



Welcome Brigitte Laweng as Member at Large

A little background of myself, at present I am a member of St. Michael's Multicultural Church in Vancouver since 2007. After a few years I was asked to join the Church Council as a Member at Large and recently a member of St. Michael's Trustees.

In 2011 our Woman's Group had formally organized the ACW of St. Michael's in which I am proud to be one of them.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be a member of the Board of the Diocese of New Westminster ACW, I look forward to learning new ropes and hope to be working with the group in supporting the success of the ACW's goals and objectives.

Congratulations and more power to all!



Welcome Dinali Fernando as Member at Large

St. John The Divine in Burnaby was the first church I attended when I immigrated to Canada and was a member of the Parish Council for a few years. After moving to New Westminster, I joined the Parish Council at Holy Trinity Cathedral. I was a member of the Altar Guild and also served as a Lay Administrator. I have been attending St. Cuthbert Anglican Church in North Delta since 2021.



Working to improve the lives of women,
children and communities since 1984.

Vancouver Council of Women

Our member, Alberta Rudolf, has been elected President. Alberta has served as the ACW Representative to the Vancouver Council of Women since 2019 and has moved through various positions – Senior's Rep, Speakers Convenor and Justice Convenor for the Provincial Council of Women. Congratulations Alberta, thank you for being a wonderful representative.

A Message From Your President

I would like to thank all of you that participated in our annual AGM. We had 50 members, and 7 guests attend. We were blessed to have such distinguished guests with us. It was wonderful to be thanked by our bishop John for the stewardship we carry out. I was particularly pleased that he reminded us that stewardship is more than money. It's the kind works you do that are acts of love and mercy. Our guest speaker, Scott Brubacher was also very complimentary of all the gifts we bestowed through the AFC. It's delightful to know that our stewardship has helped so many and will continue for many years to come. I believe that the fellowship shared with our Holy Eucharist Service and delicious lunch together made the day special.

Our business meeting was difficult this year. We were thrown into an awkward situation that divided many of us. We heard heartfelt comments and financial logic in discussion of our ACW Place lease increase and the resolutions being put forward. Board members could see by the close vote and comments that more information and discussion was necessary. The decision to table resolution # 1 until more information and discussion could be done was made.

Resolution #1: Authorization to purchase a facility with all costs at a maximum of \$1million and being less than 2000 sq. ft. in size. 26/48 YES 22/48 NO

Resolution #2: Authorization to enter into a lease agreement for the next several years with a \$75k annual gross cost. 31/51 Yes 20/51 No

The business meeting reconvened later in the day. A motion was put forward by Leslie Gaudette to vote on staying in the current location. This motion was also defeated with a narrow margin, stay 19/42 leave 23/42. Votes need to be respected even when close. The decision not to sign the 3-year lease was made. We have a 60-day notice to move agreement with the landlord. Currently, neither party has given notice. Our rent is paid to the end of July. The board is actively looking for a suitable warehouse to rent/lease. Please join us in prayer in locating a new ACW Place soon.

The board will work on gathering more information on the pros/cons of leasing and buying. We hope to have a committee work on this over the coming year. It could take a lot of time before we can prepare a package of information for members. I believe we will hold a separate business meeting for discussions before making the voting process available to all members. It may be 1 or several years before the resolution to purchase comes to vote again. For now, I need everyone to pray to the Lord to guide us where he leads. To give us faith and wisdom to do his will. Understandable, there is some sadness and concern amongst our membership. It is vital that we respect each other's feelings and opinions. We may not always agree with one another, but we can always love each other. Pray to the Holy Spirit, ask for help in following our new theme for 2023-2024, taken from Micah 6:8 What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

How does one walk humbly with God? Good question. But not easily answered. Why? Perhaps because it isn't easy to do. In today's world we are often told to "take pride in what you do," or "be proud of yourself". While this often helps us to make good choices or to be a "good person" it can also lead us into too much pride of oneself or of their peer group. I often find myself being proud of our ACW society and our accomplishments.

And yes, I sometimes grow a bit taller when acknowledged for wearing the president's hat. Thankfully, I remember that I am a servant of God. I wear a president's hat because that is where God has guided me, and not because of anything I have done. Our membership has done and continues to do wonderful things in God's service. Yes, I'm proud of you. But, more so, I'm thankful for the gifts of God working in you that made these things possible.



There is more to Micah 6:8
Act justly: Love thy neighbor as thyself.
Behave honorably,
Love mercy: Kindness, Compassion,
Forgiveness, Faithfulness

What has the Lord required of you?
What has the Lord required of me? Can
we live this life of kindness and love?
Yes, we can! With prayer and
thanksgiving, we can succeed. Can we
walk humbly with God? Yes, we can!
Yes, you already do.

Do we make mistakes, stumble, or fall. Yes, sometimes we do. Are we forgiven? Yes indeed. Does God love us with all our faults and weaknesses. Yes, very much! I pray that you will keep this message with you this summer and remember that you are loved and that you can also love. Spread kindness wherever you travel. Share God's love and mercy.

I'm so happy to welcome our new board members. It's wonderful to have our team growing. We definitely will be going strong into a promising future of ACW. The Lord does answer prayers and provides.

Please join me in welcoming: Members at large and appointed positions: Dinali Fernado, Brigitte Laweng, Judith Carling, Judy Nicolson, Val Hampton, memorial roll Ann Blue, Vera Morgan, memberships, Sylvia Enga, calendars, Beth Fortin, Social Action, News N Views.

Executive: Gail Revitt, PP, Social Action, News N Views, Alberta Rudolf, Secretary, Vancouver council of women, Mary McIntyre, Treasurer, Rev. Miranda Sutherland, Chaplain, Kelly Bowman, President.

You are always welcome to join the team as a member at large anytime. I also would like to invite you to take a temporary position as we try to form a team of committee members to look at the future of our ACW and the possibility of purchasing a warehouse. We need people that are willing to be open minded and willing to research ideas and prospects etc. Currently this committee is just an idea, I need you to make it real.

Please contact me at: acw.kelly@gmail.com to participate.

Kelly Bowman, President
Anglican Church Women
Diocese of New Westminster

News From Our Branches

ACW St. Johns, Port Moody

Our ACW presently meet monthly at 1 pm, with coffee and a treat to follow. We have 2 faithful ladies who assist at ACW Place on a regular basis. Kudos to them.

In 2023 we hosted a reception following the memorial service for one of our members.

And we held a Surprise birthday celebration for one of our members' 90th Birthday. We collected several layette items, which were blessed in a Sunday service and promptly delivered to ACW Place.

Our 'Postponed' Spring Tea was held on May 27, where pie & tea/coffee was served by willing parishioners. Friends, Family and Guests made for an enjoyable day.

We will wind up for the summer with a luncheon at a local restaurant.

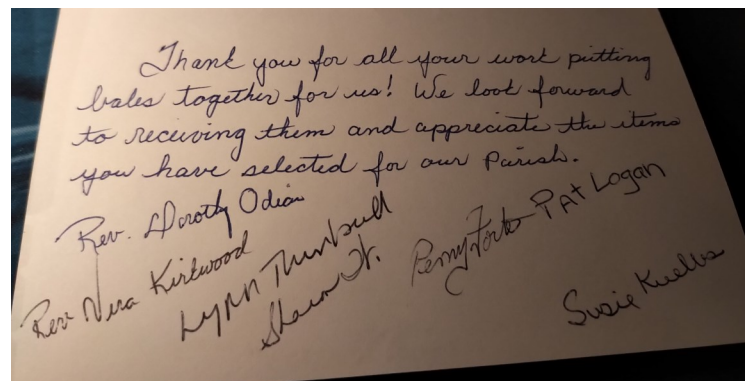
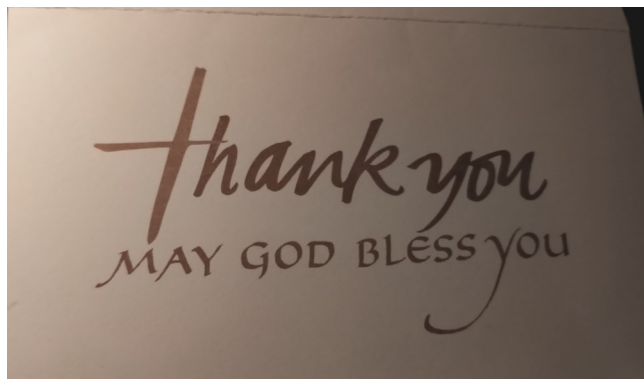
HAPPY, HEALTHY SUMMER TO ALL,

Alma Oldenburg,
ACW President

**COME AND JOIN US
AT OUR
ANNUAL STRAWBERRY TEA**
ST. HELEN'S SURREY
10787—128 STREET AND 108 AVNEUE
TICKETS: \$10.00
(STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE & BEVERAGE)
SATURDAY JUNE 24
1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM



Thank You From St. Martin's, Atlin



St George Fort Langley

Our group has had a busy start to the year. We welcomed Mandy Williams as our new Vice-President and Marion Moats as Treasurer to work together with ongoing President Leslie Gaudette and Secretary Ann Turner at our February AGM. With the resumption of our regular activities including a successful Christmas Bazaar and catering to at least six Memorial Teas (four in May alone), we have replenished our bank account and are able to continue supporting a number of charities. Other events supported were the Parish Spring Fair, where we provided refreshments from the kitchen and hosting a light breakfast for the Royal Party as part of the May Day celebrations in Fort Langley. Three members were able to attend the AGM held May 27 and so graciously hosted by St Thomas ACW in Vancouver.

We are gaining a better understanding of the impact of our Outreach donations in the community by working together with the Parish Outreach Committee. For our June meeting we will be visiting the new facility being managed by Langley Meals on Wheels in Aldergrove. We also kept St Andrew's Anglican Church in Langley in our prayers as they hosted an extreme weather shelter managed by the Lookout Society.

In March in keeping with the Diocesan priority on Homelessness and our increasing awareness of homelessness as an issue in the Langley's we co-hosted a lunch with Guest Speaker: Fraser Holland who is Program Manager, Langley Community Services Society. Thanks to Ann Turner for the following notes:

Fraser outlined his work in support of vulnerable individuals who find themselves homeless. Fraser's current role as Chair of the Langley Homelessness Steering Committee and Program Manager (Intensive Case Management Team) together with his former role as Director, Homelessness Services seeks to provide homelessness services to those without housing in Langley through Starting Point with specific focus on Creek Stone Place and Canada's Best Value Motel, Glover Road. BC Housing in partnership with Stepping Stone provides 49 units of Supportive Housing, together with access to additional support services. Creekstone Place, a 24/7 staffed, barrier free entry point, opened its doors almost 4 years ago and despite initial teething issues currently offers clients, (\$375 per month, inclusive of a cold breakfast and one hot meal, WIFI, heat and laundry facilities) the ability to stabilize following many "hard years on their bodies."



Hosting Fraser Holland with ACW member Bev Genge and the Ven. Kelly Duncan

Homelessness includes people sleeping rough, in shelters, vehicles, motels and inadequate housing. The lack of affordable housing is currently at a crisis level with an average of 9,300 individuals homeless each month in BC. Finding suitable and affordable housing is challenging for many, particularly those with mobility issues, and is reflective of a serious shortage of available housing units compared to need. As a result, many find themselves homeless as a result of eviction, medical/hospitalization and the rising costs of daily living. What is affordable for one person may be unaffordable for another. The oft misguided notion that "one size fits all" fails to recognize the cultural, intergenerational, mental health and complex needs of homelessness and the variety of service needs in Langley. Additionally, the complex nature of the work, reflected in the clients being serviced, may at times result in an inability to keep a shelter due to lack of staff.

Submitted by Leslie Gaudette
ACW President



May Queens for 2022 and 2023 in Ft Langley, Hall set up for breakfast.

Dear AWC members
Thanks so very much for the lovely,
colourful and cozy knee wraps
you donated to St. Jude's. We
have already started putting them
to good use and our seniors
appreciate them!
We appreciate you thinking of us
when you sought a home for them
Kindest Regards, Jill

We wish to express our
appreciation for contributing
to the enhancement of quality
living for the residents at
St. Jude's Anglican Home

President of the Board

ACW Place had an abundance of wonderfully made new prayer shawls and knee wraps that we were able to donate to St. Jude's Anglican Home, a residential care home in Vancouver.

VGH Chaplain's Report

Hospital Chaplaincy means being there for people in what is essentially a time of crisis. One patient in her early nineties recently looked me straight in the eye and said; "you know, being in the hospital can be frightening". It can certainly be disorienting, and anxiety-inducing. But, with spiritual care, it can also be life-changing.

This was very much the case for one patient, whom we will call "Tom" who asked for a visit because he was in a very tough place, physically, emotionally and spiritually. He was a long-distance trucker from Manitoba. As his rig toiled up a mountain pass in B.C. he suddenly began to feel unwell. He pulled over at the top of the hill and called 911; only to discover that there was no cell-tower coverage.

He lay down in the cab of his truck and waited for someone to come by and then sounded his horn. They stopped, flagged down another vehicle, which drove to the nearest place with coverage, and called for an ambulance. Tom was taken to the local hospital where it was determined that he had had a heart attack. They could not treat him there, so he was transferred to Vancouver General Hospital.

The cardiac team could not operate immediately because he needed to be stabilized; so he had time to think, the Holy Spirit had time to work, and he decided that he wanted to "get right with God". Can you imagine lying in a hospital bed, in a strange city, thousands of kilometers from home and family, needing a life-saving but high-risk surgery, and not feeling right with God?

That was his situation when I arrived at his bedside. I was able to answer his questions, share the Gospel and lead him to Christ, and baptize him. He had peace about the coming operation, and was able to let go of his natural deep-seated anxiety. During his recovery from the surgery he made peace by phone with some members of his family from whom he had been alienated for many years. His adult son eventually flew out to accompany his father home. I gave Tom three wooden Comfort Crosses from Jerusalem: one for himself; one for his wife; and one for his son.

Our VGH Anglican Team (myself, and our two very capable volunteers: Reverend Deacon Juanita Clark, and Kate Walker ODNW) provide spiritual support to patients, families and staff. We minister to folk from all over B.C. and the globe who arrive at VGH through a variety of different circumstances, but they all need one thing: a touch of God's grace and comfort. One patient told me: "I don't want you to say anything. I just want you to sit beside me and hold my hand".

Every patient is on a journey: to recovery; a major transition; or end of life. Our Anglican Team accompanies them and tries to lighten their load along the way. The ACW, through financial assistance, prayer, and encouragement, is a much valued and appreciated partner in our efforts to bring comfort to patients, families and staff; on their behalf, thanks to each and every one of you. We could not do this work without you.

If ever you or someone you know is in VGH please be sure to let the staff know that you are Anglican and that you would like a visit. We can be reached at Bryan.Rivers@vch.ca or (604-612-3641).

Blessings and peace,
The Reverend Bryan Rivers,
Anglican Chaplain, VGH



MORNING DEVOTIONAL PRAYER

Christ in my Mind that I may see what is True
Christ in my Mouth that I may speak with Wisdom
Christ in my Heart that I may act with Love
Christ in my Hands that I may work with Tenderness
Christ in my face that I may Shine with God.
Amen.

From Washington National Cathedral, Washington, DC.

Dear Diocesan ACW President,

Could I take 2 minutes of your time to alert you to something I think breaks the heart of God?

I'm talking about the plight of millions of destitute widows in our world, particularly in the countries of the Global South.

Yes, of course you know there are lots of widows there. Life is harsh in those countries and death all too often takes the breadwinner early.

But did you know that over 38 million widows – most with dependent children – are living in *extreme poverty*? That's more than the entire population of Canada!

And do you know of the incredibly dehumanizing, cruel traditions that are enacted on women when their husband dies?

Did you know that in most countries of Africa and of South East Asia a widow is considered a curse – because clearly she was the evil cause of her husband's death – and is therefore shunned by the community?

I could go on, but I asked for only two minutes of your time.

Would you do me a favour? Go to <https://empoweringwidows.com> and bookmark the page. Then come back to it when you have time to read the website... and take time to understand the reality of millions of women in our world today, for whom Christ died.

But this is not just about feeling Christian compassion for the "invisible and excluded". This is about understanding and getting in sync with the heart of God. I quote from the introduction to the Empowering Widows website:

My personal motivation for beginning this exploration was that, as I read the Hebrew Scriptures, I noted again and again God's profound concern for widows (and orphans). So much so that, in that long-ago era God included it as one of the "must do's" for anyone who strives to live a faithful and just life. God even punished whole nations who failed to care for the widows among them!

This directive occurred so often and with such urgency that I decided to find out what it's really like for widows in today's world. Maybe the Judeo/Christian God doesn't need to make it top priority in today's enlightened world. Instead, what I have learned has made me understand *why* God has such a heart for widows, and why God still expects us to translate His concern into concrete action, even in the 21st century.

On **June 23rd** the world acknowledges the existence of destitute widows on International Widows Day. Would you pray about how you might be able to use that day to bring their plight, and what God thinks of it, to the awareness of the members of your ACW chapters? On the Empowering Widows website there are a couple of Bible studies on God's heart for widows in both Old and New Testaments (<https://www.empoweringwidows.com/Widows-Old-Testament.html> and <https://www.empoweringwidows.com/Widows-New-Testament.html>). This is a good place to start.

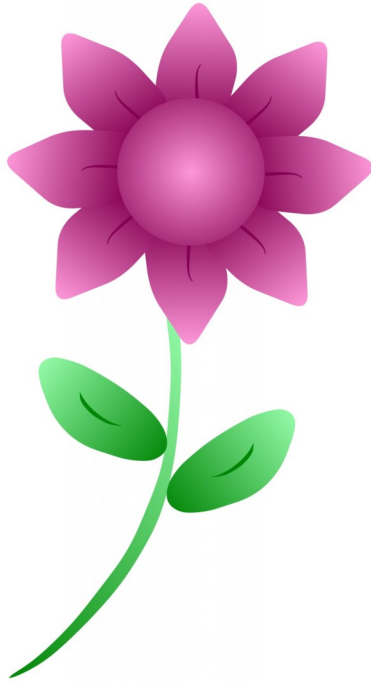
Thank you for giving me two minutes. I trust this will begin to open your heart to a huge concern on the heart of God. Please feel free to contact me if you need more information.

For destitute widows everywhere,

Pilla Semmerwille

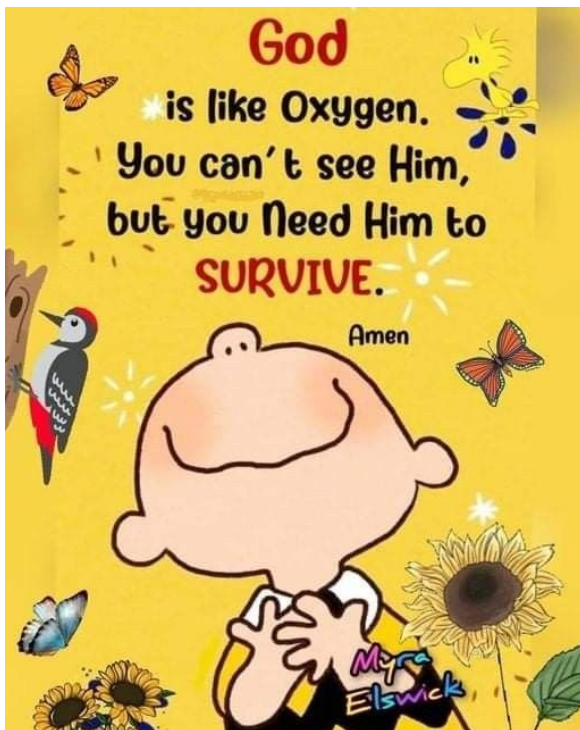
<https://empoweringwidows.com>
empowe63@empoweringwidows.com





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When my arms can't reach people close to my heart. I always hug them with my prayers.



2023 - 2024

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The News N Views is compiled together by Gail Revitt and Beth Fortin.