



IN THIS ISSUE



Climate Emergency Grants Ready Now!

PAGES 2 – 3



Welcome Aahanna-Rose!

PAGE 14



Diocesan Refugee Unit News

PAGE 8



Prague — The fresco of Jesus in Gethsemane garden in church kostel Svatého Václava by S. G. Rudl, end of 19th century. IMAGE sedmak (iStock ID#1296359018)



A cross in the ruins of Corcomroe Abbey in County Clare, Ireland. PHOTO Shawn Williams (iStock ID#1330198713)

Bishop Stephen's 2022 Easter Message

*Early on the first day of the week,
while it was still dark,
Mary Magdalene came to the tomb
and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.*

That first Easter morning, according to the gospel of John, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb in the darkness of pre-dawn. Expecting to find only darkness and the grip of death, she discovered much more. She discovered what it meant to encounter the God of new life and the resurrection of Christ. She discovered that with God all things are possible. And ever since, people have recognized this same presence of the risen Christ, coming to them in the darkness and when the grip of death seems to have won out.

For many years, anticipating the sunrise on an Easter morning, pilgrims would gather in the dark at the ruins of Corcomroe Abbey in county Clare on the west coast of Ireland. They would come from all over to arrive in time to wait in the pitch black, hoping to witness new light coming once again to replace the darkness, the emptiness,

the hollowness. New light as a sign of new life.

A bonfire would be lit. A renewal of Baptism was made. Holy water was splashed freely and liberally before the Eucharist was shared in the light of the new day, in the dawn of forgiveness, grace and resurrection. In this abandoned abbey, long forgotten and ignored, the story of Mary Magdalene coming to the tomb was remembered and held as central to our own purpose in life.

John O'Donohue would often speak at this gathering and on April 15, 1992, this is part of what he said:

"On this Easter morning, let us look again at the lives we have been so generously given and let us let fall away the useless baggage that we carry—old pains, old habits, old ways of seeing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Climate Response Grants

NOW AVAILABLE!

ALECIA GREENFIELD

Vicar of Holy Cross, Vancouver; Special Projects Facilitator, Mission & Ministry, diocese of New Westminster

BRUCE POND

Creation Care Coordinator, St. Hilda's, Sechelt

Faithfully responding to the climate emergency turned urgent this year with record-breaking heat domes and highway busting, flood-producing winter storms. The diocese of New Westminster is offering \$1,000 grants for parishes to begin responding to the Climate Emergency. To apply please see the link at the end of the article; all of the information pieces and necessary forms are downloadable from that link.

The Climate Committee will read your application and confirm that the project responds to Climate Emergency. We will then reply with a couple of suggestions to make your project successful or authorize \$1,000 to be sent to you within the month.

A final report of pictures and a short story about what you did is requested to share the project ideas and insights throughout the diocese.

To help get parishes started, we share a tale of two communities.

St Hilda's, Sechelt by Bruce Pond

Last summer, the drought prompted the Sunshine Coast Regional District to impose the highest level of water use restriction for 41 days, the longest in the district's history. All outdoor use of tap water was prohibited, affecting gardens, ponds, pools, hot tubs, vehicles, and boats. As Michael Starr put it, we at St. Hilda's in Sechelt were faced with "watching our rhododendrons slowly die." A heroic bucket brigade of volunteers managed to save most shrubs, but hot, dry summers are now normal in Sechelt, and clearly this was no long-term solution. After exploring alternatives, Michael settled on a rainwater storage system as the most feasible and effective answer. Discussions with the rector, wardens, Bruce Pond (recently appointed Creation Care Coordinator), and Christine Pawley merged the rainwater project with other ideas on developing a much broader Green Parish Action Plan for St. Hilda's.

The new rainwater system consists of a 9,000 litre (2,500 gallon) storage tank, piping to convey water from the roof of the parish hall to the tank, and plumbing connections to outside faucets for watering and indoor toilet tanks for flushing. Ambitious? Yes, and St. Hilda's was the fortunate benefactor of a bequest directed at the grounds and gardens. We also had diocesan support through the Climate Response Grant program. We were guinea pigs for the granting forms and process, but the application was not onerous, and the grant decision was made quickly, in our favour!

Saving a relatively small amount of treated municipal water is a step on a path to climate change adaptation. The new infrastructure will make our grounds more drought tolerant, and we hope to share the rainwater with neighbouring gardens. Moreover, it is a model for water use that we expect will engage our parish and community in wider-ranging discussions about climate change, the climate emergency and what collective and individual actions we can take. A side benefit, one perhaps with a bigger payoff, is that the rainwater project has served as catalyst for moving ahead with our larger Green Parish Action Plan. The plan encompasses diverse fields of action including spirituality, education, and advocacy, as well as use of energy, water, land, and investments. We brought a motion to our Annual Vestry meeting asking for parish support for the direction we propose. More to come on that in the near future.



St. Hilda's parishioner, Michael Starr with the rainwater tank. PHOTO Bruce Pond



CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 The Rev. Greenfield looking out the window that will be replaced. PHOTO Submitted

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



Published eight times a year as a section of the *Anglican Journal* by the Bishop and Synod of the diocese of New Westminster.

Editor Randy Murray
rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca

Designer Jennifer Ewing, BDes

Issue This is the 3rd issue in the 53rd year of publication

Deadline For Submissions
April 22 for the summer issue

Subscriptions

Please subscribe online at
www.anglicanjournal.com/newssubscription/

Address changes in writing to

Topic c/o Anglican Journal,
80 Hayden Street, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 3G2

Printed & Mailed By

Webnews Printing Inc., North York, Ontario

Circulation

1,895

The Anglican Church & The Anglican Communion

A global community of 80 million Anglicans in 64,000 congregations in 165 countries.

Website For the latest news and events go to
www.vancouver.anglican.ca

The Anglican Church of Canada

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

The diocese of New Westminster

The Anglican Church in the Lower Mainland, 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.



The Bishop of New Westminster

The Right Reverend John Stephens

Address Diocese of New Westminster

1410 Nanton Avenue,
Vancouver, BC V6H 2E2

Phone 604.684.6306

Contributors & Helpers for this issue

Melissa Adams, Jer Nii K'an Kwsdins (Jerry Adams), Wayne Chose, Philip Cochrane, Douglas Fenton, Tellison Glover, Alecia Greenfield, Jane Hope, Margaret Marquardt, Shannon Muir, Lauren Odile Pinkney, Bruce Pond, Pamela Proctor, Clergy & Lay Leaders of St. Paul's, Vancouver, Stephen Rowe, Bishop John Stephens, Dave Walker, and Paul Woehrl

Thank you!

Bishop Stephen's 2022 Easter Message

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

and feeling—and let us have the courage to begin again. Life is very short, and we are no sooner here than it is time to depart again, and we should use to the full the time that we still have.

We don't realise all the good we can do. A kind encouraging word, or a helping hand can bring many a person through dark valleys in their lives. We weren't put here to make money or to acquire status or reputation. We were sent here to search for the light of Easter in our hearts and when we find it, we are meant to give it away generously.

The dawn that is rising this Easter morning is a gift to our hearts and we are meant to celebrate it and to carry away from this holy, ancient place the gifts of healing and light and the courage of a new beginning.

Long ago, Mary Magdalene discovered the empty tomb. She thought she was going to a cemetery filled with the finality of death. Instead, she found new life, new grace, new hope. We too know this at Easter. May we know the new beginning that Mary found so long ago, the new beginning that John O'Donohue spoke about, a new beginning where God is inviting us to be resurrection people, people centred on an empty tomb that is somehow filled with everything that we have been searching for our entire lives. A place where we come to know that God blesses us, loves us, walks with us, and invites us to live into that life Jesus lived, died, and rose again to reveal to us.

After encountering the risen Jesus at the tomb, Mary later returned to the disciples and said, "I have seen the Lord." May we too know that empty tomb and those words of Mary so that they transform our lives and living.

Perhaps even more so this year, after more than two years of living in a pandemic, our hearts, souls, minds, and lips may want to shout and live into the word "Alleluia!"
Happy Easter! ✠



County Clare, Ireland: Corcomroe Abbey ruins (St. Mary of the Fertile Rock), cistercian monastery located near Bellharbour in Glennamannagh and Ballyvaughan villages in the valley of Barony of Burren. PHOTO PhotoFires (iStock ID#1179841000)

Climate Response Grants NOW AVAILABLE!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Holy Cross, Vancouver by Alecia Greenfield

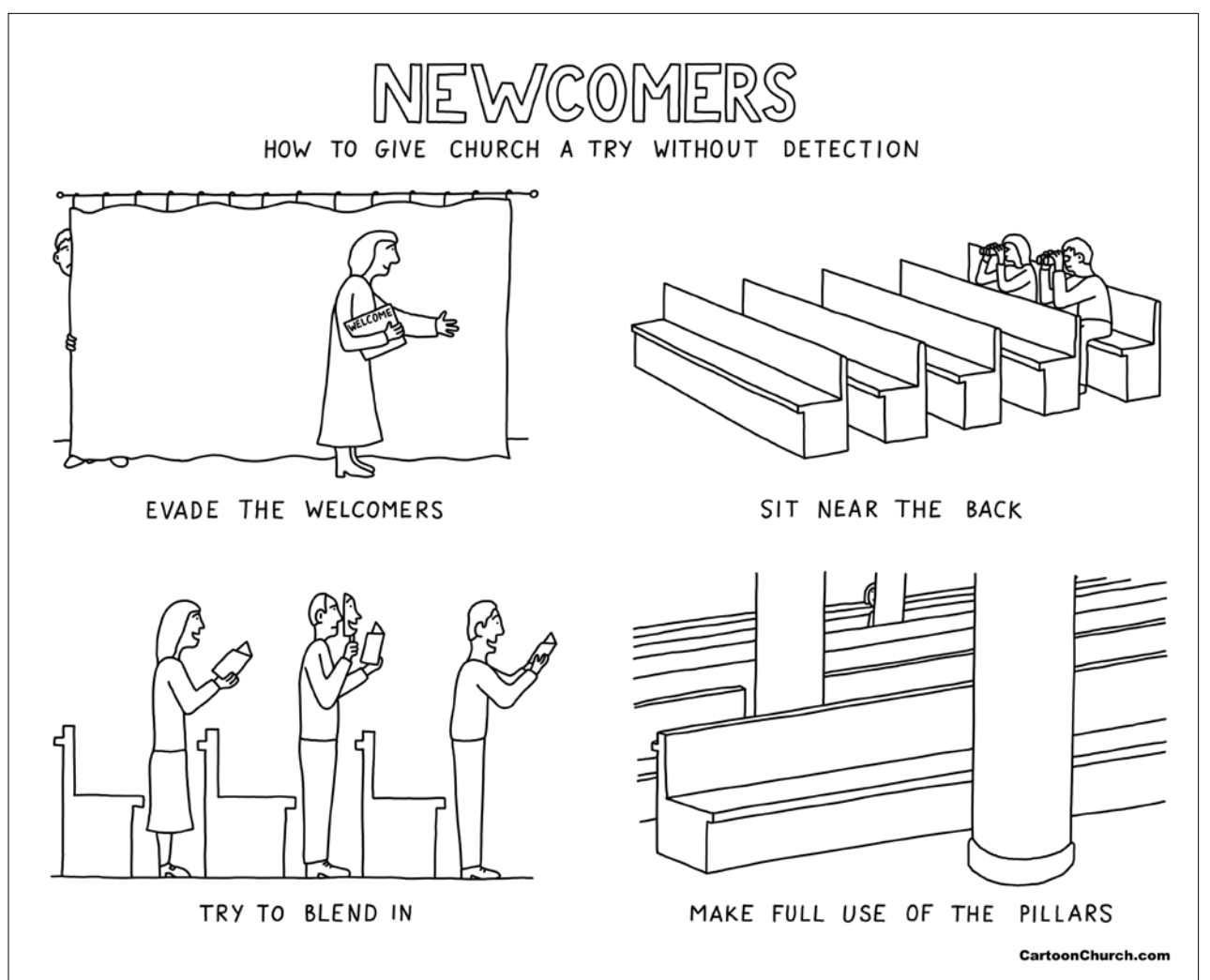
Holy Cross Japanese Canadian Anglican Church in Vancouver is my parish (Rev. Alecia Greenfield chair of the Diocese Climate Emergency Implementation Group). Holy Cross does not have a Creation Care Coordinator and does not have a call specifically to environmental ministry at this time. Holy Cross has an effective and enthusiastic mission to address racism and raise awareness, especially of anti-Asian discrimination. I notice that people who can devalue other people by race may also dismiss the life value of other living beings in Creation. Being in right relationship with God is to work to be in right relationship with all people and all Creation. This anti-racism mission is a vital ministry. I am aware that climate justice is a social justice emergency.

Back to the Climate Emergency Response Grant. Holy Cross will apply to replace one single-paned and broken window. This change will immediately reduce our climate emissions (tiny change but still true). This small *doable* will also be discussed in parish council and in worship with an invitation to all members to consider what changes in their lives might reduce climate emissions. We will also watch and learn from what other parishes are doing this year and then next year take at least one more step towards climate justice.

Other projects may include replacing an old gas-burning furnace with a heat pump (St. Steven's, West Vancouver). Alternatively, consider replacing a grass lawn that needs weed kill, fertilizer, and watering (all of which require energy emissions to collect, produce or deliver). Native plants might encourage the parish to be in relationship with the plants and insects of this place. Educational programs, bringing in speakers, for example, on climate and finance and investments would be options. Or inviting Salal + Cedar into your parish to reimagine how your parish worships in Creation. Finally, if there is a project that fits your

parish's unique ministry, gifts or, like St. Hilda's adaptation requirements. We (the Climate Emergency Implementation Group) would love to hear how your parish will engage in the work of responding to the climate emergency in your (easy and short) grant application. ✠

To apply for a Climate Response Grant please access this page on the diocesan website: <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-resources/grants-loans/pages/climate-emergency-grants>, all of the information pieces and necessary forms are downloadable there.



DEADLINE FOR TOPIC SUBMISSIONS
April 22 for the summer issue



Bishop John explains the symbolic meaning of the mitre.

A Squamish Homecoming Episcopal Visit to St. John the Divine, Squamish

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On a rainy Sunday morning, January 30, 2022, the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, Bishop John Stephens visited his Parish of St. John the Divine, Squamish. St. John the Divine is located in the Garibaldi Highlands neighbourhood about five kilometres north of the Squamish townsite on the Sea to Sky highway. For those of you interested in “things regional” it’s about halfway between Squamish and Brackendale, home of Brackendale Eagles Provincial Park one of the most beautiful vistas in the diocese of New Westminster.

An episcopal visit is always something that is looked forward to by Bishop John and by the parish, however, this one was of note as St. John’s was the first parish in our diocese where the-then Rev. John Stephens served as rector. He was inducted by the Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham, December 5, 1995, and remained until his appointment as Rector of St. Philip, Dunbar in 2001. During his time in Squamish, Bishop John and spouse Ruth welcomed their two children. The current church building with a somewhat modest exterior and a chronically “troubled” roof boasts a visually striking interior that architecturally echoes its geographical location and the presence of the Divine. It was built by the parish during the bishop’s incumbency to accommodate the growth and development that took place during those years.

St. John’s current rector, the Rev. Cameron Gutjahr was inducted by the Most Rev. Melissa Skelton on July 23, 2019, less than two months after being ordained to the priesthood. The two clergy have a lot in common, both were raised in the Anglican Church on Vancouver’s westside, both did undergraduate science degrees at the University of BC (UBC) and both spent time in Ontario during their early formation; Bishop John’s first incumbency as Priest-in-Charge of a three point parish in the diocese of Huron in the southwest region of the province and the Rev. Gutjahr studied and graduated from Huron University in London, Ontario. Both have a passion for social and climate justice

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



LEFT The Rev. Cameron Gutjahr and the Rt. Rev. John Stephens discuss the liturgy prior to the procession. RIGHT Erica Northcott was reader, cantor, psalmist, and soloist.



The St. John’s community in the sanctuary during the Prayers of the People.



Bishop John explains the concept of Epiphany forgiveness prayers and messages.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

and a deep love for the Anglican Church.

The liturgy was livestreamed via YouTube and there was a good contingent of worshippers in the sanctuary; couples and families in proximity, and those attending on their own maintaining the prescribed physical distance. All were masked except when speaking or leading the music in worship.

Bishop John was preacher and celebrant. And yes, there were some children present at the Eucharist. Two youngsters joined the bishop on the chancel steps for the “Children’s Talk” as he explained the symbolism behind the mitre and crozier. In an offertory plate he had numerous pieces of blue paper and spoke to the children and to the congregation about the Holy Spirit guiding us to pray for people, even people that we have trouble liking. He asked people in the congregation and the children to think of people they find hard to like, to represent them on the pieces of paper which Bishop John had prayed over and hold them up in prayer.

Keeping with this Epiphany practice, the parish’s Honorary Assistant, Canon Donald Lawton announced that he had prepared wrapped confectionary items each one containing a scriptural quote which could serve as a guide for the coming year for the recipient. Canon Lawton distributed these after worship and prior to the informal Q&A session when members of the parish were encouraged to engage and, in some cases, reconnect with Bishop John.

In his sermon, the bishop spoke about his time in Squamish that began 26 years prior, an endorsement of their rector and a look at the Epistle, *1 Corinthians 13:1-13*, the Gospel, *Luke 4:21-30* through examples of the life of Roman Catholic activist, Dorothy Day and the Trappist Monk, Thomas Keating.

The parish welcomed a new musician, pianist AJ McCalla who accompanied the hymns and offered a prelude and postlude. The Rev. Gutjahr’s mother, Erica Northcott served as reader, cantor, psalmist, and soloist augmenting the worship with her beautiful soprano voice. The intercessor was Rita Carey and musician Carol Grolman led the communion hymn, with vocal support of Erica Northcott. Carol played guitar during the hymn and then accompanied Erica on the piano during a solo offering.



The rector proclaims the Gospel, *Luke 4:21-30*.



Bishop John preaching.



Intercessor, Rita Carey.



Greeting folks after worship.

In the opening paragraph of his homily Bishop John shared his feelings about returning to St. John’s:

“I have so many wonderful memories of this building, this parish community, and this town of Squamish. Both of my children were born while we lived here, and this continues to feel a part of my home. I am grateful for the ministry that has

continued to take place since I left here in 2001, it is hard to believe it was that long ago.” ✠

Bishop John Stephens’ sermon is available online in video, audio, and text on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2022-01-30-a-more-expansive-grace-of-god>

The Vancouver School of Theology Appoints Chancellor

Catherine Evans began her role at the Vancouver School of Theology on February 1, 2022

The Vancouver School of Theology (VST) is pleased to announce the appointment of Catherine Evans as its new Chancellor, effective February 1, 2022. Catherine will be officially welcomed into the Chancellor's role at VST's annual Convocation, scheduled for May 10, 2022.

Catherine Evans brings a wide range of experience in public service roles to her appointment. She was elected a Park Board Commissioner in Vancouver from 2014 to 2018; was chair of the Vancouver Public Library from 2011 to 2014 and has held a variety of policy and management roles in the governments of both British Columbia and Ontario.

Catherine has contributed her skills and knowledge to the private sector as well—as a lawyer, a consultant, and as co-owner of Ethos Strategy Group—a communications and public relations firm based in Vancouver.

Catherine received her bachelor's degree in political

science from Dalhousie University, a Master of Divinity from Emmanuel College at the Toronto School of Theology, and a Bachelor of Law (LLB) from Osgoode Hall Law School. She completed additional graduate studies in dispute resolution at the Harvard Program on Negotiation, and coursework in conflict resolution at the Justice Institute of BC. She is a recipient of the Queen's Diamond

PHOTO Submitted



Jubilee Medal.

Catherine has a long history of voluntary board service including the BC Society of Landscape Architects, BC Society for Public Education, Vancouver Public Library and Library Foundation, Canadian Women Voter Congress, Westcoast LEAF, and Homes First Society among others. She attends Pacific Spirit United Church where she is an active member of the congregation.

Catherine Evans succeeds Iain Black who served as VST Chancellor since 2018. Iain Black is presently the CEO of Maximizer Software, and formerly served as President and CEO of the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade. Iain was also elected twice to the BC provincial legislature as an MLA, serving in three different economic cabinet posts. His vast experience in the technology and new economy sectors also served VST very well in its rise as a nationally and internationally regarded theological school. ✝

"I believe the first job of a Chancellor is to be the voice of students in the administration of post-secondary institutions. I can't imagine a better person to fill this mandate than Catherine. Her career is one of progressive leadership and community service. I'm thrilled she has agreed to join us at this exciting time in the life of VST."

Michael G. Francis, FCA, Chair of the Board

"I am delighted at the appointment of Catherine Evans as Chancellor of VST. Her record of public service, leadership experience, and her theological education will be splendid gifts to VST, where we prepare thoughtful, engaged, and generous Christian leaders."

Richard Topping, President & Vice-Chancellor

St. Paul's Advocacy Office Closure



"Following intense sessions of discussion and discernment, the clergy and lay leadership of the church reached the decision that the current Advocacy Office model is unsustainable. However, through new partnerships and the renewal and revitalization there comes new beginnings, St. Paul's commitment to compassionate service to the community continues and will remain a mission and ministry priority."

Drina Read, Warden & Trustee

The leadership of the Anglican Parish of St. Paul's, Vancouver have decided to discontinue its Advocacy program which has served thousands in the West End community for the past 25 years. This difficult decision was arrived at

through consultation with experts in the field and with the full support of the Parish Council.

In early 2021, the Parish Leadership began to review and refocus the priorities of the parish and its programs to

better respond to their changing context. Around the same time, long-term Director of the Advocacy Office, Ellen Silvergieter, indicated that she planned to retire in 2022.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

"It has been one of the great privileges of my life to serve the West End community and beyond through the Advocacy Office at St. Paul's Anglican Church. Although the Advocacy Office is closing, and I will retire from my employment in the spring of 2022, I am excited to see what the next chapter of service to the neighbourhood will look like at St. Paul's. My thanks to all for the support and commitment that I and the Advocacy Office have received over the past 25 years."

Ellen Silvergieter, Director

"The decision to close the Advocacy Office was not arrived at easily. For a good portion of recent years, the parish devoted staff and volunteer resources to the evaluation of its current function, and to taking a hard look at what the Advocacy Office's future might look like."

David Facey-Crowther, Warden & Trustee

Diocesan Consolidated Trust Fund Displays Robust Growth in 2021

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On Wednesday, January 26, 2021, at 6:30pm, the Consolidated Trust Fund (CTF) Annual Information Meeting convened on Zoom. Up until the first year of COVID-19, 2020, this event took place on the first Saturday of December with all attendees and presenters meeting in-person at a West Vancouver parish. For many years, St. Stephens' meeting room was the venue and in 2019, St. Christopher's hosted the event. In January of 2021, the first online version of the session took place via Zoom as meeting online was certainly the default during that time. The previous in-person meetings usually drew about 20 people, consisting primarily of parish treasurers and priests-in-charge of parishes with investment holdings in the CTF and the treasurers of diocesan organizations: Anglican Church Women and the Mission to Seafarers to name two. The first online meeting had 48 in attendance (60 including diocesan staff and diocesan lay volunteers) and the 2022 meeting looking back at the year 2021 had 80 registered with 53 in attendance (59 including diocesan staff and diocesan lay volunteers). Regardless of pandemic situations, this meeting works best online. Holding the session nearly two months later than what had been the norm is beneficial as it allows for a more detailed presentation and a more complete assessment of the preceding year as well as providing more up-to-date predictions of where the markets are going in the near future.

As he did last year, Graeme Baker, the diocesan investment portfolio manager from Phillips, Hager & North (PH&N), led the session on his own, which consisted of a short presentation and Q&A. The presentation was accompanied by a PowerPoint created from the information report document which is available for downloading here: tinyurl.com/4cx3xrm

Questions were encouraged through the Zoom "chat" function which worked very well. The information session was organized by diocesan Director of Finance, Shailene Caparas and diocesan Treasurer, Bob Hardy, ODNW.

As of September 2021, the CTF had done very well and continued to do well through the fall and winter of 2021/2022, although there were some minor fluctuations. The figures that were shared at the 2020 report in January of 2021 were impressive as during the volatility in the bond markets, PH&N sold bonds and focused on equity buying, particularly the global equity markets which performed at 30%. This part of the portfolio was largely responsible for the overall success of the diocesan and parish investments as of January 2021, valued at 88 million (diocese, 52 million; parishes, 36 million) a 14% increase over 2019 (which was also a very good year). Graeme Baker and the investment team have continued with a similar strategy and the report from PH&N for the period ending September 30, 2021, showed an 11.7% increase in equity funds with the CTF now over \$100 million of diocesan and parish investments. By January 26, 2022, the numbers had increased to 102,300,000 total which breaks down to 57,700,000 for diocesan holdings and 44,600,000 parish holdings. Although inflation is a concern it is predicted that a return of 6%–8% will continue. Bob Hardy was quick to add that he never budgets for more than a 3% increase in order to prepare for market volatility. As this piece is being prepared for publication in *Topic* during the last days of February the world markets are responding to the Russian invasion of Ukraine so the PH&N market predictions will be subject to changes.

The report consisted of the usual look at the different markets, bonds and equities that make up the portfolio, and PH&N's adherence to ethical investing using Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) on behalf of all their clients, not just the diocese of New Westminster. There continues to be more focus on newer pieces in the portfolio, specifically the real estate fund that invests in corporate, industrial, and multi-family real estate properties across Canada, and mortgages. During the pandemic there were some problems with occupancy in office buildings and some challenges around clients maintaining mortgage payments, however, Graeme said that of those who made interest-only payments during the difficult times, only one had not caught up on their principal payments as of the end of 2021. PH&N does not underwrite mortgages for single family homes.

Investing in the diverse Canadian market, *Aritzia* and *Shopify* continues to do well, however, technology companies on the whole have performed poorly.

The CTF has investments in green energy stocks like *Ørsted* the Danish green energy company and *Neste* the largest global producers of renewable diesel fuel, but they did not perform as well as in 2019 and 2020. The diocesan



Cartoon shared by Graeme Baker at the beginning of the information session on January 26, 2022. CARTOON David Sipress (www.cartoonstock.com)

CTF portfolio holds no gas and petroleum investments. PH&N remains committed to fully integrated Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investing. Here is an excerpt from the September 30, 2021 official report to the diocese:

"All investment teams assess material and climate-related risks and opportunities in their investment processes. The investment teams' evaluations of investee companies' climate risks and opportunities consider a number of factors. For example, the issuer's business model, industry, and location can factor into the impact of climate change on a company."

In order to assist the investment teams with their climate-related investment decision making, the Corporate Governance and Responsible investment team run quarterly climate dashboards. The dashboards provide detailed analysis of metrics and factors that may be used in investment decision making."

Looking to the future as of the end of January 2022, a month before the invasion of Ukraine, the information presentation shared negative and positive themes:

Negative

- Omicron variant creates a huge COVID-19 wave
- Countries now locking down
- High inflation persists
- Supply chains problems
- BC floods slow Canadian economy
- US fiscal effort fizzles
- Downgraded and below-consensus growth forecast

Positive

- Omicron variant is less deadly
- Vaccination surge
- Supply chain problems improving
- Economic recovery should continue
- Still significant pent-up demand
- Inflation in the realm of peaking

Regarding investments and financial planning, the diocese of New Westminster continues to be well-served by lay and clergy leadership, diocesan staff and the skilled and dedicated folks at PH&N led by portfolio manager, Graeme Baker. ✦

Graeme Baker's PowerPoint created from the information report document is available for downloading at tinyurl.com/4cx3xrm

St. Paul's Advocacy Office Closure

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

It made sense therefore, to conduct an external evaluation of the Advocacy Office to review the current operation and talk with previous and existing volunteers, staff, parishioners, and clients. In addition, the evaluation identified the current needs and opportunities in the West End locality. The parish also secured a grant towards this purpose. This provided a great opportunity to reflect on the past, present and future with a wide range of people and organizations.

Taking all this together, it was decided that the Advocacy program be discontinued. While this program is coming to an end, the parish's commitment to investing in local neighbourhoods to address needs will continue, just in different ways.

The parish is grateful to the staff and the many who volunteered past and present—thousands of lives have been made better as a result. The parish intends to celebrate these things while also wanting to mark the end of this era.

Background Information

The Anglican Parish of St. Paul's has been a part of the West End (1130 Jervis Street) since 1898 and is committed to its principal purpose of welcoming ALL to seek spiritual growth through public worship, prayer, education, outreach to the community and beyond and to being a place of compassion and hope. People of all faiths and no faith are welcomed. LGBTQ2S+ people and their families have a home here. The parish seeks to be justice orientated, to work towards dismantling racism and bigotry through generous, compassionate love and to confront its colonial past, striving to walk with Indigenous people toward Reconciliation. ✦

For more information contact:

The Rev. Philip Cochrane,
Rector of the Parish of St. Paul's, Vancouver
Email rector@stpaulsanglican.bc.ca
Phone 604.416.2731

David Facey-Crowther,
Rector's Warden of the Parish of St. Paul's, Vancouver
Email zg7006@telus.net
Phone 604.616.5393

Diocesan Refugee Unit News

SHANNON MUIR, ODNW

Diocesan Refugee Unit, Chair; Parishioner, St. Agnes', Grand Boulevard

Great Expectations

Fulfilled at St. Francis-in-the-Wood!

In October of 2021, while most of us were continuing to update our COVID boosters and figure out how to follow mandates, The Parish of St. Francis-in-the-Wood, Caulfeild welcomed a family of refugees as well! Nasri and her three young daughters arrived at YVR to the delight of her small welcoming party.

Nasri and her daughters joined family members who had previously made their way to Canada, and they are now safe in an apartment in Surrey. The two older girls are going to school, and everyone is learning a new way of life in a new chilly country!

Nasri and her daughters have had many years of struggle. They are originally from Somalia but lived for many years in refugee camps. Nasri's husband was killed because he worked against a terrorist group. Nasri suffered attacks and her two young girls were injured by an explosive device delivered to them in the guise of a gift. They are now receiving ongoing support for their injuries.

Nasri's family has taken charge of their settlement in Surrey, near the rest of the family, but the team at St. Francis-in-the-Wood has provided furniture for their home and is providing the funds required for them to survive their first year in Canada. A huge thank you to the parish's Social



Nasri and the girls. ALL PHOTOS Submitted

Outreach committee for all their ongoing work to raise funds, and to Ann Frost who spearheaded the sponsorship, but subsequently stepped down for medical reasons.

Well done St. Francis and welcome to Nasri and her girls!

Happy News for a Newcomer Sponsored by the North Vancouver Regional Ecumenical Support Team (REST)

Bukhari arrived in Canada in September of 2016, and on Friday, January 28, 2022, he became a Canadian citizen! Bukhari is originally from Somalia and spent many years in a refugee camp before arriving. Bukhari is a determined young man who is visually impaired and working hard to make a good life for himself in Canada. After arriving, he worked very hard to: improve his English, learn to read and write in braille, learn to use a white cane, use transit, and use a computer. In June, Bukhari received an award from Vancouver Community College in recognition of his enthusiasm, full participation, and leadership skills within the program. Bukhari is always well-dressed and has a wonderful sense of humour.

Congratulations Bukhari! You are a shining star and a wonderful Canadian. ✨



Bukhari, Canadian Citizen.



Bukhari with representatives of the North Vancouver Regional Ecumenical Support Team (REST).

All are encouraged to submit letters, articles, reports on parish activities, opinion pieces, photos, and more for consideration to be published in Topic

DEADLINE FOR TOPIC SUBMISSIONS
April 22 for the summer issue

Please email Randy Murray at rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca
All contributions are appreciated
• EDITOR •

Diocesan Refugees Sponsorship Waiting List FULL for 2022

No new applications are being accepted at this time

SHAKUNTALA SODEN
Diocesan Refugee Unit,
Coordinator

JIBRIL MOHAMED
Diocesan Refugee Unit,
Assistant Coordinator

SHANNON MUIR, ODNW
Diocesan Refugee Unit,
Chair; Parishioner, St. Agnes', North Vancouver

The diocesan waiting lists for refugee applications are FULL for this year, including regular applications and Afghani applications. Therefore, we will not be accepting any applications at this time. We will accept applications for 2023 beginning in September of 2022.

We suggest you contact other Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs) to check their availability. You may search for other SAHs by visiting the URL posted at the end of this article.

IMPORTANT

Sponsoring parishes cannot send money through their parish accounts to people who are in process and expect a tax receipt. If someone wants to send money to someone outside of Canada, it must be done from their own Wells Fargo account. No tax receipts. It compromises the parishes Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) charitable status. ✨

We will consider all other Expressions of Interest for 2023 from September 1, 2022 onwards.

Please contact the Diocesan Refugee Unit (DRU) through refugee@vancouver.anglican.ca

Find Sponsorship Agreement Holders online at <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/help-outside-canada/private-sponsorship-program/agreement-holders/holders-list.html>

IN MEMORIAM



Betty Stebbing, ODNW. PHOTO Submitted

Betty Stebbing, ODNW

September 6, 1930 – January 15, 2022

Betty was born in Glenboig, Scotland, a small village in Lanarkshire.

Betty was athletic and enjoyed running, cycling, hiking and climbed *Ben McDui*, Scotland's second highest mountain (4,296 feet). From a young age, Betty was involved in the church, which was a focal point of the community.

In 1947, her family left Scotland (her father had died), to come to Kamloops, where they lived with relatives in a big house on a sheep ranch. When she entered Grade 12 at Kamloops Secondary, Betty was teased incessantly about her Scottish accent, and she worked hard to lose it. While at school, her classmate Dorothy introduced Betty to her brother Don.

Betty married Don in 1950. Elaine, Gordon, Dianne, and Karen were born in Kamloops, and in 1957 they moved to Vancouver. As a committed parishioner at St. Thomas, Collingwood, Betty volunteered in Brownies, Guides, Cubs, and Scouts. She was a member of the Anglican Church Women (ACW) and president for two years, was a member of Parish Council, chaired various committees and was a Lay Delegate to Synod. Betty started a Prayer Chain, was a lay administrator, reader, and intercessor. She was a Bible Study leader for many years.

At the diocesan level Betty served on the Board of ACW and spoke in parishes on hospice and hospital visiting. She was on the Board of Directors of St. Jude's Anglican

Home for nine years; chairing various committees; and was president of the board for two years.

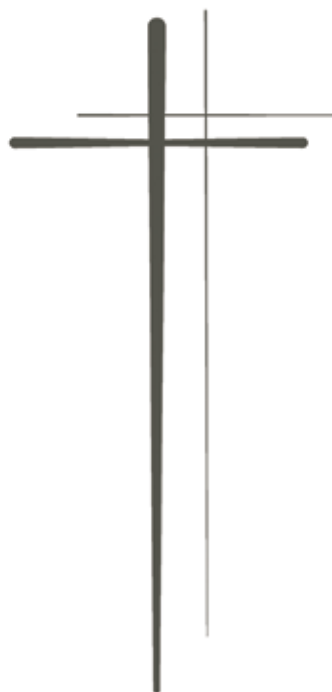
Betty completed the Clinical Pastoral Education course in 1993 and became a Chaplain at Surrey Memorial Hospital.

In the late 1960s, Betty was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. She had surgeries in Vancouver and at the Mayo Clinic. The prayer support and meals provided by friends and people of St. Thomas meant so much to Betty and the whole family.

Betty and Don moved to Surrey in 1992 and became involved at the Church of the Epiphany. Betty helped found the Healing Ministry, and was an intercessor, the co-coordinator of the Pastoral Care team, and participant and Bible study leader for many years. Throughout her life, Betty remained a strong advocate for lay participation in the church.

In November of 2009, Betty was the first recipient from Epiphany to receive the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster.

Betty and Don celebrated 71 years of marriage in April 2021. Don was truly the love of her life. Don died just 15 weeks before Betty, and we know they are together again as they were always meant to be. Betty was so grateful for all the love and support she and Don received. ✠



The Reverend Walter George Bayley, Priest

August 30, 1933 – February 20, 2022

The Rev. Bayley died on Sunday, February 20, 2022.

He was predeceased by his wife, Mae (Morrison) in 2021, and is survived by daughter Carolyn, his son John (Nadine) and grandson Ryan.

Walter was born in England and came to Canada in 1948. Prior to the priesthood he worked as a salesperson, labourer, apprentice field boilermaker, trainer of cadets in the Canadian Army, and as a civil servant (prison guard and in the land registry office).

Returning to school in 1964, Walter began theological studies in 1966, and graduated in 1969 from the Anglican Theological College with a Diploma in Theology. He was ordained to the diaconate on June 1, 1969, and to the priesthood by Coadjutor Bishop David Somerville on May 20, 1970, for the Bishop of Cariboo. He served his curacy at St Paul, Vancouver from 1968 to 1971.

Returning to the diocese of Cariboo, Walter served the Central Cariboo Mission in Williams Lake from 1971 to 1973 — this was a joint Anglican-United Church mission

to the rural communities surrounding Williams Lake. From 1973 to 1976, he was the priest at St. John the Divine, Quesnel. During his time in the diocese of Cariboo he was Regional Dean for the Cariboo region, Clerical Secretary of the diocese, Camp Chairperson, Camp Registrar, and a member of the Executive Committee and also of the Bishop's Council.

Walter's canonical residence was transferred to the diocese of New Westminster in January 1977, when he became the incumbent at St. Michael, Vancouver. He was an assistant or supply priest at St. Martin, North Vancouver, St. Richard, North Vancouver, and was Honorary Assistant, St. Alban, Richmond. Here in the diocese of New Westminster Walter served on the Matrimonial Commission and as Regional Dean of the Vancouver Central Deanery.

A Memorial Service was held on Sunday, March 13, 2022 at St. Alban, Richmond. ✠



Shirley Cook, ODNW. PHOTO Submitted

Shirley Cook, ODNW

May 16, 1928 – February 10, 2022

Shirley Cook was born in Victoria, BC. She was small in stature but huge in personality and determination.

She worked for a Victoria Radio Station and much later as a personnel secretary at *Woodward's* in Mayfair and Guildford. She was president of the Parent Teacher's Association in both Victoria and Guildford.

Life was not always smooth for Shirley, but she never allowed that to stand in her way or prevent her faith from coming to the fore. She lived her life in dedication to God, her family and friends, and the Church.

Shirley was one of the founding members of the Church of the Epiphany and one of the parishioners who formed working parties every Saturday to build the church in 1970.

Shirley was at all services and events, was a long-time member of the Altar Guild, and a driver for Sunday School events. She was a mentor to a Journey to Adult young person, writing letters to each other over a period of weeks. She was passionate about all aspects of church life and never shy to express and speak about her faith.

On Sunday, November 7, 2010, Shirley was invested into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster as the 'Epiphany' parish nominee. Here is the Citation:

Shirley has been and is a leader in the parish and the community. She has been a major supporter of families facing ALS. Even 14 years after her husband succumbed to ALS, she continues to provide significant support for families facing this terrible disease.

Shirley was part of a large family who loved her and for whom she always found time. She was one of those people who had boundless energy and walked several kilometres a day into her 80s.

Her second husband, Art, suffered from ALS. As is described in the ODNW citation Shirley became a passionate and enthusiastic advocate. She was secretary for that organization out of the Vancouver office, which included organizing a sponsored annual golf tournament; hosting a local group through the Church of the Epiphany; and speaking to various groups about the disease that took Art's life.

As a long-time member of the Bible Study group, it was Shirley who suggested the group meet in her residence at Fleetwood Villa. Residents and non-residents came together weekly, with Shirley handing out the readings list to residents in advance. In the last two years, she attended COVID Bible Study on Zoom, and each and every Sunday Shirley attended the Epiphany service by phone.

The last few weeks of her life, Shirley's health deteriorated but she knew her life was coming to a close and she was ready to go. We do not learn our faith from others, but people point the way and Shirley certainly made very clear where the path led, to God, to Jesus Christ, her Saviour and ours.

Shirley leaves behind a large family, and a son, the Rev. Ted Eden, a retired Anglican priest. ✠



PHOTO FEATURE

*Valentine's Day 2022,
31st Annual Women's*

On Monday, February 14, 2022, thousands gathered during the morning at the intersection of Main and East Hastings Streets on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES) for the 31st Annual Women's Memorial March, remembering missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Many thanks to Jer Nii K'an Kwsdins (Jerry Adams) and daughter, Melissa Adams for sending these photos in to diocesan communications for publication in *Topic*.

There were some remarkable events during the 2022 march including the toppling, covering with red paint and removal of the statue of John Deighton, AKA "Gassy Jack." The existence of the statue of the 19th Century businessman who married a 12-year-old Indigenous girl has long been an open wound for many and its imminent removal by those participating in the march was not completely unexpected.

There were roses distributed and red dresses displayed along with Eagle feathers and smoking sage for healing.

A small soar of Eagles (three or four) was present around the cross situated on the roof of St. James' Anglican Church watching over the march and removal of the statue. ✦





Memorial March





View of the chancel during the Territorial Acknowledgement. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray

A Family Place

Episcopal Visit to All Saints, South Burnaby

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Looking at a parish as an extended family is a safe metaphor, and that comparison is often made when talking or writing about “church.” Some parishes have more of a family feeling than others and All Saints, South Burnaby is certainly one of those that does. All Saints was a church plant, an offspring of St. John’s, Burnaby located a few kilometres away near Central Park. In 1912, the new parish began worshipping in its first building on Gilley Avenue and eventually ended up in the current location which began as home to United Church congregations in the 1920s. Over the past few decades generations of Anglicans have called this place on Royal Oak with the large windows that illuminate the cinderblock walls and the bright wooden fixtures home.

Bishop John’s visit to All Saints on Sunday, February 13, Epiphany VI was the fourth episcopal visit to the parish in the last ten years, including Bishop Michael Ingham’s visit to the parish for the centennial celebrations the first weekend of November in 2012. Archbishop Skelton visited in 2016 and again to install the current vicar, the Rev. Justin



Warden, Mildred Johnson has developed considerable skills as a MEVO operator for the Facebook livestream.

Cheng, February 27, 2017.

In the opening paragraph of his homily on February 13, Bishop John said:

“It is great to be with you here at All Saints, Burnaby. It’s been a long time since I have been in this church. It is a beautiful building. Thank you to all of you for your work in ministry over many years, but for these last two years of living in a pandemic. This has been such a difficult time for all of us trying to live out our faith but not able to be in community in the ways that we would like to. I am so grateful as well to your vicar, Justin, for the work that he has done in this pandemic period. For the work of pivoting and shifting and rethinking things on a regular basis. I am also very grateful for all his work and involvement in the diocese beyond this parish, and your willingness to share him beyond this parish. I am grateful as well for the ministries of Leah and Gordon (the two parish deacons, Reverends Skuro and Barrett) which extend far beyond the four walls of this church. All of this is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



The group shot, outside, unmasked, marking the bishop’s visit: Chris Rychert, Heather Duff, Bishop John, the Reverends Justin Cheng and Leah Skuro.



Deacon of the Word and Table, the Rev. Leah Skuro proclaims the Gospel, Luke 6:17-26.



Parish musician, Chris Rychert at the grand piano station.



Shannon Douglas and Nellie Porkert, ODNW sing *Nearer My God to Thee* following the homily and prior to the Creed.



Practicing physical distancing during the peace.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

much appreciated and important. Thank you to all of you, it is good to be with you."

The 10am Celebration of the Eucharist took place on a bright, sunny morning. The liturgy was broadcast on the parish's Facebook page via MEVO livestream with warden, Mildred Johnson staffing the iPad and calling the shots. Music in worship was led by Chris Rychert who is a fine keyboard player. He has two "stations" in the sanctuary, a grand piano station augmented with two digital keyboards located on the south side of the nave in front of the chancel and an organ station also augmented with two digital keyboards located in front of the chancel wall also on the south side of the building. The use of the bell sounds and string sounds along with the acoustic sounds of the piano and organ were extremely effective. At the 8am service, Captain (retired) the Rev. Gordon Barrett was the deacon and at the 10am the Deacon of the Word and Table was the Rev. Leah Skuro. Heather Duff was Bishop's Chaplain, husband Ray Duff, ODNW sang in the choir with sopranos, Shannon Douglas and Nellie Porkert, ODNW and baritone, Andy Schreck, ODNW who also supervised the onsite sound, which was very good. Wendy Jenkinson read the Old Testament, *Jeremiah 17:5-10* and the Epistle, *1 Corinthians 15:12-20*.

In these difficult times alluded to in the opening words of Bishop John's homily the parish family has been guided and supported by its ordained leader, the Rev. Justin Cheng. ✠



"The gifts of God or the people of God."



Andy Schreck, ODNW and Ray Duff, ODNW lead the singing of *Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God*.

Bishop Stephen's homily is available in video, audio, and text online at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2022-02-13-what-are-the-lives-that-we-want-to-get-back-to>



Holy Communion.



Episcopal Blessing.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Welcome Aahana-Rose Glover

Congratulations to Karen and Tellison and a BIG WELCOME to Aahana-Rose Glover who joined us here on February 5, 2022.

Aahana-Rose is the first child born to the Rev. Tellison Glover, Director for Mission and Ministry, diocese of New Westminster and his spouse Karen. The new arrival was 6lbs, 14oz and both baby and mother are healthy and doing well.

Thanks be to God for a safe delivery. ✝

ALL PHOTOS Tellison Glover



Dying Some Fish Skins

Saturday, February 12, 2022, dried, cleaned, salmon skins now dyed “marigold” hang in the February sun at 1410 Nanton Avenue in Shaughnessy. Diocesan Missioner for Indigenous Justice, Kerry Baisley (on right) is guiding the Hearts of Care Wheel project with lots of help from folks around the diocese. Kerry and the team are being led by Jenny Chang who is expert at this particular

craft. (I’ve sent Kerry an email will let you know). By the time the skins were ready to hang, participants from Christ Church Cathedral and the granddaughter of a Synod staff member were still present onsite and agreed to pose for a photo. There will be more coverage of this project to come through all the diocesan communications vehicles including future issues of *Topic*. ✝



PHOTO Randy Murray

Provincial Council Meeting Report

SUBMISSION Jane Hope

Provincial Council of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon met on February 5 via Zoom for the first time since the Provincial Synod. Council dedicated intentional time to reflection and relationship building as we embarked on our work together.

The business of the meeting was also focused on transition.

- Long-time treasurer Vera Morgan stepped down.
- A new working group was struck to assess the provincial canons, and of course.
- A new budget was approved.

Council also heard from the Social Eco Justice Working Group, which is organizing a series of pilgrimages for the Season of Creation this September. ✝

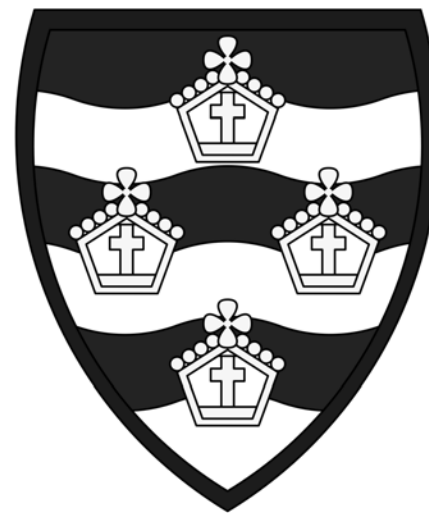


IMAGE Provincial Crest

Coffee Time Gifts for the Pastor

SUBMISSION Paul Woehrle

In mid-February, thanks to lower case counts, more people returned to worship! Here Michael and Nancy Schorath came bearing gifts!

During “coffee time” they, along with young Maximus, present the Rev. Paul Woehrle, Rector of St. Cuthbert, Delta,

with a t-shirt and mug. The caption on the mug is:

“This Pastor has an awesome Church.”

It is true! I have the privilege of serving an amazing community. Praise God! ✝



PHOTO Submitted

AROUND THE DIOCESE

St. John's, Squamish Provides Refuge for Fire Victims

On Family Day, Monday, February 21, the Tantalus Mall in the Garibaldi Highlands neighbourhood five kilometres north of the Squamish townsite suffered a devastating fire. The Tantalus Mall housed a popular restaurant, some retail space, and apartments. Eight people were displaced by the fire.

The Parish of St. John the Divine is located just metres away from the mall. In the second photo, if you look to the right you will see a silver car in the St. John's lot and the green wooden entrance covering of

the church's west door.

In a February 22 article in the Squamish publication, *The Squamish Chief* one of the victims told reporter, Stephen Chua that she and others took shelter at St. John's. Rector of St. John's, the Rev. Cameron Gutjahr was interviewed and quoted in the article. Here is an excerpt:

"Rev. Cameron Gutjahr, the church's priest, said no one stayed overnight, but up to about 30 people were sheltering at the church until midnight."

Gutjahr said there was an outpouring of help from the community.

First responders checked in with people, and the Red Cross has been handling shelter placements for those who lost their homes.

Gutjahr said Essence of India provided dinner and Hector's Your Independent Grocer also gave food. Some concerned residents were dropping off coffee, blankets, and clothes.

He added that it was necessary to provide shelter due to the cold weather and gusting winds.

'It was really beautiful to see the community of Squamish caring for each other in the immediate aftermath, and I really hope that that will continue,' said Gutjahr.

'It was really intense. And it's still so recent. So, it will take a while, I think, for us to, you know, wrap our heads around it, and they'll need a lot of help.'

He added that it's important for people to listen to the displaced residents' needs and act accordingly." ✠



The Tantalus Mall as it looked on February 23. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray



A view of the street with the St. John's parking lot visible on the right.

Fair Trade Chocolate Guide

SUBMISSION Margaret Marquardt

The Rev. Margaret Marquardt, Chair of the diocesan Eco-Justice Unit and a Member-at-large of the diocesan Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) Unit requests that folks in the diocese and beyond consider purchasing Fair Trade chocolate products.

Here is the opening paragraph from the World Vision Fair Trade Chocolate Guide:

"Fair trade chocolate is produced under ethical standards and priced to give farmers and labourers a living and sustainable wage. Unlike regular chocolate, fair trade chocolate is certified to ensure that it was grown without child or forced labour. Extreme poverty drives parents to give their own children to unethical farmers as labourers to help support the family. To keep costs low, these children work in slave-like conditions, deprived of their right to nutritious food, education, safe workplaces, and their childhood. These days, fair trade chocolate can be easily found all over Canada and online. You can help stop the exploitation of children and their families by shopping from these ethical chocolate producers instead."

Preferred brands include Divine, Alter Eco, Belvas, Bark Thins, Camino, Delight, Concept Chocolat, Cote D'or and there are many more. ✠

For more information about fair trade chocolate please go online to <https://www.worldvision.ca/no-child-for-sale/resources/fair-trade-chocolate-guide>



PHOTO World Vision website

Clergy News Around the Diocese

Bishop John Stephens appointed the Rev. Jonathan Pinkney as Temporary Priest-in-Charge of St. Christopher, West Vancouver effective February 1, 2022, while their rector, the Rev. Karen Urquhart, is on extended medical leave. Jonathan concluded his current appointment as Assistant Curate at Christ Church Cathedral on January 31, 2022.

The Rev. Karl Przywala, Rector of Holy Trinity, Vancouver has accepted the appointment to the Parish of St. Andrew, South

Brisbane (diocese of Brisbane) in the Anglican Church of Australia. Bishop Stephens has accepted his resignation from Holy Trinity, Vancouver effective April 30, 2022.

The Rev. Christine Rowe has resigned her position as Assistant to the Rector (part-time) at St. Mary, Kerrisdale. In making way for her successor, the Rev. Rowe has resigned her appointment as Regional Dean of Point Grey effective March 31. She will continue as Assistant to the Rector at St. Mary, Kerrisdale until May 31, 2022. ✠



The Rev. Christine Rowe.
PHOTO Wayne Chose



The Rev. Jonathan Pinkney.
PHOTO Lauren Odile Pinkney



The Rev. Karl Przywala.
PHOTO Randy Murray



View from the balcony of the nave and chancel during the Eucharist. PHOTOS Randy Murray except where noted

Salt & Light & St. David's Day Episcopal Visit to Tsawwassen

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Sunday, February 27, 2022, the Rt. Rev. John Stephens visited his southernmost parish, the Parish of St. David, Delta, located in the southwestern Vancouver suburb of Tsawwassen. This was a particularly noteworthy visitation for several reasons. St. David's had been the scene of the first Celebration of a New Ministry of Bishop Stephens's episcopacy, the rector, the Rev. Simbarashe Basvi was inducted by the bishop on August 3, 2021, the first such liturgy of 12 that took place over the following nine weeks. The bishop's office had organized this run of liturgies to make up for time lost during *Covidtide*. The Eucharist celebrated at St. David's on February 27 was the Eighth Sunday after Epiphany in memory of David, Bishop of Menevia, Wales. David is the patron saint of the parish. St. David's Day is March 1, so the prayers and readings were transferred. This was also the one-year anniversary of Bishop Stephens's installation as the 10th Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster. On Sunday, February 28, 2021, he was installed and seated in his cathedra at Christ Church Cathedral with approximately 12 people present.



Bishop John rehearses the liturgy with the sanctuary party.

COVID-19 restrictions were firmly in place during that time. The official start date of Bishop Stephens's episcopacy is March 1, 2021. During this visitation, Bishop Stephens blessed the congregation with asperges, the sprinkling

of Holy Water from cedar branches for the first time as bishop, and following the liturgy, the first parish luncheon of Bishop Stephens's episcopacy as days earlier parishes had been given permission to resume after worship coffee hours and fellowship meals, still respecting several protocols, but certainly with much more freedom to gather than in the previous two years. The menu reflected the day with a generous supply of leek and potato soup and Welsh Cakes.

The service was not livestreamed nor was it available online through community gathering software such as Zoom. There was a good-sized congregation present as the photos included with this article will show. Members of the choir under the leadership of Director of Music Ministries, Sara Cianciar gathered early to rehearse repertoire with which they would lead the music in worship and as is common during an episcopal visit, members of the sanctuary party rehearsed components of the liturgy prior to the processional.

In his sermon, Bishop Stephens took the Epistle, 1
CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



Norman Wong reads the Old Testament, *Exodus 34:29-35* in Cantonese.



Mebbo Basvi shares the Epistle, *1 Thessalonians 2:9-12* in the Shona language.



View of the bishop preaching from the nave.



Members of the choir gathered at the chancel entrance, masked and physically distanced sing *Calon Lan*.



Bishop John preaching.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Thessalonians 2:9-12; Gospel, *Matthew 5:13-16*; and St. David's Day as the underpinnings for the sermon.

Early in his sermon he shared some research he had done about the saint:

"It is said that David only lived on leeks and water. I am not sure if this is the diet that all of you continue to consume to this day, but it seems a little thin on variety. He is known to have performed several miracles. One of those took place when he was preaching. On that day, it is said, when some in the crowd complained they could not hear him, the ground on which he stood rose up to form a hill, and suddenly all could hear, or at least they could see him more easily."

But the foundation of the sermon focused on the Gospel passage:

"In today's gospel passage we heard a small portion of the Sermon on the Mount as found in the gospel of St. Matthew. They come not long after Jesus has preached these well-known words to the crowds: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.' Those last words really strike home even now as we contemplate the invasion of Ukraine and the ongoing realization that peace in this world is fragile and seems to disappear quickly. We need more peacemakers who recognize that this is hard work and part of the invitation to be children of God. All of the words

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



Bishop John blesses the water in the font in anticipation of asperges.



Loading up the cedar for asperges. PHOTO Cliff Caprani



Sprinkling the congregation. PHOTO Cliff Caprani



Blessing the congregation.



Bishop John commissions the newly appointed lay leaders of the parish.



Eucharistic Prayer.

Salt & Light & St. David's Day Bishop John Stephens's Episcopal Visit to Tsawwassen

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

of the beatitudes should stop us in our tracks as they did for the crowds of long ago. And they should lead us to the words that we heard just a moment ago, which are a continuation of the beatitudes: 'You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world.'

And you know I think that Jesus meant these words. All these words. They were not mere window-dressing, for he meant for us to hear them, know them and be grounded in them. I think that he wanted us to live into being the salt and the light that this world craves; that reveals who God sees as blessed, that reveal our calling to be children of God. For God's list of who are the blessed in this world is very different than the faces of the rich and famous on this planet. God turns upside down what we seem to think is right side up."

The Church of Wales has made large contributions to hymnody and that was celebrated through the hymn and anthem choices. Following the sermon, the choir moved to the front of the nave, the chancel entrance and sang the well-known hymn, *Calon Lan* which is Welsh for "A Pure



Director of Music Ministries, Sara Ciantar at the piano.

Heart." As Holy Communion concluded the choir sang *Day is Done, but Love Unfailing*, probably the best known of Welsh hymns.

Following the post-homily anthem, Bishop John led the congregation in the renewal of baptismal vows. The renewal of baptismal vows was followed by the Commissioning of Lay Ministries in the Church, the intercession led by Ngaire Meadows, the Peace, the Offertory (with a collection plate processed to the altar in advance of the Prayer Over the Gifts), the Eucharist, Closing Prayers, Closing Hymn and the Dismissal from Deacon of the Word and Table, the Rev. Brynn Craffey.

Suffice it to say, that most of the congregation stayed for the luncheon and they were very happy to spend some time together in community, it was almost like the old times of 2019. ✠

Bishop John Stephens sermon can be viewed online at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2022-02-27-salt-and-light-st-david-s-day-in-tsawwassen>



LEFT Deacon of the Word and Table, the Rev. Brynn Craffey prepares the table during the Offertory, *Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise*. MIDDLE The Eucharist. RIGHT Tenor, baritone, basses, and director of music during the singing of *Day is Done, but Love Unfailing*.



The Episcopal Blessing.



Bishop John greets Elizabeth Murray, ODNW and others after worship.



The outside, unmasked, vested, archival episcopal visit photo: (left to right) Bishop's Chaplain and chorister, Jocelyne Walter; Crucifer, Sandy Simpson; Deacon, the Rev. Brynn Craffey; Bishop John; and Rector, the Rev. Simbarashe Basvi.

OPINION

The Friday We Dare to Call Good

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

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

Those who wrote the four gospels did so because they were convinced that the three fleeting years of the public ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, the relationships people experienced with him, the manner of his death followed by their assured sense of his living presence among them, would have a bearing on what it means to live a human life in any age or culture.

Through their pages we see the network of human responses to Jesus, and what those responses reveal about all who took part in those events. We see the fragile faith and the pathetic efforts of that first tiny community. In them we recognize the incomprehension and uncertainty that sometimes dogs our own efforts at faith.

We see the struggle of men like Peter to retain their integrity in the face of dilemmas that have no perfect answer. Should one lie to keep one's freedom and thus be able to continue the work? To this day countless men and women have had to make the same choice in the struggle to survive in political regimes and corporate structures.

We see the agony of men and women as they seek to retain their faith in the face of crippling sorrow and loss. We see the struggle of men like Pilate and Caiaphas to survive the complex and unbending rules of structures which demand above all else the carrying out of official policy.

We see this extraordinary figure, the butt of cruel jokes, the focus of brutal violence, the victim of an unimaginably cruel death. In any human sense he is totally alone, yet he remains serene and controlled in the face of that which disintegrates the faith, courage and resolve of all around him. He displays an utter trust that is far more than the numbness of trauma or resignation. That trust and serenity, breaking for a moment in the scream "God, why have you forsaken me" then recovered in the self surrender of "It is finished... I commend my spirit," has ever since haunted the human imagination.

To witness all this is to witness tragedy, the utter tragedy that life can sometimes be. However, as we move through this season, we can discover new horizons within ourselves. To look at the Cross, to know that this is no unwilling prisoner dragged to execution but rather a king offering himself to win a kingdom, is to catch a glimpse of our own humanity as it can become when open to the ultimate love and ineffable life of God.

When we realize such things, not merely intellectually but spiritually, we who witness a long-ago crucifixion find that we have encountered in our own experience nothing less than a personal resurrection. That is why we dare to call this Friday "Good." ✦



PHOTO Romolo Tavani (iStock ID#655853056)

Watching, Waiting, Being Patient

PAMELA PROCTOR

St. Bart's, Gibsons

For many years restless legs have kept me awake at night. As a distraction, I often listen to a radio I keep under my pillow.

One night I heard James Nestor talking about his book called *Breath*. I was interested because I lead *qigong* exercises which emphasize breathing. At one point I heard the author say that someone had cured themselves of scoliosis using breath. Since I had also experienced muscle spasms in my back and I had friends with scoliosis, I decided to buy the book.

Not long after, my doctor called me

.....
Breath
 The New Science of a Lost Art
 PUBLISHER Riverhead Books (May 26, 2020)

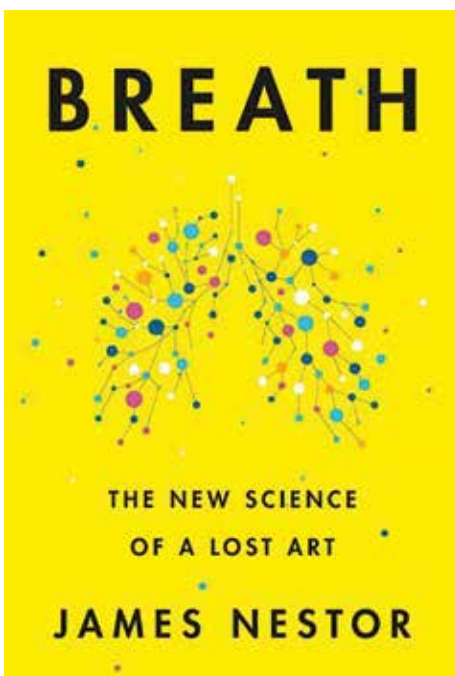
in for an appointment (she was trying to reconnect with her patients.) After she examined me, she said that I have *kyphos scoliosis*. When I got home, I referred to my book and found reference to an amazing story of Katherina Schroth, a teacher in Germany who in the 1800s cured herself of scoliosis and over the next several years with the support of her daughter and husband helped many people. Those in the medical profession were doubtful, but Schroth was finally recognized. Her methods were adopted and are now used in clinics throughout the world.

I decided to find a clinic. My doctor, who had also bought the book, referred me to one in Vancouver. I have now attended several sessions and learned some exercises,

which quite literally involve breathing and stretching. I know that it will take some effort on my part, but I am hoping to prevent further curvature of my spine and improve my posture.

I have to laugh. God has such a good sense of humor. I realize that now I have to be thankful for my restless legs. I always appreciate God's gentle loving suggestions—nudges, which I have experienced from various sources since I was diagnosed with *multiple sclerosis* (MS) 60 years ago. It was then that I learned to be aware, to listen and to wait for God. I have been rewarded for my patience over and over.

This time God seemed to be waiting for me and I just need to obey. I feel very well cared for, indeed. ✦



Say Yes! to Kids 2022

Growing a brighter future, today

The Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC) is stepping up its commitment to young people across Canada with an even more ambitious plan to fund ministry and outreach to children, youth, and young adults this year.

At its November meeting, the AFC Board approved a campaign plan for *Say Yes! to Kids 2022*, setting a \$500,000 goal and introducing an innovative partnership model of fundraising. “Our hope is that this campaign will be both empowering and energizing,” says Dr. Scott Brubacher, Executive Director, “enabling our churches to harness the power of peer-to-peer (P2P) fundraising to grow sustainable revenue streams for youth programs, while connecting them with other churches across Canada, as well as diocesan and national ministries, that are growing a brighter future for young people, today.”

Brubacher says that the 2021 campaign and Request for Proposals (RFPs) — where 79 projects received a total

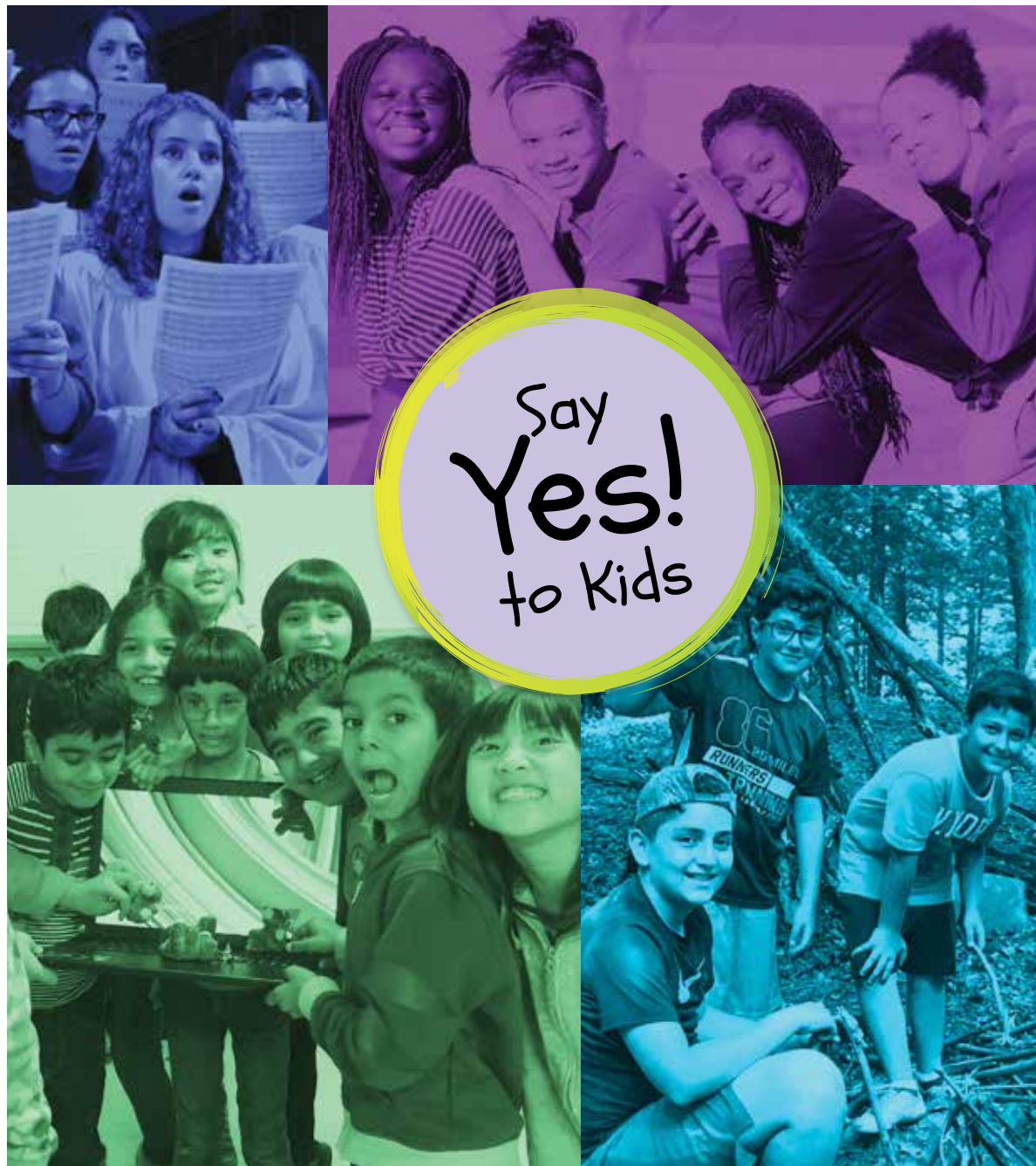
of \$470,000 in funding — was a valuable learning experience for AFC. “Grant recipients demonstrated a stunning combination of compassion and creative thinking. They also showed us the depth of relationships that exist between churches and their communities.” Brubacher says *Say Yes! to Kids* will help to provide the resources needed to strengthen these connections and partnerships so the church can “continue to be a catalyst for re-engaging with children and families in a time of pandemic recovery.”

The Very Rev. Peter Wall, AFC’s Gift Consultant, is excited about this campaign’s potential to attract leadership gifts. “There was, and is, a real appetite among donors to support a community-based movement for youth. We believe a national campaign that is strong in its numbers and coordinated in its approach can connect money to mission in a truly transformational way.”

Michelle Hauser, AFC’s Development and Communi-

cations Consultant says, “Any Anglican parish in Canada with a vision for outreach to young people is eligible to apply to form a fundraising team and campaign alongside like-minded parishes nationwide from April 1 to June 30.” Hauser says teams will be able to set their own fundraising goals, and they will receive support with communications, case development, and training from AFC throughout the campaign. “Teams will also benefit from an AFC-led leadership giving campaign that will boost their efforts, including matching gifts.” ✦

.....
Those who wish to learn more about Say Yes! to Kids should visit anglicanfoundation.org/say-yes-to-kids to register for an upcoming webinar and download AFC’s campaign FAQs sheet. “I also encourage anyone who has questions to reach out to me directly,” says Hauser, who can be reached at mhauser@anglicanfoundation.org.



Say
Yes!
 to Kids

ANGLICAN
 FOUNDATION OF CANADA

Say Yes! to Kids is back, and better than ever!

Who is eligible

- Any Anglican parish in Canada with a vision for ministry and outreach to young people.

When

- Apply now and campaign alongside your peers nationwide from April 1 to June 30.

Why

- Raise the funds you need to bring your church’s vision for youth ministry to life.
- Reconnect with families in your community by raising awareness about your youth programs.

How much

- Each team establishes its own fundraising goal.
- Salaries, equipment costs, and capital improvements can be included in your case for support.

Help our church grow a brighter future for young people, today! Visit anglicanfoundation.org/say-yes-to-kids

All are encouraged to submit letters, articles, reports on parish activities, opinion pieces, photos, and more for consideration to be published in Topic

DEADLINE FOR TOPIC SUBMISSIONS
 April 22 for the summer issue

Please email Randy Murray at rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca
 All contributions are appreciated

• EDITOR •