maker. Then we lit the candles and sang a rousing version of *This Little Light of Mine*. The day was memorably concluded by the bishop blessing items that participants brought and the Rev. Monte Tugwete leading us in closing prayer gathered around the altar. ✠



The Rev. Melanie Calabrigo leads the singing of *This Little Light of Mine*. PHOTO Jessica Schaap



Bishop John blesses various items. PHOTO Lauren Odile Pinkney



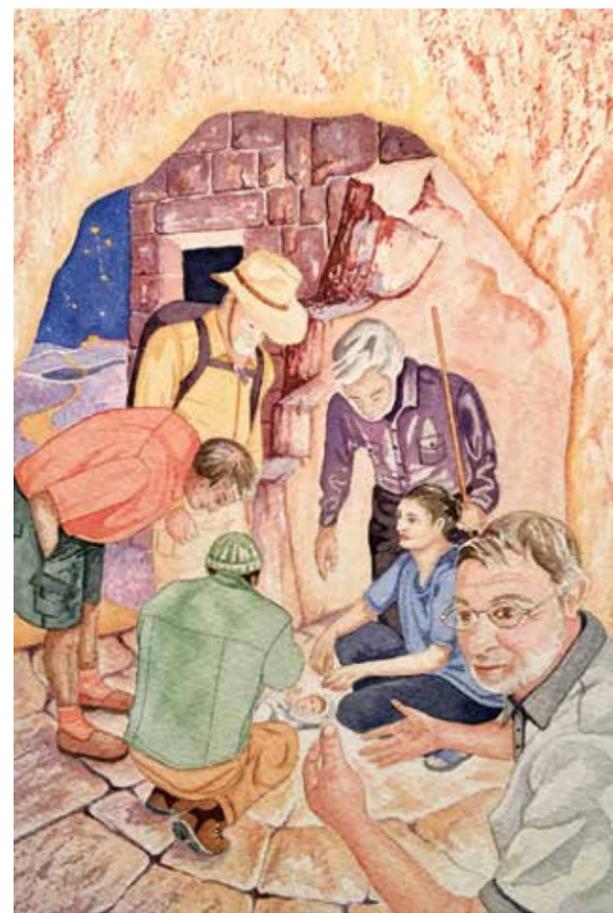
Confirmands with homemade candles. PHOTO Jessica Schaap



Putting People in the Picture this Christmas

MARILYN HAMES

Retired Priest of the diocese of New Westminster
with Permission to Officiate, St. John's, Shaughnessy



Back in Holy Week, I felt inspired to create a series of visual images—keeping pace with the biblical events leading up to Easter, then on to Christ's Ascension. I called it my "pulpit to paintbrush project." Instead of preaching the Good News, the pandemic meant many assisting or retired clergy like myself had no access to pulpits, so instead I turned to sharing the story in a different way—through watercolour illustrations. Relying on my husband and neighbours as models, it became the most profound personal experience as I put people I know and love "in the picture"—acting as Christ or his disciples, as we are all called to be.

Well, I am still at it, and hope perhaps my humble efforts might encourage others to try something similar—whether with pencils, paintbrushes, Photoshop, or making a collage with photo-cutouts of the people in your life. As we approach Christmas, why not make it your project for Advent? Here is my version of the Nativity, with my husband playing six of the roles: the baby Jesus (based on Andrew's christening photo), Joseph, three shepherds or Magi (take your pick), and the Evangelist. I altered the skin tones and hair to offer variety and be more inclusive, so now I see him in a whole different light.

May God bless you and keep you, your loved ones and those who you pray for safe this Christmas, and may your own projects bring you and others great joy. ✠





The Dean of the diocese and Rector of the Cathedral, the Very Rev. Pappas leads the sanctuary party in the pre-worship rehearsal.



A full view of the procession. So many gathered, looks like pre-COVID times. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray

Let Your Loving Hand Ever be Over These Your Servants

Celebration of Confirmation, Reaffirmation & Reception

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

A Celebration of Confirmation, Reaffirmation and Reception Eucharist took place at Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday, October 23, 2021 (Memorial Day for James of Jerusalem, Brother of Jesus). This was the first diocesan confirmation service of the Rt. Rev. John Stephens' young episcopacy and the first such liturgy since May 11, 2019, almost two and a half years ago. Although COVID-19 and the many restrictions on public gatherings made it difficult for Anglican Christians to affirm their commitment to faith through confirmation, the absence of that opportunity certainly didn't decrease enthusiasm around the diocese. Fifty candidates were confirmed, three were received in the Anglican Church of Canada and one was reaffirmed. This total of 54 candidates represented 13 parishes of the 66 parishes and three worshipping communities of our diocese. Twenty-four confirmands were from St. Mary the Virgin, Sapperton and eight were from St. Cuthbert's, Delta with those two parishes combining to contribute a large percentage of the candidates. As illustrated on page one of this issue of *Topic*, Luke Primus of Christ Church Cathedral was the first confirmand of Bishop John's episcopacy and to complete the circle, Nadine Gomm of St. Philip's was the final confirmand of his first confirmation

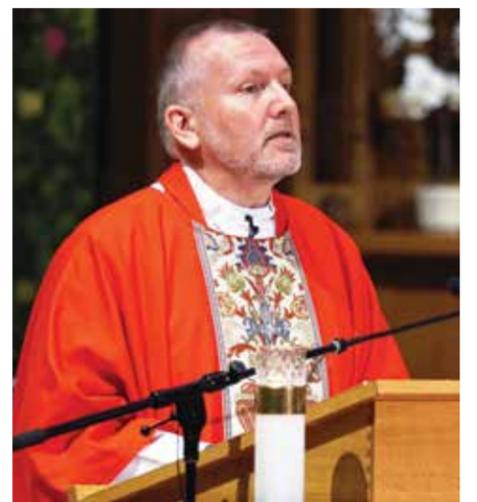
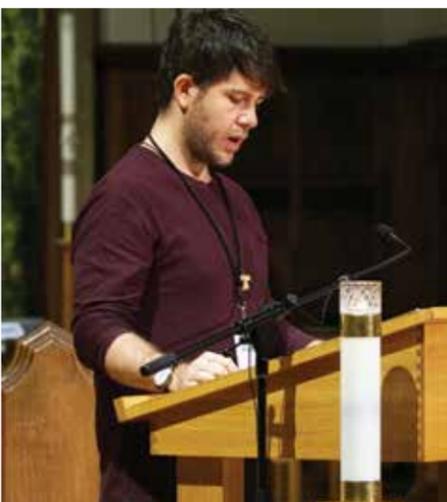


The sanctuary party processes in during the Opening Hymn, *Wind upon the Waters*.

Eucharist. The final candidate was Judith Rowbotham of Holy Spirit, Whonnock who was reaffirmed by the bishop with a blessing and the laying on of hands.

In many ways this liturgy resembled a pre-pandemic gathering. There were 300+ assembled in the Cathedral nave and chancel, ten members of the Cathedral Choir under the direction of Organist and Director of Music Rupert Lang, a full cohort of Sanctuary Party members, greeters, Cathedral staffers and more. Leading up to the liturgy each parish was requested to limit attendance to clergy and lay sponsors and a maximum of two additional "guests" per candidate. Mask-wearing was mandatory throughout the various areas of the sanctuary and were only removed for speaking. The choir and congregation sang, however, masks remained in use during participation in the music in worship, except for the excellent offering of Don Besig's and Nancy Price's praise song, *Let Us Serve Him* by the St. Cuthbert's Youth Choir who gathered in the northernmost part of the chancel in front of the reredos, physically distanced from each other and removed their masks to sing. The choir was led by Barb Buxton and accompanied by pianist, Laura Pauloski playing the Cathedral's Steinway

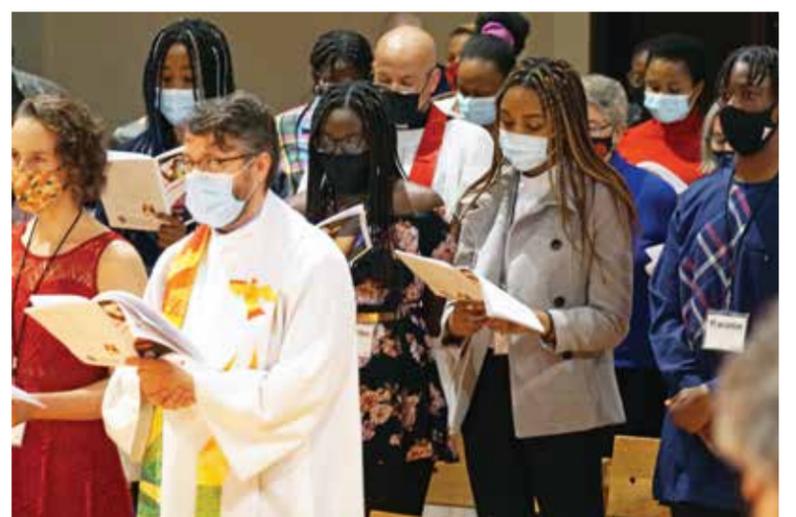
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LEFT Confirmation candidate from Christ Church Cathedral and the first to be confirmed by Bishop John, Luke Primus reads *Acts 15:12-22a*. MIDDLE LEFT One of 24 candidates from St. Mary the Virgin, Sapperton, Karyl Amayag reads the Epistle, *Ephesians 4:7, 11-16* in Tagalog, one of the languages of the country of her birth. MIDDLE RIGHT The Rev. Juanita Clark proclaims the Gospel, *Matthew 13:53-58*. RIGHT Bishop John preaching.



Members of the Cathedral Choir under the direction of Organist and Director of Music Rupert Lang lead *Psalm 1* using the setting by Peter Hallock.



Confirmands and sponsors stand during the Presentation and Examination of the Candidates.



Bishop John leads the Baptismal Covenant.

Let Your Loving Hand Ever be Over These Your Servants Celebration of Confirmation, Reaffirmation & Reception

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Concert Grand.

One week prior, all candidates were encouraged to attend a confirmation preparation day at Christ Church Cathedral. The event for 2021 was titled, *Strengthened by the Spirit* and coverage is available on page 14 of this issue of *Topic*. The writer of that article, the Rev. Jessica Schaap, Missioner for Christian Formation for the diocese of New Westminster is the staff person with much of the responsibility for creating the preparation program and for developing the confirmation liturgy with contributions from Bishop John and others. Although metrics for determining the success of church services are limited, it's safe to say that under any circumstances the 2021 iterations of confirmation preparation and worship were a huge success. A few days after the worship, Bishop John commented that he was delighted by the entire experience and went on to say that taking part in the preparation day had given him the opportunity to get to know the candidates at least a little which added considerably to the overall experience.

Bishop John was the preacher, presider and celebrant. For his text he referred to the Memorial being celebrated (James of Jerusalem) and the Gospel passage proclaimed that day that mentions James, *Matthew 13:53-58*. He saved his direct message to the candidates for the penultimate paragraph of his homily which is as follows:

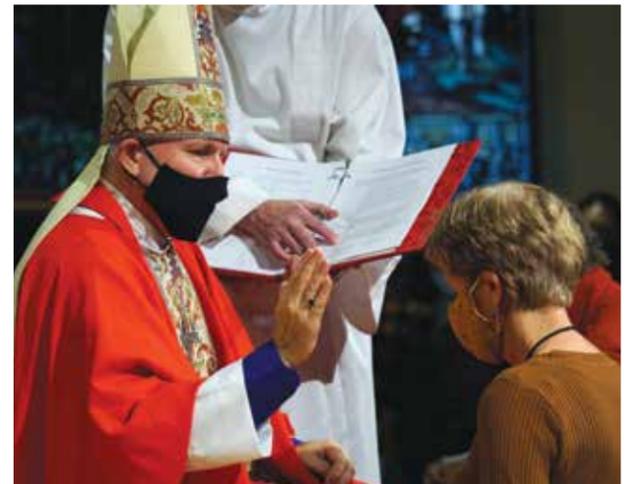
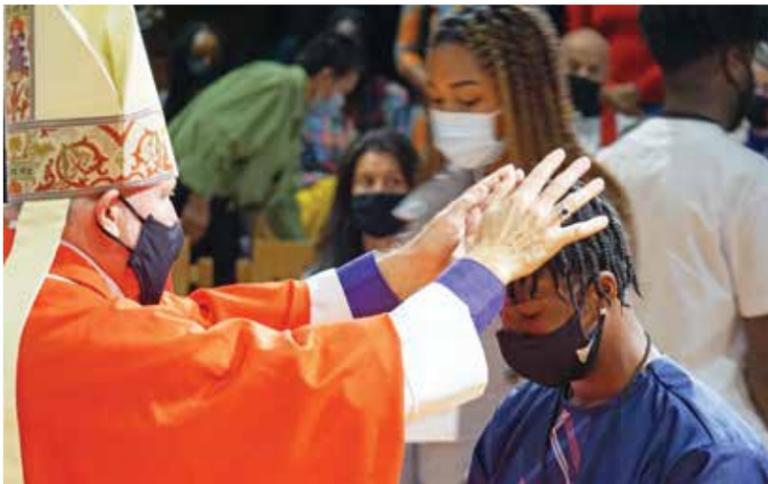
"You see today a number of people will be confirming, reaffirming their faith or are being received into the Anglican Church. And in some ways, we could just see this as conforming to a certain way to think about God and the world. And I really hope that that is not what we are doing. I hope that we are here to affirm that these people are confirming their faith in this radical Jesus, who is calling them not to simply have a faith in a predictable God of simplicity but rather a God who

will change and transform them. A God who comes to us in human form to stir us, to see anew that God is known amongst us and calling us to new life. That while the world around us is in a climate emergency, our faith is calling us to care for this earth and treat it as gift from the source of life. That while we continue to disregard so many people in this world with our racism, colonialism, residential schools, misogyny, efforts to keep the poor in poverty... our faith is calling us to respect the dignity of every human being. While many seek a future centred on individualism our hope in God is about community and loving our neighbours. Our faith is a radical response to the world all around us. Our faith is inviting us not simply to conform but to confirm that indeed God is known amongst us and within us and that the Holy Spirit continues to work through us."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



The intercessor leading the prayers, candidate for reception, Gabriel Pestano.



LEFT Kwame of St. Cuthbert's is confirmed. MIDDLE Two of the 24 candidates from St. Mary's, Sapperton are confirmed. RIGHT Euphemia of Holy Spirit, Whonnock is blessed by the bishop as she is received into the Anglican Church.



Subdeacon, Terry Love and Deacon Clark prepare the altar during the Offertory Hymn, *Come and Journey with a Saviour*.



The Rev. Jessica Schaap administers the Body of Christ to the recently reaffirmed Judith Rowbotham of Holy Spirit, Whonnock.

Madeline of St. Dunstan's is confirmed.



St. Cuthbert's Youth Choir in place during the Eucharistic Prayer.



St. Cuthbert's Choir under the direction of Barb Buxton.



The Episcopal Blessing.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

The liturgy continued with the Presentation and Examination of the Candidates by the bishop, the leading by Bishop John of the Baptismal Covenant, and the Prayers for the Candidates led by intercessor Gabriel Pestano a candidate for reception from St. Anne's, Steveston. Following the laying on of hands, Bishop John shared the following prayer:

*Almighty and everliving God
let your loving hand ever be over these your servants
let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in
the knowledge and obedience of your word,
that they may serve you in this life,
and dwell with you in the life to come;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The prayer was followed by "the Peace" and the Offertory Hymn, *Come and Journey with a Saviour*.

The Eucharist, the central purpose of our liturgical life together seems even more meaningful and appropriate when it is celebrated at a confirmation service. Even though many churches practice Open Table, and the majority of Anglican churches welcome all baptized Christians to participate in the Eucharist, the first Communion following confirmation holds a special place in the memories and hearts of the newly baptized, confirmed, reaffirmed and received. As has been the case throughout those times when our churches have been open for onsite worship during the pandemic, Holy Communion was of one kind, the bread, the Body of Christ.

Following the Episcopal Blessing, the Closing Hymn, *Your Hand O God Has Guided Me* and the Dismissal by Deacon of the Word and Table for the Eucharist, the Rev Jaunita Clark, Bishop John remained on the chancel plat-

form in front of the altar for the next half hour to pose for pictures with parish groups, individuals, family groups and other combinations.

Please keep the newly confirmed, reaffirmed and received in your prayers as they journey forward in faith, living into this commitment to serve God. ✠

To watch the YouTube posting of Don Besig's and Nancy Price's praise song, *Let Us Serve Him* by the St. Cuthbert's Youth Choir please go online to <https://youtu.be/9AakhWV-yic>

Watch Bishop John's sermon on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2021-10-23-a-celebration-of-confirmation-reaffirmation-and-reception>



The folks from Holy Cross pose with the bishop.



The St. Cuthbert's group; confirmands and sponsors.



The Holy Spirit, Whonnock folks.



Bishop John and Madeline pose for photos.



The sponsors and confirmands from St. Mary's, South Hill.



And to complete the circle Bishop John poses with the newly confirmed Nadine Gomm of St. Philip, Dunbar.



There were many photos taken in several combinations of Bishop John with the confirmands, families, sponsors from St. Mary the Virgin, Sapperton. Here we see the final group shot taking shape.

Say Yes! to Kids Proposals Total More Than \$500,000!

Anglican Foundation of Canada to attempt to close funding gap with quiet campaign

MICHELLE HAUSER

Development Consultant, Anglican Foundation of Canada

The Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC) has received an unprecedented wave of applications from across Canada in response to the *Say Yes! to Kids* Request for Proposals (RFP). “In the history of AFC, we have never seen anything like this kind of energy around a grant cycle,” says the Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Rois, Executive Director. “We asked people to *imagine more* for children and youth in a post-pandemic world, and that is exactly what they did!”

At the close of the October 1 deadline, AFC had received more than 80 proposals, representing a total funding request of more than \$500,000. “We are having to recruit additional volunteers to our RFP Committee to review the applications,” says Dr. Scott Brubacher, Executive Administrator. “At first glance the vast majority of these proposals are well-articulated and fall within the funding parameters.”

In the diocese of New Westminster alone there are seven applicants seeking a total of \$45,000 in funding. “This RFP has the potential to be a game-changer,” says Jane Hope, AFC’s Diocesan Representative for New Westminster. “The enthusiastic response right here at home has given us a much stronger understanding of the willingness and capacity of our churches to stretch themselves to meet the needs of young people in communities across the diocese of New Westminster.”

Canon Rois says proposals reveal an incredible breadth and diversity, “from podcasts to pilgrimage the vision for

new ministry is inspiring.” She says demand has been highest for smaller grants and seed funding for new initiatives, with 80% of applicants accessing category A grants of up to \$5,000. The majority of these are for pilot projects.

“There are dozens of applications for student enrichment in education, arts, and recreation, many of them designed to reach new Canadians and low-income communities,” says Rois. “Some of the most innovative projects, and new models for outreach to non-church youth, have come from rural parishes.” Rois says partnerships abound as applicants reveal their plans to work with community agencies and the healthcare sector to either advise on, or help deliver, impactful youth-oriented programs. “We are also seeing a remarkable number of reconciliation-focused projects.”

In terms of geographic diversity, Brubacher says nine out of ten Canadian provinces, and two out of three Territories are represented, and 21 of 30 dioceses. “We have never seen this kind of broad, nationwide representation during a grant cycle. This is truly an exceptional situation.”

The Very Rev. Peter Wall, AFC’s Development Consultant, explains that his team is working hard to address the funding shortfall. “In addition to the \$110,000 raised as a result of the spring campaign, we have received two exceptionally generous gifts that might be used towards this effort.” AFC management and board are developing a contingency plan that, once approved, may result in close

to \$330,000 in available funding. “Our goal is to bring that funding gap closer to \$150,000.”

Wall says that between now and when the Board of Directors meets in November to approve the RFP grants, he and his team will be having “quiet conversations” with donors who may now wish to support this largest-ever outreach to young people. “Many donors responded very generously to the spring *Say Yes! to Kids* campaign,” says Wall, “and others were unsure about the timing and if it was too soon to begin planning for pandemic recovery. We didn’t know how many proposals we could expect to receive. Now we know!”

With this new information in hand, Wall and his team will make sure AFC supporters are aware of the many worthwhile projects that await funding. “There is so much compassion and creativity in these proposals—the least we can do is stretch ourselves to try to fund as many of them as possible.” ♦

Those interested in making a gift to support the *Say Yes! to Kids* RFP are encouraged to reach out to Peter Wall at pwall@anglicanfoundation.org; Michelle Hauser at mhauser@anglicanfoundation.org; or email foundation@anglicanfoundation.org.

ANGLICAN FOUNDATION OF CANADA

Behind each grant is a generous gift.

Your gift today will make a difference tomorrow.

anglicanfoundation.org

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Anniversaries of Ordination



Archbishop Hambidge and the Rev. Ritchie on September 29, 2021, at All Saints'. PHOTOS Randy Murray, Wayne Chose & Robin Ruder-Celiz

On the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels (September 29), a number of clergy celebrated or marked the anniversaries of their ordinations, however there are probably only two who celebrated their 68th anniversaries and that would be Archbishop Douglas Hambidge and the Rev. Dudley Ritchie.

The Rev. Ritchie was ordained in Fernie, BC, and Archbishop Hambidge was ordained in London, England on September 29, 1953 (a Tuesday). Although 68 is not a “0”

or a “5”, it is quite remarkable. And, these two clergy are also honorary assistants and members of the same parish, All Saints', Ladner.

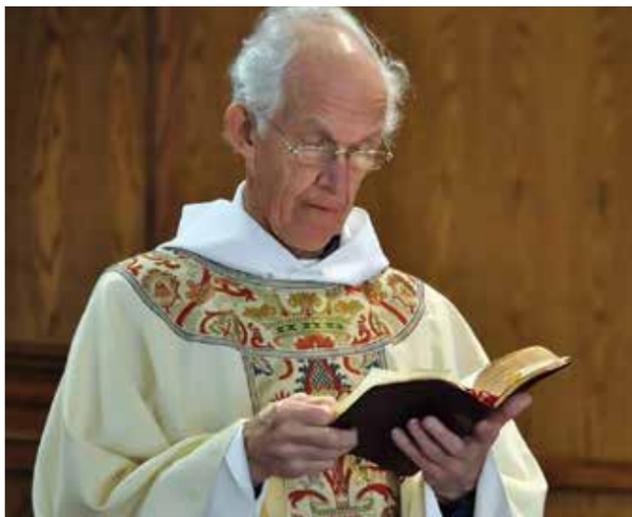
In his regular communique to clergy circulated September 27, Archdeacon Douglas Fenton announced this milestone and added:

“Without a doubt I am sure they would agree that the holy angels’ prayers and protection have sustained them throughout their ministry.”

On Wednesday, September 29, 2021, there was a Celebration of the Eucharist for the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels at All Saints, Ladner. Archbishop Douglas presided

and offered a brief reflection. In his reflection he admitted that he doesn’t remember in detail the ordination service, only parts of it. He remembers his ordination retreat. He mentioned that he and the other ordinands were reminded that what was about to happen to them would be the most important part of their lives, regardless of where their careers may take them. That being from their ordination they will forever more be a servant of God. And that this started at their baptism.

Following the Eucharist, the Rev. Dudley Ritchie led the Bible Study as is his custom in the parish. Archbishop Douglas and his wife Denise Hambidge, ODNW participated in the discussion as well. ♦



AROUND THE DIOCESE

Restoring the People of God at St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge

SUBMISSION by Laurel Dahill

Early in the fall of 2021, parishioners at historic St. John the Divine were in a slow, intentional process of returning to in-person worship. Taking cues from the business world, advice from mental health experts, and guidance from our own rich theology, Rev. Laurel Dahill designed a three-part process of transitioning the parish back to in-person worship services on Sundays.

First, an Open House, September 11, gave the parishioners an opportunity to spend time in the building and reacquaint themselves with the interior at their own pace. Participants could distance as much as they felt necessary and stay if each felt comfortable. Signage throughout the buildings gave guests clarity on what to expect on Sunday mornings. "I wanted everyone to feel confident with our safety measures," the Rev. Dahill said. This event also permitted parish leaders to fine tune their planning. The parish was joined by a special guest, Bishop John, who came to visit and offer his best wishes for a successful return to in-person gatherings.

The first Sunday together in the chapel on September 12, was a service of remembrance, where all that had been lost over the many months was recognized and grieved. Most mental health experts see the grieving of losses as an essential part of healing and moving on, both for individuals and communities. The liturgy was subdued and austere, leaving space to honour our sadness and grief.

The next Sunday, September 19 was a liturgy of celebration, where we acknowledged with gratitude all the many ways God cares for us. A Renewal of Baptism Vows reminded us of our identity as God's children. At this service parishioners were welcomed back to continue in the fellowship of the apostles, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers.

In the spirit of the Good News and the joy of our loving God, we decorated our masks for the occasion. Parishioners, guests and visitors found very creative ways of taking the mandatory mask directive and making it a joyful expression.

The parish community of St. John the Divine in Maple Ridge is excited to continue its journey forward as a community of faith that supports and encourages God's people. These recent events helped remind our community of the importance of our shared commitment to one another and to our role in sharing the Good News of God. ✠



The fanciest virus protection ever. ALL PHOTOS Laurel Dahill



"This is my happy face."



Decorated masks for all ages.



The Rev. Dahill takes a selfie of the group at the Open House, Bishop John is on the right.

Shailene Caparas Appointed Treasurer of PWRDF Board

On Friday, September 24, the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) Annual General Meeting took place via Zoom. The two hour Zoom meeting was also livestreamed on YouTube.

In attendance at the meeting was one of four new board members, Shailene Caparas, Director of Finance for the diocese of New Westminster. Shailene also allowed her name to stand for the position of Treasurer of the Anglican Church's world-wide emergency aid and international compassionate service organization. Following the AGM, the new Board met and agreed to an Executive Committee which is as follows:

- Valerie Maier (Chair)
- John Clarke (Vice-Chair)
- Rev. Canon David Harrison
- Basil Pogue (Secretary)
- Valerie Isaac
- Shailene Caparas (Treasurer)
- Charlotte Lilley

When asked how Shailene plans to approach her new position and what her hopes are for PWRDF and the new board she had this to say:

"It's a delight and honour to be appointed Treasurer of the PWRDF Executive Board. I look forward to serving our partners and ministries with gladness and utmost dedication. My goal is to use my knowledge and experience in finance and CRA regulations to heighten board members' understanding of financial statements, and to assist in the development of skills that will aid in assessing finance-related risks guiding us to make wise and prudent decisions. Solid financial knowledge and a well-thought-out strategy will serve to maintain the trust and confidence of donors and funders in the ways that



PHOTO Randy Murray

resources are administered in obedience to 2 Corinthians 8:20-21, 'We intend that no one should blame us about this generous gift that we are administering, for we intend to do what is right not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of others.'

I also hope to add new energy and enthusiasm to the ongoing efforts of PWRDF, not only in stewarding resources but also in inspiring more Anglicans across Canada to participate in its faithful service as we strive to be the hands and feet of Christ on earth especially to those communities served by PWRDF now and in the future."

Congratulations to Shailene and to the PWRDF board for this new partnership. Please keep Shailene and the PWRDF board in your prayers as they move forward in this essential ministry of the Church. ✠

Thanksgiving Photos & More

Below is a photo taken during the 10am Thanksgiving service at All Saints, Ladner. This service was dedicated to the first responders who serve Ladner and South Delta. They were invited to attend the service where prayers of thanksgiving for their ministry were offered.

Over the course of September, the congregation raised money for the Delta Hospital. After the sermon, a cheque for \$700 was presented to Shari Barr, the Annual Giving Manager of the Delta Hospital Foundation.

Many thanks to Theresa Odishaw, ODNW of St. Francis-in-the-Wood for this photo of the parish's Thanksgiving decorations. In the background, we see interim music director, Tom Arntzen. ✠



AROUND THE DIOCESE

October Optimism at St. Stephen's, West Vancouver

SUBMISSION Hilary Clark

October brought tentative optimism to the Parish of St. Stephen's, West Vancouver with relaxed COVID-19 gathering restrictions, (six feet apart, masked and hopefully vaccinated). The re-constituted choir (also masked, six feet apart and definitely vaccinated as checked by conductor, Dr. Annabelle Paetsch) led the congregation enthusiastically into the first onsite Eucharist in 18 months. There was a sense of "coming home." The hymns were all popular celebratory ones such as *Worship the King*, *Lord of all Hopefulness*, *All Creatures of our God and King* and a special Offertory Hymn in Latin that was introspective in tone: *Laudate, Omnes Gentes*.

An adjunct to the spirit of hopefulness was the presentation of the first Jazz Vespers service since the onset of COVID-19. Students from the Capilano University Jazz Studies Program were introduced by St. Stephen's rector, the Rev. Ken Vinal and led off with an old favorite, *Bye Bye Blackbird*. Jazz Vespers occurs once a month at 4pm on the first Sunday. Minister of Music, Dr. Annabelle Paetsch commented:

"Jazz Vespers has always been an outreach program of St. Stephen's and the previous rector, Canon Jonathan LLOYD and I had been working toward a vision of expanding

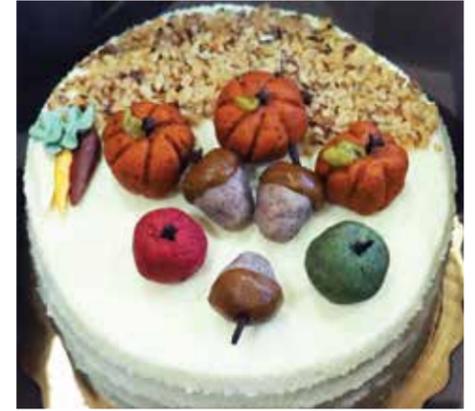


Members of the parish arrange some flowers for display at the bake sale. ALL PHOTOS John Ruddick

the outreach to involve the youth of our local community, that is the Capilano University Jazz Studies Program. The current rector shares this vision and was delighted to welcome Jordan Manderioli (piano), Nicole Yang (bass), Tristan Young (trumpet), and Jordan McIntosh (drums) to initiate the return to Jazz Vespers."

Other jazz standards interspersed with readings, psalms and prayers included *Embraceable You*, *You Must Believe in Spring*, *Just Friends* and *A Child is Born*.

Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday, October 10 arrived with an unusual anticipation: the opportunity to purchase dessert for Thanksgiving dinner. A parish fundraising initia-



A Thanksgiving-themed layer cake purchased from Whole Foods with marzipan ornaments made by parishioner, Ruth Brock.

tive to assist the town of Lytton, destroyed by fire on June 30, 2021, saw members of the parish preparing a dessert that could be sold after the service to raise funds for the now widely displaced residents of this devastated community. The initial plan was to gather supplies and donate them, but after conversation with the Rev. Angus Muir of St. Barnabas' Anglican Church in Lytton it was obvious that money was the most useful gift to offer people without current housing or storage. By the end of the coffee hour, the sale had raised \$725. ✦

Headshot Days 2021

On October 12 and 13, Synod staff and clergy of the diocese of New Westminster were invited to choose a timeslot between 10am and 3pm and book a sitting at the Synod offices to have their pictures taken. This initiative was launched in 2012, to standardize photographs of diocesan personnel and to ensure that in an age of increasing visibility there would always be photos available for print and digital com-

munications. Although the purpose of this initiative is to ensure that diocesan communications have personnel photos, clergy are encouraged to use the photos for their benefit, for websites, professional profiles or any other uses that may emerge. Over the last nine years there have been seven of these sessions and the photographer for every one of these has been and continues to be Wayne Chose.



LEFT The Rev. Amanda Ruston, Assistant Curate at St. James' chooses a photo. RIGHT The Rev. Allen Doerksen, Vicar of St. Matthew's, Abbotsford and St. Thomas', Chilliwack discusses the photo composition with Wayne.



Wayne Chose photographs the Dean of the diocese and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev. Chris Pappas. Wayne's best friend Molly is on the left.

Wayne has a long history of service in our diocese both as a contractor and as volunteer. Wayne and his late wife Mary attended Christ Church Cathedral during the incumbency of the late Bishop Jim Cruickshank when he was Dean Jim Cruickshank (1983-1992). Wayne was always willing to lend his considerable skills as a photographer and videographer both at the parish and diocesan level. When hired as a contractor, Wayne would reduce his fees to a fraction of current market value.

Wayne has been the official photographer for every Investiture of New Members to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster which began in November of 2009.

This, the seventh session of clergy and

staff headshots was originally scheduled for November of 2020, however COVID-19's second wave put a halt to those plans. Although we are well into the fourth wave of COVID in our province, proven safety protocols and high vaccination levels allowed diocesan communications to schedule the sessions.

In the two days, Wayne photographed 45 clergy and staff with most of the priests newly arrived in the diocese in the past two years included in that number.

Thank-you Wayne, and we look forward to everyone being able to gather, and you being there too on the first Saturday of November in 2022, for the next ODNW Investiture celebration. ✦

Somali Family Welcomed to Canada

SUBMISSION Shannon Muir ODNW

Congratulations to Nasri and her girls who arrived safely in Vancouver this week. The lovely family has been co-sponsored by the Parish of St. Francis-in-the-Wood, West Vancouver and her family here in Canada, including Noor, pictured holding his littlest niece.

The family comes from Somalia, but

Nasri and her children have spent all of their lives in refugee camps, until now. Welcome to Canada! Well done St. Francis and a special thanks to Ann Frost who took their cause to her big heart and to the other wonderful people (some partially shown in the picture) who eagerly joined in and have continued her great work. ✦



PHOTO Submitted

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Cookies of Gratitude

SUBMISSION Emilie Smith

On Thursdays this past October and November, members of different religious congregations in New Westminster baked thousands of cookies for delivery to doctors, nurses, aides, cleaners and assistants at Royal Columbian Hospital.

“We were tired of banging on pots, and reposting memes. We had to express our appreciation for all that health care workers have done these past 20 months,” says the Rev. Emilie Smith, Rector of St. Barnabas’.

Church warden, Maureen Shirley, pauses the mixer for a moment. “It’s been so hard, this pandemic,” she says. “And it’s shocking, unbelievable, that anyone would actually protest health safety measures right at the hospital.”

“We’re doing what we do best,” adds parishioner Liz McIntosh. “When there’s trouble—we bake!”

The first shipment in mid-October consisted of double chocolate chip walnut, and peanut butter chocolate chip. Several thousand cookies were baked during the six-week project.

In addition to the sweet support, St. Barnabas’ has hosted five drop-in COVID-19 vaccination clinics. Over 300 neighbours got the jab—and a sweet and delicious-Freezie to ease the ouch!

“We’ve got to help each other in every way,” says the Rev. Emilie. “We love our community!” ✠



LEFT The Rev. Emilie Smith selfie with lots of dishes in the sink that require her attention. RIGHT COOKIES!



Maureen and Liz stir up a storm.

In-Person “Clergy Day” Returns

For the first time in 18 months, clergy of the diocese gathered in-person at the Synod Office for a Clergy Day focused on *Preaching from the Old Testament* led by Dr. Mari Joerstad, the new Academic Dean at the Vancouver School of Theology (VST) and Professor of Hebrew Bible.

Coffee and snacks were available in the morning, but lunch was self-catered. Masks were worn; however, participants were asked to be prepared to remove their masks when asking questions in plenary. Laptops, iPads and Smart phones were recommended as Dr. Joerstad shared information on how

to use some online Hebrew Bible digital tools.

This in-person gathering was followed the next day by an online clergy day with *Preaching from the Gospel of St. Luke*—the Rev. Dr. Kathy Grieb (via Zoom). Dr. Grieb is a retired professor of New Testament at Virginia Theological Seminary and continues to be an active member of the academy.

From November 1 to 3, clergy of the diocese gather at Loon Lake Retreat Centre for *Knitted Together in Christ (Colossians 2:2)* with the Very Rev. Miguelina Howell as retreat conductor. ✠



Plenary gathered in the Conference Room at 1410 Nanton Avenue following the lunch break.



Discussion group consisting of the Ven. Al Carson and the Reverends James Duckett and Clare Morgan.



The Reverends José Luis Aranda Moyano and Justin Cheng listen intently during the small group discussions.



Discussion group in the Trendell Lounge.

Social Media “blows-up” for Birthday Announcement

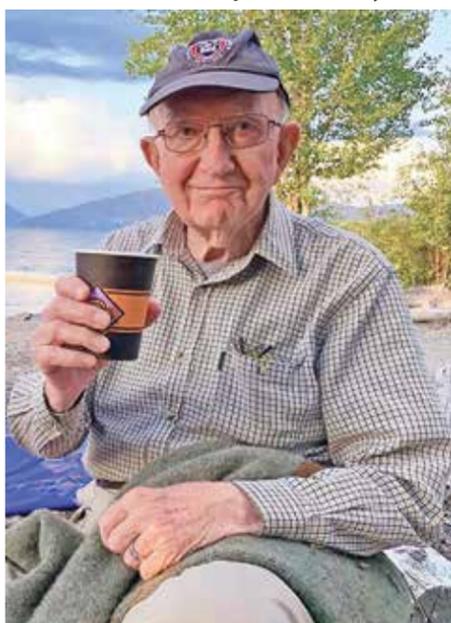


PHOTO Jane Dittrich

On Sunday, October 17, 2021, diocesan communications posted a photo on its Facebook page taken by Jane Dittrich of the Rev. Canon Herbert O’Driscoll at Sorrento Centre in 2019. The purpose was to let people know that he was celebrating his 93rd birthday. The posting read:

“Happy 93rd birthday to the former Dean of the diocese of New Westminster, former Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, retired priest of the diocese of Calgary and current Topic columnist and diocesan website blogger the Reverend Canon Dr. Herbert O’Driscoll.”

This post performed extremely well with hundreds of people seeing it within the first hour and in the following hours many people from around Canada (and beyond) offered their own birthday wishes in the comments section of the post. The views quickly moved to 1500+.

Jane Dittrich forwarded the comments

to Canon O’Driscoll as he is not a regular diocesan social media consumer, and he wrote the following note to the many folks who had sent greetings.

“Dear all of you

You know how they say that a drowning person sees their whole life flashing before their eyes as they sink beneath the waves. If there’s a wonderful and enjoyable way to experience that rewinding of one’s life, then I received it from all your greetings.

It was an incredibly rich gift. It reminded me of something Agatha Christie said many years ago. She was married to an archaeologist, and she said that the wonderful thing about this was that the older you became, the more interested he became! I feel a bit like that after all your greetings. It’s a good feeling.

Blessings to you.

Herbie, Herbert, Herb... whatever!” ✠



Dr. Joerstad listens to questions from the plenary at the first clergy day in 18 months.

Please Sign Up!

HANNAH MAIN-VAN DER KAMP
St. David & St. Paul, Powell River

Question: How many volunteers does it take to maintain a parish?

Answer: As many as there are actively participating parishioners!

A year before COVID restrictions came into place, the number of volunteer commitments in our parish were counted. These included, but were not limited to, porch and pavement leaf sweepers, door greeters, readers, musicians, choir, altar guild, child-minders, coffee makers, cleaner up-ers, parish library, A/V tech, gardeners and grass cutters, maintenance, outreach committee, miscellaneous sub committees, treasurer, prayer team, shawl knitters, wardens, parish council.

Our parish pays for a cleaner. Excepting paid clergy and parish secretary, as well as the deacons who are ordained for service... wait for it... the number of volunteer tasks was greater than the number of active parishioners. To get it all done, many folks sign up for double or triple "jobs."

Even before restrictions, we had already closed the Sunday School and dispensed with teas, bazaars, quilt raffle and other fundraisers. Then out went parish dinners and concerts. In went the Zoom techies.

Now where are we? We are an aging congregation. Some of my brothers and sisters are older than I am and seem to have

more energy and time than I have. I plan to resign from some of my roles in a year or two. I will look for my own replacements. But where?

I can't ask the younger families. It's hard enough as it is for them to get to worship on time. I can't ask visitors. Nor do I dare ask others who are already doing too much.

We don't have newcomers. Taking on parish jobs is good for bonding, but if we did attract more members, we don't expect them to jump right in.

In the larger community of our town, service clubs we used to take for granted no longer function. It's widely surmised that a younger generation, even if we had them in

the parish, do not commit. The parish is not alone in realizing things will have to change.

Almost every Sunday, the Altar Guild tells the congregation it needs more volunteers for that beautiful ministry. The coffee sign-up sheet is blank. The flower calendar has one signature for the next two months.

What are the options? Can we scale down our worship and parish life so not so many people are needed to continue. What? No more choir? No more Altar Guild? Unthinkable? So, what will we relinquish?

And how do we nourish our communal parish life if we don't also socialize together? When the current social restrictions are lifted, will there be enough people/energy to have a parish Thanksgiving Dinner again?

Who will sign up?

About Hannah Main-van der Kamp

Hannah Main-van der Kamp worships at St. David and St. Paul in Powell River where she sings in the choir, organizes the library, participates in committees, bakes when asked and will soon be looking for others to replace her. ✦



GRAPHIC Christian Chan (iStock ID#536414336)

The Night the Stars Sang

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

Retired Priest of the diocese of Calgary, Former Dean of the diocese of New Westminster & Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver

Hollywood loves the word *Apocalypse*. To them it means *Dollars*. It means a big screen disaster movie, complete with toppling high-rises, mile-high tsunamis engulfing cities full of terrified tiny humans running in all directions.

Nobody has told these people that the term apocalypse also has a level of meaning beyond that of disaster. It means an event that comes to reveal something of world-wide significance.

Here are four apocalyptic moments that have no falling high-rises, mile-high tsunamis or screaming people. But everyone of them reveals a great truth on a planetary scale.

In 1378, a vicious virus held the world in its grip. Because one gifted woman wrote down her experiences, we have a window into that terrible century. Her name is Julian.

On May 3 in that year, she writes that she has just experienced repeated visions of our Lord. In one of those visions our Lord came to her and held out a hazelnut in his hand. Puzzled, Julian asked what this meant. Jesus replies:

"This is all that I have made, Julian, and of this creation I am the Maker and the Lover and the Keeper. Therefore, I tell you this. All will be well, and all will be well, and all manner of thing will be well."

That single beautiful sentence sounds through time like the ringing of a bell in our own shadowed COVID world.

We leave the Middle Ages and arrive at 1924. A young Jesuit priest and palaeontologist named Pierre Teilhard de Chardin is a member of an international scientific expedition. They're camped out on the Mongolian plateau of northern China, and he is in the habit of offering Mass each morning outside the camp.

On this morning, he realizes he has left behind the elements for Mass. After a moment of self-reproach, he gathers himself. He decides to offer what will forever be

known as *The Mass on the World*. De Chardin positions himself on the barren ground and, making the Earth itself his altar, he begins to pray:

"Lord, since here on the steppes of Asia I have neither Bread nor Wine nor altar... I, your priest, will make the whole Earth my altar and on it I will offer you all the labours and sufferings of the world... I call before me the whole vast army of living humanity: those in office, factory and laboratory who today

will take up their impassioned pursuit of the Light..."

Pierre De Chardin has made an act of liturgy encompass the whole planet.

On December 24, 1968, we were given our third apocalyptic moment. The spacecraft Apollo 8 is circling the moon. As it comes around for the fourth time, one of the crew, William Anders, sees the blue and white ball of Earth rising beyond the horizon of the moon against the blackness

of space.

That image is apocalyptic, because as never before it reveals the fragile reality of humanity's home. That breathtaking image became *Earthrise*, probably the most influential environmental photograph ever taken.

As Anders looked at that tiny ball floating against the vast ocean of space, you could say that after more than 700 years all humanity became aware of Planet Earth as Julian's hazelnut, and we heard again the promise:

"All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well."

For the fourth apocalyptic moment we meet a young Syrian doctor named Luke who has recently become Christian and has decided to write a book about Jesus' life. As we meet him, he has just told us of the pathetically humble journey of Mary and Joseph, the small hillside village they come to, the stable they have to find for shelter, the manger for their child. He's even recalled the ragtag group of shepherds that arrived on the scene.

But Luke has a problem. He himself knows who this child is, nothing less than the light of the world. But that knowledge is so vast that Luke feels he can't find words.

Suddenly he knows what is needed. As a man of his culture, he would have been familiar with the classical myth of the music of the spheres. From the Jewish scriptures he would recall the author of Job referring to "when the morning stars sang together." Taking his manuscript Luke reaches for the stars that pour their blazing light nightly over the planet since time began and will do so until time ends. He gives them a song—for the Creator, Glory, for the Earth, Peace. In doing so he makes this humble birth an event of apocalyptic Hope for the whole planet.

Four images for the word *Apocalypse* that enlarge human vision, strengthen human resolve, and expand human hope.

May you know Advent hope and Christmas joy. ✦



IMAGE Romolo Tavani (iStock ID#517644003)

OPINION

Book Release

Well Aged
— Making the Most of Your Platinum Years

AUTHOR Ralph Milton
RELEASE DATE October 30, 2021
PUBLISHER Douglas & McIntyre

On Friday, October 15, Bishop Stephens received the following letter from the Rev. Ralph Milton about his new book. The bishop asked that diocesan communications share this information with the diocese and beyond.

This may read like a blatant sales pitch for my new book, which it is, but it is also an invitation to be part of a ministry that has been somewhat neglected in our churches.

Beverley (ordained) and I have been retired for some years now, but in the last two years find ourselves in an unofficial, completely voluntary kind of pastoral ministry. And no, we're not looking for funds or recognition.

I've had a lifetime of writing books that have been part of the life of the ecumenical church, and I've spoken at any number of Anglican conferences. Older people in the church will perhaps remember my name.

I've come out of retirement because of my concern for a group of people, many of them in our pews every Sunday (or would be except for COVID) who contribute so much in time and money to the life of our church.

I became aware of this group and their needs when Bev and I, because of aging and associated health problems, checked into a seniors' residence here in Kelowna. We found ourselves part of a community of 150 people between the ages of 80 and 100, people with very different needs from the younger seniors between ages 65 and 80. Sitting in the choir in our church on a Sunday morning, I estimate that we make up from half to one third of the parish.

Bev and I have found ourselves doing one-on-one ministry with our fellow "inmates" especially during the pandemic and leading worship for people of a delightful diversity of religious backgrounds.

It's not that we older seniors are neglected or mistreated, it is more that we are very often taken for granted. And that hurts us and it hurts our church. Our needs, our interests, our concerns are often very different from that of the rest of the parish.

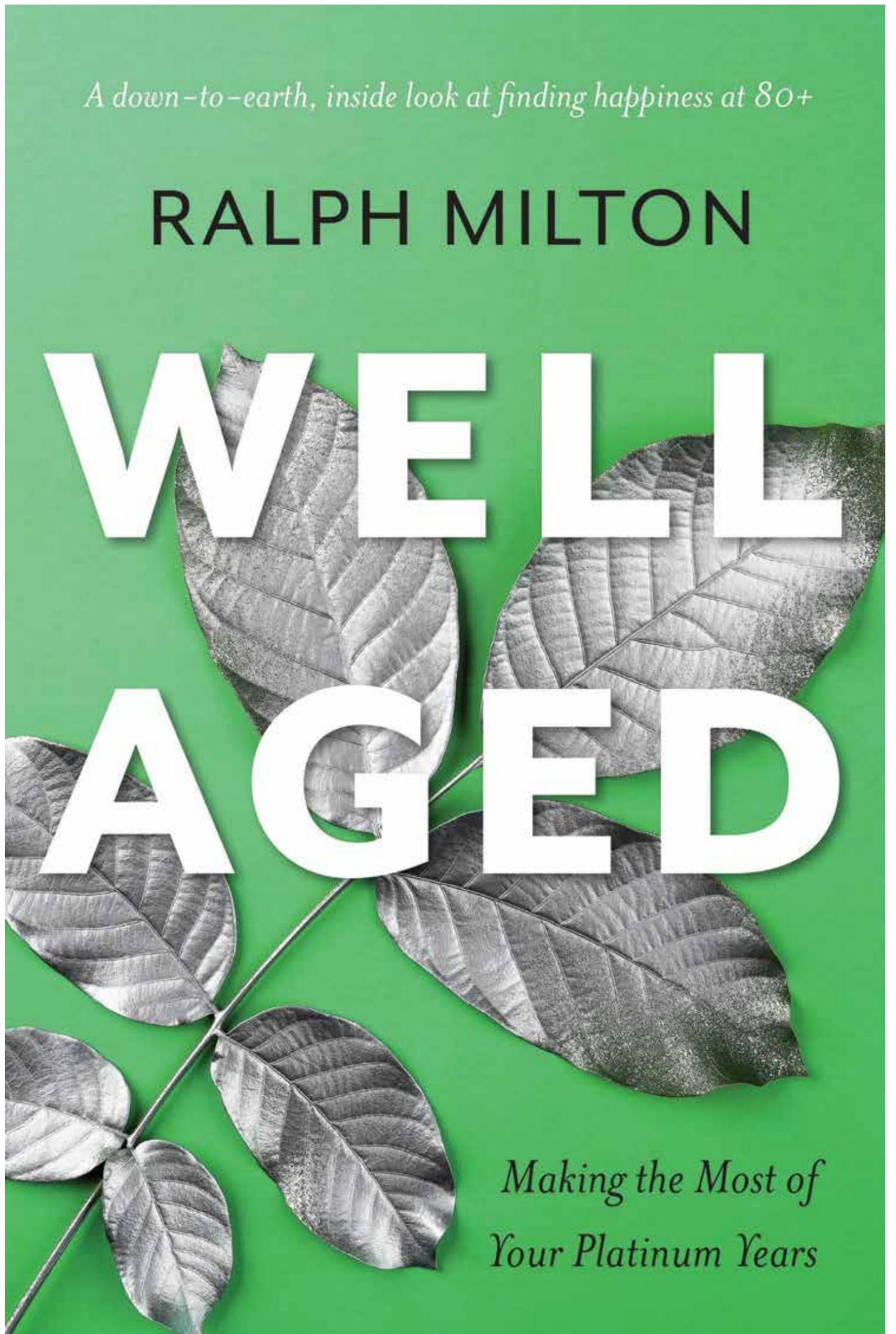
So, I got busy, did some research, lots of interviews and consultations, and came out with a book called, Well Aged— Making the Most of Your Platinum Years. It's published by Douglas & McIntyre and went on sale October 30.

The book is written for a secular audience, but the theologically astute will recognize that it is informed by a deep, inclusive Christian faith. Shari Lynn Upsdell, is a commissioned minister in the United Church and chaplain at a Lutheran retirement home. She is writing a study guide which will be offered free.

One of the comments heard many times from older seniors is that young people (anyone under 70) have no idea what it's like to be really old. There's lots of stuff for the healthy younger seniors, but once you are of a certain age you are basically ignored. Especially by secular media.

Well Aged is written with a view to helping those interacting, professionally and otherwise, with seniors, to have a sense of what this time of life is really all about; the bruises and the blessings.

To introduce you to the book, I've prepared a short video (see the link). You may also find it if you go to YouTube and search on Well Aged Ralph Milton.



Douglas & McIntyre are a well-established and successful publisher, but they have no way of reaching clergy and other leaders in the Anglican Church, so I am hoping you will forward this information to the people in your circle who might find this a useful resource

in parish ministry to the many older seniors and to those (like yourself) who expect to be seriously old some day.

Yours sincerely,
Ralph Milton

Watch Ralph Milton's promo on VIMEO at
https://video.link/w/zufGc

Purchase Well Aged— Making the Most of Your Platinum Years at a local bookstore or go to
https://douglas-mcintyre.com/products/9781771623100





The Rev. Billy Isenor presenting to the plenary. PHOTO Brian Shieh



LEFT Kerry Baisley, ODNW, Deacon, the Rev. Paul Richards, the Rev. Wes Hills and the Rev. Billy Isenor. PHOTO Simon Johnston RIGHT Kerry presents to the group. PHOTO Brian Shieh



Pathways to Reconciliation

SIMON JOHNSTON, ODNW
Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock

Last summer, the Rev. Wesley Hills, priest-in-charge at the Church of the Holy Trinity; the Rev. Billy Isenor, OSF, Rector of St. Mark, Ocean Park; Kerry Baisley, ODNW, Missioner for Indigenous Justice, Synod Staff of the diocese of New Westminster; Mari Anne Hussen, Warden at St. Mark, Ocean Park; and Simon Johnston, ODNW, Parish Councillor at Church of the Holy Trinity, met several times to discuss how our parishes could collaborate to raise awareness about the history of First Nations, Métis and Inuit and their relationship with Canada. Such an event would also be an opportunity to have facilitated discussions about many complex issues with the aim of exploring paths towards Reconciliation.

We were also mindful that our parishes needed to take up the challenge of the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission's *Calls to Action*. While we couldn't enact all 94, we could certainly focus on one:

"We call upon church parties to the Settlement Agreement to develop ongoing education strategies to ensure that their respective congregations learn about their church's role in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools, and why apologies to former residential school students, their families, and communities were necessary." (Call to Action #59)

Our discussions led to Church of the Holy Trinity and St. Mark, Ocean Park collaborating to co-host four gatherings under the umbrella heading of *Pathways to Reconciliation*.

On Saturday, October 2, over 75 attendees from both parishes assembled for the first gathering in Griffith's Hall



Medicines. PHOTO Simon Johnston

at the Church of the Holy Trinity. Fr. Wesley Hills offered an opening prayer calling for openness, understanding and unity. After this, a video documentary, *The Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts*, was shown. The video was created as part of the responses of the Anglican Church's Primate's Commission on discovery, reconciliation

and justice. The video provided education and insight into the racist foundations of our property laws and other laws still in existence today.

The 67-minute documentary was followed by a coffee break, after which Br. Billy offered smudging. He explained that smudging is an ancient purification ritual. It involves igniting a braid of dried herbs to generate a curl of smoke. The smoke is dry washed over the head, arms, and chest to renew and cleanse the body, mind and spirit. All attendees were invited to process and participate.

Following this rite, Kerry Baisley facilitated a plenary session that encouraged feedback and dialogue about the video. Everyone was eager to participate, and the discussion could have continued well after the appointed time for adjournment. Of the many positive comments, the most often repeated was that the documentary contained surprising facts that should be part of the school curriculum. And participants said they were eager to watch the documentary again and to share it with others.

The next gathering will be on February 5 from 1:30pm–4:30pm at the Parish of St. Mark, Ocean Park. Author Lynda Gray will be reading and discussing her book, *First Nations 101: Tons of stuff you need to know about First Nations people*. ✦

To watch the documentary, *The Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts* go online to <https://www.anglican.ca/primateltfc/drj/doctrineofdiscovery>



The Rev. Sue Foley Currie speaking during the plenary session. PHOTO Brian Shieh



Group discussions. PHOTO Simon Johnston



The Rev. Billy Isenor (Brother Billy) smudging. PHOTO Simon Johnston