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Diocesan Chancellor, George Cadman, KC, ODNW, AAM lowers his head to receive the *Anglican Award of Merit* medallion and ribbon from the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls at his home parish of St. Agnes, North Vancouver, September 24, 2023. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT The Primate prepares to read the letter of congratulation and gratitude from the Rt. Rev. John Stephens, Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster.



RIGHT George smiles after receiving the Citation.



LEFT Following receipt of the medal and ribbon, George prepares to put his glasses back on. RIGHT As the congregation erupts in applause led by the Primate, George points to the one other recipient of the AAM in the diocese of New Westminster, Rob Dickson, AAM who was present at the Eucharist. Rob received the award at his home parish, St. Christopher's, West Vancouver from then-Primate, the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz in 2010.



To Live into the Promises We've Made

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On Thursday, September 21, the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada arrived in her former hometown of Vancouver in the diocese of New Westminster for the second time in 2023. The first time was in early April during a layover on her way to Prince Rupert and Terrace/Nass Valley in the diocese of Caledonia to preach and preside at Easter liturgies. On April 6, Archbishop Nicholls visited the Synod Office and spent some time with Bishop John Stephens and Synod staff.

This second time had a specific purpose and that was to award the Chancellor of the diocese of New Westminster, George Cadman, KC, ODNW, AAM the *Anglican Award of Merit* (AAM), the highest honour bestowed upon a lay person in the Anglican Church of Canada. The AAM recognizes and celebrates lay people for their service at the national and/or international level.

Although the resolution to create the AAM was approved by General Synod in 1967, it was not established until 1986. Through a comprehensive process, potential honourees are nominated by a person or by persons without the knowledge of the nominee and the nominations are directed to the General Secretary, in this case, Archdeacon Alan Perry. On March 4, 2023, at a meeting of the Council of General Synod (CoGS), the report of the Anglican Award of Merit Committee was announced by General Secretary, Alan Perry who confirmed the following individuals as the 2023 recipients:

- Canon (Lay) Donna R. Bomberry
- George E.H. Cadman, KC, ODNW
- Elizabeth Hutchinson
- Dion C. Lewis

George Cadman is only the fourth person from our diocese to receive this honour and the first since Rob Dickson, AAM received the medal and ribbon from then-primate, the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz at his parish church, St. Christopher, West Vancouver in September of 2010. The other two recipients are the late Garth Walker, AAM, ODNW (October 7, 1914–September 19, 2012) and the late Cynthia Llewellyn, AAM, ODNW (August 28, 1920–December 4, 2016).

George who has served our diocese as Chancellor (the chief legal officer) since 1988, has also been involved in the life of the national church, contributing his valuable knowledge on the law and the Church at national chancellor's gatherings, through his work with the national church and his leadership in the ongoing work of reconciliation with Japanese-Canadian Anglicans and much more.

The tradition is that each recipient of the AAM is honoured by the Primate during a Sunday Eucharist following that year's summer General Synod at their home parish. In this case, St. Agnes, North Vancouver on the morning of September 24.

Prior to the Sunday morning liturgy, on Friday, September 22, Archbishop Nicholls preached and presided at a Eucharist followed by time in conversation with the Anglican students and faculty at the Vancouver School of Theology (VST). On Saturday, September 23, she with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



The confirmand, Brianna with the Primate. PHOTOS Randy Murray, except where noted

To Live into the Promises We've Made

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Bishop John Stephens welcomed 50 diocesan clergy for a *Conversation with the Primate* in the Trendell Lounge at the Synod Office. The meeting began at 9:30am and continued until just after 12noon. At the beginning of the meeting Archbishop Nicholls reminded everyone that her early formation in faith took place between the ages of 6–16 when she lived in Vancouver and was a member of the Parish of St. Philip, Dunbar. She assured the clergy present that no topic was off limits and that she would listen to all points of view and do her best to answer the questions posed to her. Prior to the “Conversation” she blessed the diocesan Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) participants in the annual *Wild Ride* fundraising initiative. Following the time with the clergy of the diocese Archbishop Linda and Bishop John travelled to St. Laurence, Coquitlam to attend the parish’s 60th Anniversary celebration and present the wardens and clergy with a certificate from the Primate recognizing the milestone.

On Sunday morning the Parish of St. Agnes was buzzing with anticipation. It was a beautiful early fall day, the sun was shining brightly, and the church was full. Not only would George Cadman be honoured by the Primate, but this was also the morning when Brianna Audrey Trenaman would be confirmed by Archbishop Nicholls. As is customary during liturgies when the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and ordination are central to the worship, the Primate led the congregation in a responsorial Apostle’s Creed.

During the homily,¹ the Primate examined the readings: *Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6; Philippians 1:21-30;*

Matthew 20:1-16, and concluded the brief examination of the texts saying:

“It is our human comparison and competitiveness that often makes us complain at a moment when we should be rejoicing and thankful that we have received enough, and our neighbour has received what they need.”

She then changed course and said:

“The church does a wonderful job of celebrating clergy moments. We pull out all the stops to rejoice in an ordination of a deacon or priest, a diocese celebrates those made honorary canons and really pulls out the stops when we consecrate a bishop. But it does seem that we only rarely remember and celebrate the call and ministry of lay people. And today is one of those days. Today we recognize and celebrate the ways in which our most important calling is lived and that is the calling of our baptism. No priest, deacon or bishop is ordained without that calling first. It is the call to follow God’s way as known in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. George and Brianna, Stephen and me and Lizz have all been called by our baptism. Brianna is now affirming what was promised at her baptism for herself publicly confirming that God is at

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¹ Primate, the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls homily is available on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2023-09-24-god-responds-with-what-we-need-and-responds-with-generosity>



Receiving the Certificate of Congratulations at St. Laurence from Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Rick Barr (warden), the Rev. Patricia Ratcliffe (Deacon), Vivian Donnan (warden). PHOTO Sharon Taylor



A view of the Trendell Lounge during *Conversation with the Primate*.



During the Saturday *Conversation with the Primate*, Archbishop Nicholls answers a question.

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



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The Bishop of New Westminster

The Right Reverend John Stephens

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Thank you!



Diocese of New Westminster
ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

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Call 604.684.6306
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ULTIMATE STEWARDSHIP to Sustain the Church

The Director of Finance of the diocese of New Westminster and her team will be delighted to speak with you and answer your questions about Ultimate Stewardship and Planned Giving

Lord, my influence in this life is on many people in many ways. Help me to leave a lasting, positive legacy in all areas of my life.

The last few years (specifically the COVID-19 years) have been difficult for many people, and for many organizations and institutions. The Anglican Church is no exception. However, faith is resilient and enduring, and so is the Church. For Anglicans, leaving some form of legacy to their parish, the diocese, the national church or to a specific ministry that reflects their goals and values is a form of Ultimate Stewardship. Some tithe their estate, leaving 10% to the faith community to continue God's work. Others leave an amount as an endowment that will generate an annual gift, comparable to the gifts given during their lifetime.

The skilled staff of the Finance Department of the diocese of New Westminster have a wide knowledge of ways to give, ensuring that support continues. It is important that these decisions be made early in the legacy planning process, rather than wait until they *must* be made due to illness or death. Please consider a legacy gift of Ultimate Stewardship.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

To Live into the Promises We've Made

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

work in her and will be guiding and leading her as she follows his teachings. And George is being honoured for how he has lived out that calling through his vocation as a lawyer and as a chancellor. And we do this celebrating not to compare or set them on pedestals, thinking that no one else meets that mark, we do it as an encouragement to all for the journey that each of us has been called to. Though they are unique in their particular gifts and call they're not more important than any other person here today. Each of us has been invited through baptism to live into the promises that were made, to live them in our own context, in our family, in our time, in our place and with the gifts and skills and sometimes with the quirks of history that stumbled into our path. It is to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength, to love neighbour as ourselves. Brianna will discover that in the fullness of time. She is at the very beginnings of her journey, and we all wish we could be a fly on the wall and see what God's gonna do. George has been on it, well, for a few more years... and he's had to make daily choices about the promises he has made."

The sermon was followed by the Creed, the Litany, the Confirmation of Brianna and the Eucharist. Following Holy Communion, the Primate presented the AAM to George
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Archbishop Nicholls preaching at St. Agnes.



Confirming Brianna.



Archbishop Nicholls leads the applause, welcoming the newly confirmed Brianna Audrey Trenaman.

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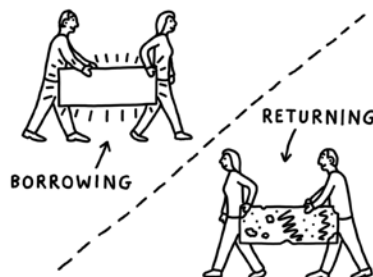
COMMON SCENES



A FLAGRANT DISREGARD FOR THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL



CHECKLIST FOR THOSE WANTING TO BORROW TABLES



BORROWERS, WHO HAVE NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY DILIGENT



SEMINAR FOR THOSE NEW TO THE UNFOLDING PROCESS



THOSE WHO DO NOT NEED THE SPECIAL TABLE TOOL LOOKING DOWN ON THOSE WHO DO



THE MAN WHO CAN UNFOLD TWO TABLES SIMULTANEOUSLY

To Live into the Promises We've Made

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



"The Peace of the Lord be always with you."

Cadman, KC, ODNW, AAM. Prior to handing George the Certificate, placing the medal and ribbon around his neck and giving him the lapel pin that he may wear on a daily basis she read a letter from the Rt. Rev. John Stephens. It is as follows:

Dear George,

I write today on behalf of the entire diocese to give thanks to you for the incredible work that you have done over many years for the Church. You have offered your time and your talents with such willingness and generosity that it is inspirational to all around you.

The role of Chancellor is one that those outside of the Bishop's Office may not fully understand, as it extends far beyond your more public presence in the diocese as seen at Synod. As Chancellor, you have made yourself available for conversations, meetings, or email exchanges when you were sometimes at the busiest time of your schedule.

When I was installed as the 10th Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster you were present as part of the legal obligations. But more than that you were fully present to offer your prayers and full support. I appreciated it very much on that day, and it has not wavered since then. On a particular occasion when I commented about how much time and skill you offer to the diocese, you simply offered that this was what you signed up for. I continue to be so grateful.

I am proud and delighted that you will be receiving the Anglican Award of Merit as presented by our Primate, the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls. It is so well deserved for all the work that you have done in this diocese and the national church. It is the highest honour that the Anglican Church of Canada can bestow upon a lay person, and you are so deserving. With your humility, wisdom, determination, and good humour, you have gone far beyond what is asked of you and it is greatly appreciated.

When Jesus called each of his disciples, he often simply said, "Follow me." Simple words that clearly they felt compelled to live into. You too have heard these words, George, and we in the diocese of New Westminster and the Anglican Church of Canada continue to give thanks that you agreed to this calling. May God bless you and keep you always.

May you know God's grace and God's peace.

Following the dismissal and many photos a celebratory Salmon lunch catered by Bette Geddes, ODNW was served in the parish hall. Nobody went right home after church on September 24, the hall was full.

Congratulations Brianna and congratulations George may you continue to live out your baptismal covenant to the best of your abilities and to the Glory of God through faith in Jesus Christ. ✠



Administering the Blood of Christ to St. Agnes's deacon, the Rev. Lizz Lindsay.



The Primate's Blessing.



LEFT The Primate with the two AAM recipients from the diocese of New Westminster, George Cadman and Rob Dickson.



RIGHT The Maeda's — Tae (keyboard) and Tak (trumpet) — St. Agnes's excellent musicians who do such fine ministry leading the music in worship pose with the Primate.



The AAM medal.



The St. Agnes community gathers for lunch.



A toast led by the Rector, the Ven. Stephen Muir.



The Primate offers the blessing before lunch is served.

A Welcoming Place of Worship

November 18 – 19, 2023

| 150th Anniversary Celebration for St. Thomas', Chilliwack

GAIL HAMPSON
St. Thomas, Chilliwack

Chilliwack's St. Thomas' Anglican Church, celebrating its 150th birthday in 2023, began unofficially as St. Mark's in the gold rush town of Port Douglas at the northern tip of Harrison Lake. Completed by Royal Engineers in 1859, a few short years later, the gold rush route was changed, and Port Douglas became a ghost town. The abandoned St. Mark's was offered to the new community of Chilliwack, 113 kilometres (70 miles) south, provided that the building could be moved.

In a 1965 interview with longtime Chilliwack resident Nellie Patriquin, she related that members of the Haida nation of the Queen Charlotte Islands (now Haida Gwaii) were hired to move the disassembled church on six lashed-together canoes. Haida canoes were considered the most capable of successfully weathering the voyage. The 113-kilometre trip south required excellent steersmen, travelling the length of Harrison Lake, along Harrison River, down and across the Fraser, to manage a pinpoint landing at the bottom of Wellington Street in Chilliwack.

November 1873, saw the church from Port Douglas, renamed St. Thomas' Anglican, as the first building at the Five Corners in the town centre. The original St. Mark's church was constructed of materials shipped from England. A reconstructed St. Thomas' of local Douglas fir, red cedar, and maple in an upside down "Noah's Ark" style, was completed by December 1897, and except for the replacement of the church steeple and bell in 1964 following a 1962 fire, and the addition of a balcony in the mid-1990s, the church is unchanged from the original reconstruction. The bell damaged in the fire is today housed on the church grounds.

As the city population grew, the central lands occupied by the St. Thomas property footprint became too valuable from a real estate perspective to support a noncommercial building. The land was sold at a healthy profit and once the telephone and electricity overhead cables were temporarily lowered, the church was moved intact to its present location a few blocks away. The complex move took three weeks and the church, which is still very much a centre-of-town landmark, held the first service at its new site on August 8, 1909.

Looking to the future of St. Thomas' and what it means to the people of the parish brings some focus to the past ten years since the 140th anniversary. So much has happened in that short space of time, with the parish continuing to grow, maintaining a thriving, spirit-led focus. Many in the congregation have died in those ten years, but new parishioners have arrived to keep the church flourishing. As the current membership look forward to the next decade and beyond, they see only good things for the parish and continued spiritual growth in love and the grace of God.



Narthex info area.



Narthex area with raffle tickets.



Making pies.

The church is well established as a heritage landmark beloved by the community. Moving forward after COVID the parish continues to offer a welcoming place of worship

and fellowship to all members of the Chilliwack community who wish to connect with God and each other in this serene and inclusive house of worship. ✠



Members of the Sesquicentennial Committee: (Back row) Jan Guretzki, Deb Edwards; (Second row) Marlene Rodger, the Rev. Lorie Martin; (Front) Gail Hampson. PHOTO Darren Buckley

Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary) Happenings at St. Thomas Chilliwack

LORIE MARTIN
Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Thomas', Chilliwack

A committee was formed to work together to mark and celebrate this sesquicentennial at St. Thomas'. The committee filled up quickly and got to work planning ways to celebrate; historical documents to be combed through, fundraising for events, celebration dinner menu and guest list, a photo history PowerPoint, and a special Sunday liturgy with Bishop John Stephens.

A Few Happenings

- 150th Anniversary church BBQ and picnic at the beautiful Gwynne Vaughn Park in July.

A wonderful time of playing lawn games, BBQing burgers and hot dogs, sharing salads, and visiting in the shade in lawn chairs was had by all. Especially fun was the croquet, bocci, and the bean bag toss!

- A fundraising raffle for two "local fare" baskets took place to assist with celebration expenses! As well, 50+ Homemade Pies sold like "hotcakes" — pumpkin pies in time for Thanksgiving and apple pies as a follow-up.

- The Narthex displays *Past, Present, and Future* interactive booths with many historic photos covering the walls. A photo album corner is created as a lovely place to rest and enjoy the photos.
- The Celebration Dinner is on Saturday, November 18, beginning at 4pm with an Open House to tour the historical building. Long time parishioners will be available to share stories. Signs fill the walls and furnishings to "show and tell" the interesting and astonishing details of the building and history. At 5:30pm drinks will be served in the hall with dinner at 6pm. Dignitaries and clergy from the community are invited including Bishop John Stephens who will be attending. 2023 is also the City of Chilliwack's and the RCMP's 150th Anniversary.
- The Anniversary Sunday Service has Bishop John Stephens presiding with special music and coffee time planned for Sunday, November 19. Worship at 10am. ✠

Anglican Foundation Grants Summary

AFC Board gives green light to parish hall refreshes & awards first-ever Category C grant of \$50,000

MICHELE HAUSER

Development & Communications Officer, Anglican Foundation

The Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC) Board of Directors met via Zoom on September 14, 2023, and approved \$270,500 in grants to 24 applicants in 18 dioceses, bringing the 2023 grants total to date to \$628,000.

“When we increased our annual granting cycles and added the July 1 deadline for Q3 grants, we didn’t know what to expect,” says Dr. Scott Brubacher, Executive Director AFC. “The uptake we have seen this additional funding window—which included many ambitious, multi-phase infrastructure projects—has affirmed the wisdom of that decision.”

Among the 17 infrastructure projects approved for funding, there was a noticeable trend in vibrant, community-minded parishes revitalizing their church hall facilities, in particular. Ron Brophy, member of the AFC Grants Committee and Chair of the Strategy Committee commented on the strong spirit of renewal at work in many of the applications. “I was impressed by the steps many of these churches are taking to connect with other community organizations, to rally their own resources even as they come to AFC for support, and the energy they are devoting to serving as community hubs.”

As Grants Committee members commended individual projects, they spoke of both the sense of “urgency” and “delight” in supporting as many applicants as possible and acknowledged AFC’s role in providing not just funding but “peace of mind,” especially to those churches seeking to repair damaged or at-risk infrastructure.

Particularly noteworthy in this grant cycle was the approval of the first-ever Category C grant of \$50,000 to the Huron Farmworkers Ministry (HFM) in the Diocese of Huron.¹ It is also the largest-ever grant in AFC history. Category C grants of up to \$50,000 were created by the AFC Board in 2022 to enable AFC to be a more flexible funding partner in cases where a diocese might want to rally around a single transformational project in any given year.

“There was a real sense of excitement at the Board meeting in being able to wholeheartedly support this incredible outreach ministry to more than 5,000 migrant workers across the diocese of Huron,” says Brubacher. “It was poignant, too, to see a community ministry like this as the first-ever Category C grant recipient.” In recent years AFC has driven its granting program to new heights by intentionally shifting the balance of funding in favour of Community Ministries, which now comprise more than 1/3 of AFC’s funding since 2010.

Brubacher says that while the Huron Farmworkers Ministry is unique, it shares much in common with the



increasing number of community ministries across Canada that are growing and flourishing as beacons of help, hope, and hospitality—and coming to AFC for assistance with growth and expansion. “On behalf of the Board, I can say that it is our great pleasure and privilege to support them.”

Projects approved in the third quarter granting cycle include:

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

- Home Again Furniture Bank Inc.
St. John’s, Newfoundland (diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador)
Making Dreams Possible | Providing Beds | \$10,000
- St. John’s Anglican Church | Huron Farmworkers Ministry
Port Rowan, Ontario (diocese of Huron)
Huron Farmworkers Ministry Expansion & Support | \$50,000
- St. Paul’s Anglican Church
Goulds, Newfoundland (diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador)
Sowing Seeds | Growing Community | \$5,000
- Parish of St. Aidan & St. Bartholomew
Gibsons, BC (diocese of New Westminster)
All Who Hunger | Feeding our Need for Connection | \$9,000

DIVERSE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Parish of Hammond River | Holy Trinity
Quispamsis, New Brunswick (diocese of Fredericton)
Wheelchair Accessible Washroom | \$12,500
- St. Stephen’s Anglican Church
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (diocese of Saskatoon)
Unless the Lord Builds the House | \$10,000
- St. John the Baptist Anglican Church
Fort Francis, Ontario (diocese of Rupert’s Land)
Parish Plumbing Requirements | \$13,500
- Church of St. Andrew & St. George
Baie-Comeau, Quebec (Diocese of Quebec)
Church to Community Space | \$10,000
- St. Timothy’s Anglican Church
100 Mile House, BC (Territory of the People)
Cleaning & Chinking of Log Church | \$10,000
- Anglican Parish of the Parrsboro Shore
Parrsboro, Nova Scotia (diocese of Nova Scotia & PEI)
Faithfully into the Future | \$8,000
- St. John’s United Anglican Church
Manning, Alberta (diocese of Athabasca)
Re-shingling of Church Roof | \$9,000
- St. James the Apostle Anglican Church
Perth, Ontario (Diocese of Ottawa)
Survey & Plan for Drainage of Walkway | \$5,000
- Wycliffe College
Toronto, Ontario (diocese of Toronto)
Enhancing Community Accessibility | \$10,000

- Christ Church Rawdon
Rawdon, Quebec, (diocese of Montreal)
Parish Hall Upgrade | \$10,000
 - Sisterhood of St. John the Divine
Toronto, Ontario (National)
Home for the Heart |
Renovation of Convent Guest House | \$15,000
 - St. Christopher’s Anglican Church
Christopher Lake, Saskatchewan (diocese of Saskatchewan)
Chair Lift | \$7,500
 - St. Augustine of Canterbury
Edmonton, Alberta (diocese of Edmonton)
Lower Hall Refresh | \$5,000
 - St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church
Regina, Saskatchewan (diocese of Qu’Appelle)
Lower Hall & Kitchen Renovation | \$9,000
 - Church of St. Christopher
Haines Junction, Yukon Territory (diocese of Yukon)
Stair Replacement & Sign Upgrade | \$12,000
 - St. Peter’s Anglican Church
Williams Lake, BC (Territory of the People)
Re-roofing of Church | \$10,000
 - Cathedral Church of the Redeemer
Calgary, Alberta (diocese of Calgary)
Protection of Stained Glass Windows
& Repair of Gutters | \$10,000
- #### INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES
- Diocese of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario
Toronto Urban Native Ministry | \$15,000

SACRED MUSIC & LITURGICAL ARTS

- Capella Regalis Men and Boys Choir
Halifax, Nova Scotia (diocese of Nova Scotia & PEI)
Five Choral Sponsorships for Young Choristers | \$5,000

LEADERSHIP & EDUCATION

- Huron University College
London, Ontario (diocese of Huron)
Licentiate in Theology Program | \$10,000 †

¹ For more information about the Huron Farmworkers Ministry (HFM) in the diocese of Huron, visit <https://hfwim.org>

For more information on AFC’s new grant categories or to apply for an AFC grant, visit www.anglicanfoundation.org/apply

To receive AFC’s monthly electronic newsletter, visit www.anglicanfoundation.org/subscribe

To become a member of AFC, visit www.anglicanfoundation.org/membership

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

DEADLINE FOR TOPIC SUBMISSIONS
November 24, 2023
for the
January/February 2024
issue

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

A Look Back on the Summer of 2023 at St. Stephen's, West Vancouver

HILARY CLARK

St. Stephens, West Vancouver

In anticipation of another lovely west coast summer, the Rector of St. Stephen's, West Vancouver, the Rev. Kenneth Vinal initiated some variations to worship. Since the communion rail had been removed because of COVID, Holy Communion continued to be practised with people separated and standing. In the rector's opinion, the rails have always been a barrier between the altar and the congregation. This was a solution to that barrier.

For Easter Sunday, the congregation had been asked to bring small flowers to decorate the Easter Cross. This they did on their way up to the altar for Communion. They had also been requested to bring a small bell to ring during the singing of the *Gloria*. This idea came with the rector from his home state of Florida, where the Episcopal Cathedral in Jacksonville and two parishes in central Florida practised this celebration on Easter Sunday.

To facilitate less distance between the congregation and those leading worship, the Rev. Vinal moved a portable lectern to act as an ambo directly in front of the first row of pews. Therefore, the readings from Scripture and the sermon take place from the same spot, as the Rev. Vinal said, "Preaching the word of God from one location."

St. Stephen's Minister of Music, Dr. Annabelle Paetsch has been working in closely with the rector to achieve congregational participation in new music, aiming to break down barriers caused by unfamiliarity and physical separation. A series of pieces of global origin (Mexican, Spanish, Brazilian, Puerto Rican, Swedish) are being introduced, beginning in Epiphany, and extending into the Ordinary Time of the summer, with music and words downloaded by permission and reproduced in the printed order of service. Using a keyboard so that she faces the nave, Annabelle has

been teaching the congregation what they need to know to participate in the new hymns. As the first one was of Mexican origin, she asked a member of the choir to play maracas.

With the onset of warm weather in July, the rector moved the entire congregation outside into the courtyard. The piano was moved to the nearest open door, and several Latin American percussion instruments were handed out to members of the congregation. Everyone had a great time playing the rhythm instruments and ended the service with applause and cheers.

During the Rev. Kenneth Vinal's August holiday, the Parish of St. Stephen's, West Vancouver continued worship with visiting priests. Outdoor worship initiated by the rector was enjoyed by a summery crowd happily sitting on chairs in the courtyard. Guest priests accepted a card table as an altar, a portable lectern as an ambo, and the sound of cawing crows adding to the ambience.

The first guest preacher and presider was the Very Rev. Peter Elliott, retired Dean of the diocese of New Westminster and retired Rector of Christ Church Cathedral. St. Stephen's Minister of Music, Dr. Annabelle Paetsch, alerted him to an unusual addition to the final hymn: percussion instruments! Dr. Paetsch introduced the Latin-American hymn, *Cantad al Señor (O Sing to the Lord)* to the congregation who had been armed with a variety of small percussion instruments such as maracas, castanets, claves, a rain stick, and a tambourine. The participants kept time vigorously, and at the end erupted in laughter and applause. All were reminded of the *Jubilate*: "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord..."

On the second, third and fourth Sundays of the Rev. Vinal's vacation, the parish welcomed from Squamish, Canon Donald Lawton and his wife Norma. The well-known pianist and initiator of *Jazz Vespers*, Peter Vanderhorst, accompanied the first service. At the second service, pianist Ginger Shaw did the honours and delighted everyone at the conclusion with a lighthearted *Country Gardens* that sent everyone skipping out to Coffee.

Dr. Annabelle Paetsch returned from her holiday keen to reintroduce the Latin-American hymns to the congregation. The percussion instruments were handed out, and she even taught the group the Spanish words to *Cantad al Señor*. The rendition was so successful even the crows kept quiet!

During the year the Rector's Coffee Hour took place on Wednesdays which included a discussion group open to all. The group decided to continue meeting during the rector's absence and informally shared opinions on a variety of topics including forgiveness, duty, racism, and faith (information shared was honour-agreed to go no farther than the room).

The Parish of St. Stephen's is enjoying a creative, holy fall. Many thanks to Janice Harvey, ODNW, John Riddick and Annabelle Paetsch for the photos. ✦



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LEFT Bishop John leads the applause of welcome for the Rev. Alex Wilson, the new Rector of the Parish of St. Francis-in-the-Wood. RIGHT Bishop John greets the community. PHOTOS Wayne Chose

The Worship & Prayers of Generations of People Have Been Offered in This Sacred Space

The Induction of the Reverend Alex Wilson as Rector of St. Francis-in-the-Wood, West Vancouver

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

It was Sunday, September 12, 2021, 731 days prior to the Celebration of a New Ministry held at St. Francis-in-the-Wood, September 11, 2023, that the Rev. Angus Stuart celebrated the Eucharist as he had been doing the previous 16 years. But this would be his final time as rector of the West Vancouver parish located in the Caulfeild neighbourhood as he would retire on October 1, 2021. Prior to his departure, an interim had been appointed and the Ven. Stephanie Shepard served the parish well until the August 1,

2023 arrival of the 12th Rector of the Parish of St. Francis-in-the-Wood, the Rev. Alex Wilson.

The sub-heading on the diocesan website parish page for St. Francis' reads:

"There has been a church building in Lower Caulfeild since 1927, and over the years the worship and prayers of generations of people have been offered in this sacred space."

The members of the parish love their building and they love

their location and although defining success of a worshipping community is not something that is done (as there are so many factors to consider), the consensus is that St. Francis' is a strong and caring community that recognizes what's needed, pitches in, and gets things done.

The second paragraph of the letter of welcome written by the Rev. Alex Wilson that appeared on the inside front page of the order of service bulletin reads:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



The second reading, Colossians 1:24 - 2:3 shared by Roger Sweeny, ODNW.



Deacon of the Word, Archdeacon for Deacons, the Ven. Peggy Trendell-Jensen proclaims the Gospel, Luke 6:6-11.



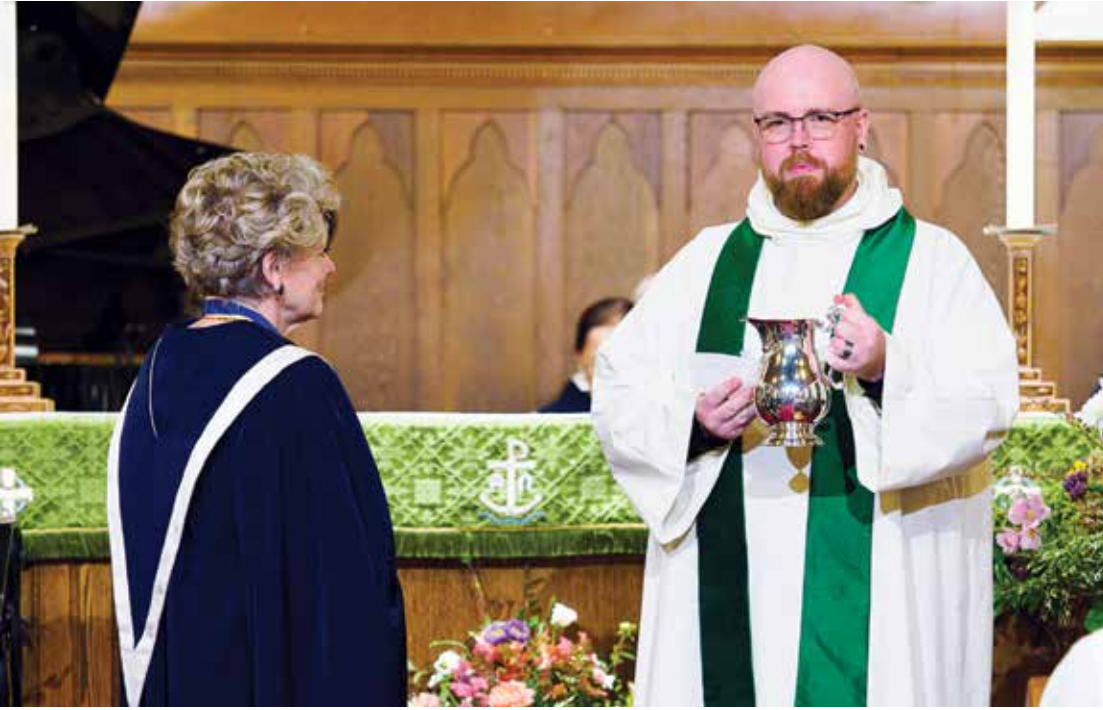
The preacher, the Rev. Aaron Miller, Minister at University Hill United Church, UBC.



Archdeacon Muir begins the Covenant in Ministry.



Following the first section of the Covenant in Ministry, Archdeacon Muir presents the Rev. Wilson with the Bishop's License.



Receiving the ewer of water for the font from Theresa Odishaw, ODNW during the Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry.



Receiving holy oils during the "Presentation."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"Today's service is the culmination of years and months of praying and wrestling with the Holy Spirit, grounded in Baptismal and Eucharistic fellowship which has grown a community that made tonight possible. Tonight, is not just a celebration for us in isolation, but one for the whole diocese because this ministry we do here affects our neighbour and vice versa. We belong not just to St. Francis', but to a worldwide movement known as the Anglican Communion whose arms reach into every corner of the world. So, as our diocesan family gathers to celebrate with us at the start of this new ministry, we gather on the shoulders of giants. Those generations before us who have sought to be faithful to Christ's ministry, a ministry we all share at St. Francis'."

Bishop John Stephens presided at the Eucharist and inducted the new rector; the Ven. Stephen Muir, Archdeacon of Capilano and Rector of the Parish of St. Agnes, Grand Boulevard in North Vancouver led the Covenant in Ministry; the Rev. Aaron Miller, incumbent at University Hill United Church, UBC and the Rev. Wilson's neighbour and chaplaincy colleague during his years as Vicar of St.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Receiving symbols of Reconciliation from Roger Sweeny.



The welcome from the Regional Dean, the Rev. Cameron Gutjahr, Rector of St. John's, Squamish.



Receiving symbols of children's and youth ministry from Fiona Galvani.



Rosalind Irving leading the Prayers of the People.



For the first "official" time as Rector, the Rev. Wilson says, "The peace of the Lord be always with you."



The former Interim Priest-in-Charge of St. Francis, the Ven. Stephanie Shepard shares a sign of peace.



The Eucharistic Prayer — Sanctus.



Ready to administer Holy Communion with Elizabeth Ferguson, ODNW.

The Worship & Prayers of Generations of People Have Been Offered in This Sacred Space The Induction of the Reverend Alex Wilson as Rector of St. Francis-in-the-Wood, West Vancouver

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Anselm's, UBC preached; Archdeacon for Deacons for the diocese of New Westminster and Deacon at St. Clement's, Lynn Valley, the Ven. Peggy Trendell-Jensen was Deacon of the Word; Regional Dean of Sea to Sky and Rector of St. John's, Squamish, the Rev. Cameron Gutjahr welcomed the

new rector to the deanery; and music in worship was led by the Choir of St. Francis directed by Karen Lee-Moring at the piano and violinist, Larisa Lebeda.

There was a good turnout of clergy, and a supportive group of folks from the Rev. Wilson's former parish which

is always considered a good sign of things to come.

Please keep the Rev. Alex Wilson and the members of the Parish of St. Francis-in-the-Wood in your prayers as they continue their mission and ministry. ✠



Holy Communion.



Larisa Lebeda.



Karen Lee-Morlang.



The choir.



Reception guests.



The bishop and newly inducted rector.

St. Clement's Creates Space for All in Creekside Commons

PEGGY TRENDELL-JENSEN

Archdeacon for Deacons; Deacon, St. Clement, Lynn Valley

The Communion of Saints past and present was in full swing at the September 17 Grand Opening of *Creekside Commons*, a new garden area St. Clement's parishioners have created for the benefit of the neighbourhood they serve.

Many St. Clement's saints of yore are named on the new *Tree of Life* mural that overlooks the Commons; now people in the wider community are invited to memorialize their own loved ones by having a name added to the leaves that entwine what was once a dull cinderblock wall.

And the present-day saints of the church were busy welcoming neighbours, local tradesfolk, and North Vancouver District Council representatives into the new garden space with sweets and savouries and encouraging them to drop in anytime for a peaceful respite or to bring a friend for coffee and a chat.

Creation of the Commons — formerly a bramble-choked patch, complete with crumbling concrete wall and large rotting stump — was an ambitious project, but one that was a perfect fit for the pandemic years when gathering together indoors was often an impossibility. Focussing on a beautiful vision outside and working together in nature to make it happen allowed the church to build some positive momentum at a time when so much else had to be put on the back burner or shut down all together. The Commons was designed to be accessible to those in strollers and wheelchairs, and two raised community garden beds will offer opportunities for gardeners with mobility challenges.

The \$15,000 seed money from the parish was matched by a grant from the Anglican Foundation of Canada. As noted by the Rev. Helen Dunn in her opening address,¹ the project benefited from consultation along the way from First Nations elders, who offered wisdom on the addition of an Indigenous Healing Garden. The Rev. Dunn made grateful mention of many people from within and without the congregation who offered strong arms, wise counsel, creative ideas and expertise in architecture, landscaping and carpentry. The project was not without its hiccoughs,

but the willingness of all to persevere and overcome meant there was much to celebrate at Sunday's event.

A newly built arbour leads into the Commons; a ribbon strung across it for the grand opening was cut to great applause by two of the parish youth, accompanied by the garden's chief visionaries, People's Warden Sandra Martin and Hon. Assistant Deacon, the Rev. Elizabeth Mathers. The *Creekside Commons* sign, designed by recent university grad Carina Yong, was unveiled just that morning and was a happy surprise for the parishioners seeing it for the first time.

With the opening of *Creekside Commons* on the north side of the church, there is now the opportunity to circumnavigate the whole building, enjoying not just the seating areas and espalier apple trees in the Commons, but, on the east of the property, the salmon-bearing Coleman Creek, a small, natural labyrinth, and the wooded area that was made a certified wildlife habitat thanks to the efforts of Salal + Cedar in concert with local Girl Guides and volunteers.² The south side of the building became home to a number of community garden boxes some time ago, and a bird and butterfly wildflower garden brightens the patch of lawn outside the office window. The front of the church faces west, with the giant iron anchor, symbol of St. Clement, standing vigil in front of the greenery and blooms of the memorial garden.

St. Clement's would like to thank the Anglican Foundation of Canada for its support, as well as all who contributed their time, talent and treasure to the creation of Creekside Commons. ✠

¹ To read the Rev. Helen Dunn's opening address please visit <https://www.stclementschurch.ca/blog/creekside-commons-open-for-all>

² For more information about Coleman Creek please visit <https://www.stclementschurch.ca/news/salal-cedar-brings-new-life-to-creek>



Cutting the ribbon, declaring *Creekside Commons* "Open to All." Alongside the two younger members of the parish doing the honours are: (left to right) Rector of the parish, the Rev. Helen Dunn; Deacon, the Rev. Elizabeth Mathers; and People's Warden, Sandra Martin. PHOTOS Wayne Chose, except where noted



The Rev. Helen gives her opening address.



Listening to the rector's message. PHOTO Peggy Trendell-Jensen



Enjoying the space.



St. Clement's parishioner, Wilna Parry staffs the project's display board.



Full length view of the space.



The Ven. Peggy Trendell-Jensen with invited guest, District of North Vancouver Councillor, Jordan Back who lives in the neighbourhood. They are standing underneath the sign created by parishioner, Carina Yong.



Hanging with the rector, siblings Chris and Carina Yong.



A view of the church entrance.



And of course, a sheet cake. PHOTO Wilna Parry

Nii K'an Kwsdins Honoured with Civic Award

On Thursday, September 21, Nii K'an Kwsdins (aka Jerry Adams) received the 2023 *Jim and Vicki Chu Community*

Safety Leader Award, presented by VPD Chief, Adam Palmer and Vancouver's Mayor, Ken Sim. The text of the

Citation which was signed by Mayor Ken Sim is as follows:

"Nii K'an Kwsdins, also known as Jerry Adams, is one of British Columbia's most prominent and influential leaders. He is a member of the Eagle Clan from the Nisga'a Nation and has dedicated over 40 years of his life to create a culture of truth and reconciliation in Vancouver and the greater community.

At the end of a professional career in the social service field, spanning four decades he worked as the Aboriginal Justice Coordinator for the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster, fostering reconciliation and understanding between the church and the Indigenous community.

Jerry is a highly engaged Indigenous community leader and has a passion for developing services for youth. He served as Executive Director of the Urban Native Youth Association and was a recipient of the Spirit of Crazy Horse Award from Reclaiming Youth International, which advocates on youth issues throughout the world.

As Executive Director of the Circle of Eagles Lodge Society, Jerry worked to reintegrate Indigenous men and women coming out of federal prison into the community.

Jerry served on the Vancouver Police Board and on the boards of many Aboriginal and community organizations. His legacy has made Vancouver a more inclusive, safer place for its diverse communities.

For working tirelessly with the police and the Indigenous community to build relationships and networks to foster healing, reconciliation, and community the Vancouver Police Department is proud to award Mr. Jerry Adams the 2023 Jim and Vicki Chu Community Safety Leader Award."

Congratulations Jerry and many thanks from all of us in the diocese of New Westminster for your continuing commitment to your vocation. You are a person who makes God's world a better place. ✠



LEFT Jerry in the Nisga'a canoe, September 2013. RIGHT Jerry (right) chats with former Chief of the VPD, Jim Chu in 2011. PHOTOS Diocese of New Westminster Communications, except where noted



VPD Chief Adam Palmer, Jerry and Mayor Ken Sim pose for a photo at the award ceremony, September 21, 2023. PHOTO Inspector Kevin Bernardin, Executive Officer, VPD

IN MEMORIAM

The Reverend Lawrence Dudley Ritchie, Priest

November 1, 1927 – September 25, 2023

We give thanks for the life of Lawrence Dudley Ritchie, Priest, and are grateful for his ministry in the diocese of New Westminster and in the Anglican Church of Canada.

Dudley died on Monday, September 25. He had been in hospital after a fall.

Dudley is survived by his children, Melanie, Mark and Cynthia, and seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, and his friend, Liz Macdonald. He was predeceased by his wife Shirley.

Dudley graduated from the Anglican Theological College in 1958, with a Licentiate in Theology (LTh). He was ordained to the diaconate on January 6, 1953, and to the priesthood on September 29, 1953. At the time of his death, he was a few days away from marking the 70th Anniversary

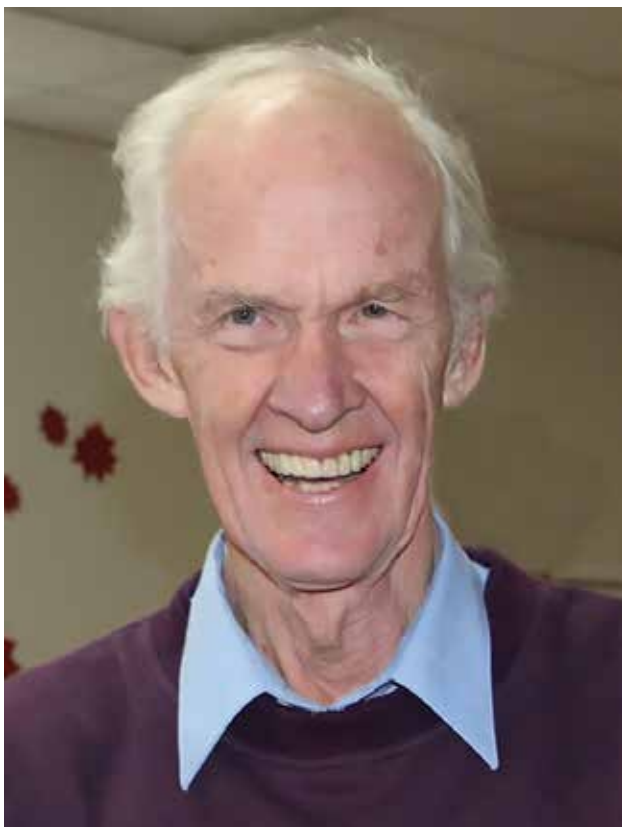
of his ordination to the priesthood.

The first parish Dudley served was St. George, Rossland, in the diocese of Kootenay where he was rector from 1953 to 1957. He was Priest Assistant at St. John the Divine, Verdun, in the diocese of Montreal from 1957 to 1960. Transferring to the diocese of New Westminster in 1960. Dudley served as Rector of St. Alban the Martyr, Burnaby, and St. Columba from 1960 to 1968. He was then the Protestant Chaplain at Haney Correctional Institution, diocesan Rural Dean, and Priest in Charge at St. John, Whonnock before being appointed Rector of St. Stephen, Burnaby, where he served from 1984 to 1990. During his time at St. Stephen, he also served as Regional Dean of Westminster. After working for a time as a management

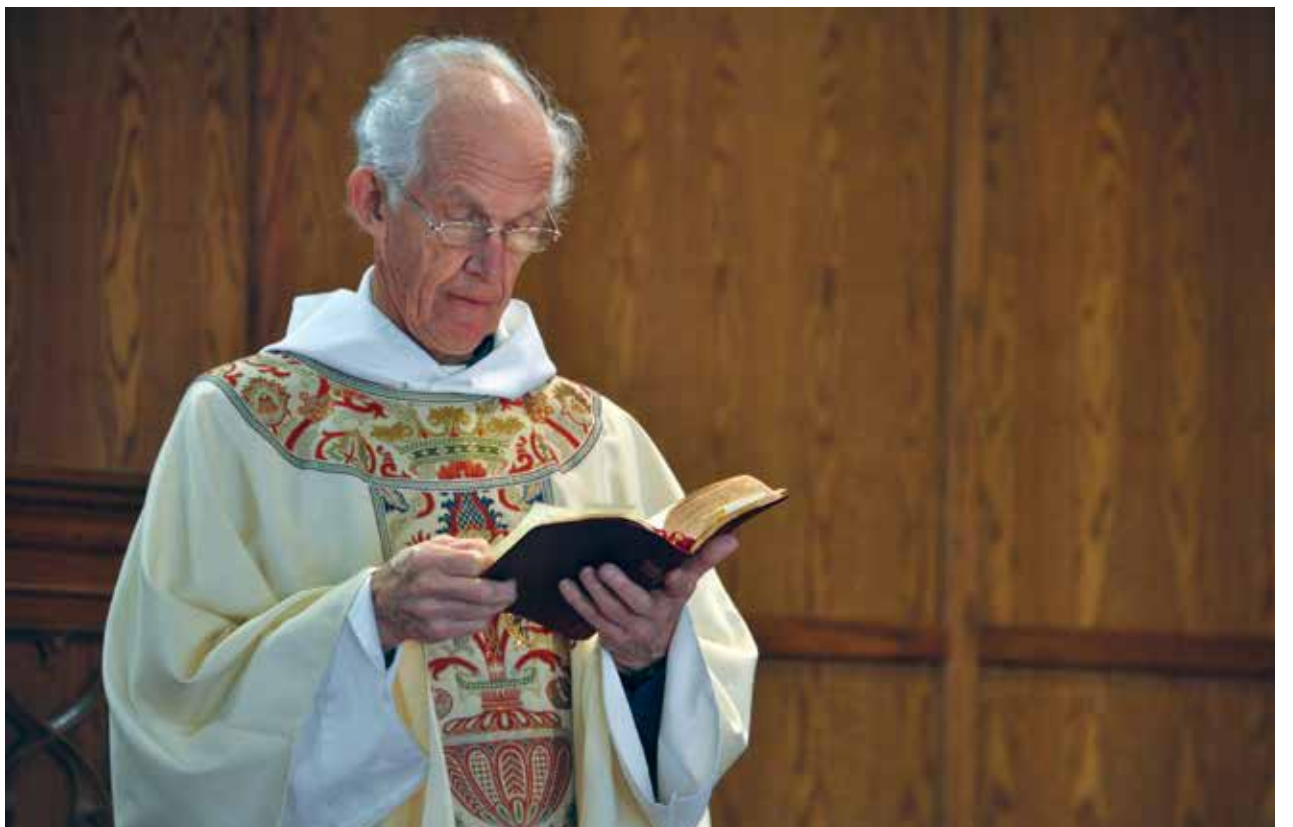
consultant, in 1992 he accepted Bishop Jim Cruickshank's invitation to be Interim Priest-in-Charge at St. Michael and All Angels, Prince George. Returning to this diocese he was Priest-in-Charge at All Saints, Ladner, and Temporary Priest-in-Charge at Christ the Redeemer, Surrey.

Dudley was also President of the St. Leonard Society of the Lower Mainland, and served on committees of Synod, including the Ministry and Congregational Development Committee and in the mid-1960s was editor of *Anglican News*, the official diocesan publication prior to *Topic*. He led a long standing and popular bible study at All Saints, Ladner, in his retirement.

The Rev. Dudley Ritchie's memorial liturgy took place, October 28, 2023, at All Saints, Ladner. ✠



Dudley in 2017. PHOTO Cliff Caprani



Dudley celebrating the Eucharist, Easter Day, 2015.

IN MEMORIAM



Jenny Birtwell, ODNW
January 1944 – August 2023

Jenny was a cradle Anglican, born in sight of her beloved York Minster, and schooled in its shadow. A down to earth, forthright Yorkshire lass, who loved the Dales as dearly as she loved her adopted Canada, Jenny was a devoted daughter, sister, wife, mother, Grandmother Nai-Nai, a lifelong student and seeker, geographer, school psychologist, educator, poet, prayer, and healer. A gourmet chef, gracious hostess, home builder, romantic lover, intrepid traveler, navigator, cross-stitcher, star and moon gazer, activist, lover of the arts, voracious reader, deeply spiritual, a worshipper and leader in her Cathedral community. A tower of strength, an empathetic listener and confidante, caregiver, incredibly patient, thoughtful, intentional, forgiving, the rock for the family, calmly facing the storms of life. Fun-loving, capricious, sparkling, with infectious laughter, an award-winning blackberry jelly maker and gardener. With her gentle kindness, compassionate wisdom, and generosity, Jenny was a mentor and an aspiration and inspiration to many.

Jenny lived her life to the fullest, accomplished, determined, confident, inclusive, regarding all she met as beloved children of their Creator, regardless of their life situation.

Fondly remembered and deeply missed by husband Ian, sons Robin (Mona), and Niall (Katie) and cherished grandsons Evan and Eddie in Taipei, by brother John

(Carol) and by relatives and numerous friends in Vancouver and around the world.

November of 2016, Jenny was invested into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster.

Her Citation reads:

“Born and growing up in the shadow of York Minster, Jenny is truly a cradle Anglican. Jenny has been active in the ministry life of Christ Church Cathedral for over 40 (sic) years. Her early ministry was with the Church School and educational events. Jenny was active in leadership roles as chair of Parish Council, People’s Warden, Rector’s Warden, and co-chair of Legacy Stewardship. Jenny is a leader in worship and pastoral care, as an intercessor, reader, and in offering Healing Prayer and Healing Touch ministry.”

If you wish, memorial donations may be made to the Cathedral Maundy Food Ministry or the 127 Society for Housing.

*“Life is short,
we do not have much time
to gladden the hearts of those
who travel the way with us,
so be swift to love,
make haste to be kind.”* †

For Jenny & Ian

A reflection inspired by the passing of Jenny Birtwell, ODNW

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

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

Wednesday afternoon early March 1938. Mr. Garrett, our formidable choirmaster, introduces us choirboys to the magnificent expression of Christian faith known as *St. Patrick's Breastplate*. In doing so he gives one ten-year-old a lifelong example of how powerful the blending of poetry and spirituality can be. Of course, at that time I wasn't aware of such terms, but I came to realize years later that such was the gift of hearing Cecil Frances Alexander's powerful lines and the majestic music of Charles Villiers Stanford.

*“I bind this day to me for ever
By power of faith Christ's Incarnation,
His baptism in Jordan river,
His death on the Cross for my salvation,
His bursting from the spiced tomb,
His riding up the heavenly way,
His coming at the day of Doom,
I bind unto myself today.”*

It would give me a lifelong appreciation for those moments when the poet and the composer of a prayer — often though not always the same person — join to give beauty and depth to a thought by giving it a series of images. In a short piece like this I can only take you on a swift voyage through some lovely examples.

There is a prayer that is widely credited to Francis of Assisi but was written in 1912, originally in French. Its title was *A Prayer for Peace*. On one side was the text and on the other an image of St. Francis. Hence the link made with the Saint.

*“Grant that we may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love.”*

The beautiful 17th century cadences of...

*“Travel with the voyagers
Defend the widows,
Shield the orphans,
Deliver the captives,
Heal the sick.”*

Again, from the same era...

*“Until the shades lengthen,
The evening comes,
The busy world is hushed,
The fever of life is over,
And our work is done.”*

Yet again...

*“For life and health and safety,
For power to work and leisure to rest,*

*For all that is beautiful in the lives of men and women,
We praise Thy Holy Name.”*

There are beautiful moments in 20th century expressions of prayer when we are given a bouquet of images that enrich a thought. For example, at a Marriage...

*“Let their love for each other
be a seal upon their hearts,
a mantle about their shoulders,
a crown upon their foreheads.
Bless them
in their work and companionship,
in their sleeping and in their waking,
in their joys and in their sorrows,
in their life and in their death.”*

Some years ago, when I was given a copy of the then new *New Zealand Prayer Book*, I discovered to my delight that their explicit use of poetry had gone farther than any other prayer book revision in the Anglican Communion. As an example of nighttime reflection, I think *Night Prayer* is incomparable in its deceptive simplicity.

*“Lord, it is night. The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of God.
It is night after a long day,
what has been done has been done,
what is not done is not done,
Let it be.”*

The prayer continues with successive images of the night...

*“The night is dark.
The night is quiet.
The night heralds the dawn.”*

Also, from the *New Zealand book* we hear a magnificent paraphrase of the *Lord's Prayer* in the rhythmic images of

prayer graced by poetry. The prayer is the work of Jim Cotter, an English priest, leader in LGBTQ inclusion in the life of the church...

*“With the Bread we need for today—feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another—forgive us.
In times of temptation and test—strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure—save us.
From the grip of all that is evil—free us.”*

I share these thoughts because of recently hearing a friend give a eulogy for a mutual friend whom he and I knew well and loved. As an ending my friend Peter used some lines posted by Deon Johnson, Bishop of Missouri...

*“Holy One, help us create
Poetry out of pain,
Symphony out of sorrow,
Art out of anger,
Singing out of sadness,
Dancing out of despair,
Grace out of grief,
Love out of loss, Amen and Amen.”*

I was deeply moved by those lines and felt many of us would wish to have them. †

.....
EDITOR'S NOTE: Canon O'Driscoll was moved to write this piece and share these lines after watching the livestream of Jenny Birtwell's funeral, August 29, 2023 at Christ Church Cathedral. Jennifer Howard Birtwell, ODNW and her husband Ian were and are a huge part of the life of that parish going all the way back to Canon O'Driscoll's time in the 1970s and 80s.

The friend referred to is the Very Rev. Peter Elliott and his sermon referred to in the piece is available at the 45 minute and 40 second mark of the livestream recording on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyKHnoq-RAk>





The sunrise above the Centre's office building, *Spes Bona*.
PHOTOS Jane Dittrich



The two summer staff programming leaders and the four summer youth staff members introducing themselves during the July 9 orientation.



LEFT Jane Dittrich with Ken and Ruth Genge. Ken is a retired bishop of the diocese of Edmonton, and once served as Director of Sorrento Centre. They now attend St. George's, Fort Langley. RIGHT One of Archbishop Lynne McNaughton's children, Jasper Kessler, toasting the perfect marshmallow at the beach campfire.



Fill This Land with

A report on July 9 – 18, 2023 at Sorrento Centre

JANE DITTRICH, ODNW
Christ Church Cathedral, Diocesan Communications Contributor

Graham Kendrick's well-known hymn, *Lord the Light of Your Love is Shining* (often referred to as *Shine Jesus Shine*) contains the line "fill this land with the Father's glory" which seems as though it were written just for Sorrento Centre. This year—2023—marks the 60th anniversary of Sorrento Centre.

The Rev. David Taylor, who began his incumbency as Rector of St. Mark, Ocean Park September 16, and the Archdeacon of Lougheed, the Ven. Andrew Halladay, Vicar of St. Andrew's in Langley led the morning worship services in the Centre's outdoor chapel named for St. Francis. They have been worship leaders at Sorrento for many years and enjoy gathering there each summer with their two young sons, along with many family members from Calgary. They each participated in leading the worship music, and the Rev. Taylor offered engaging and inspiring homilies to start each morning.

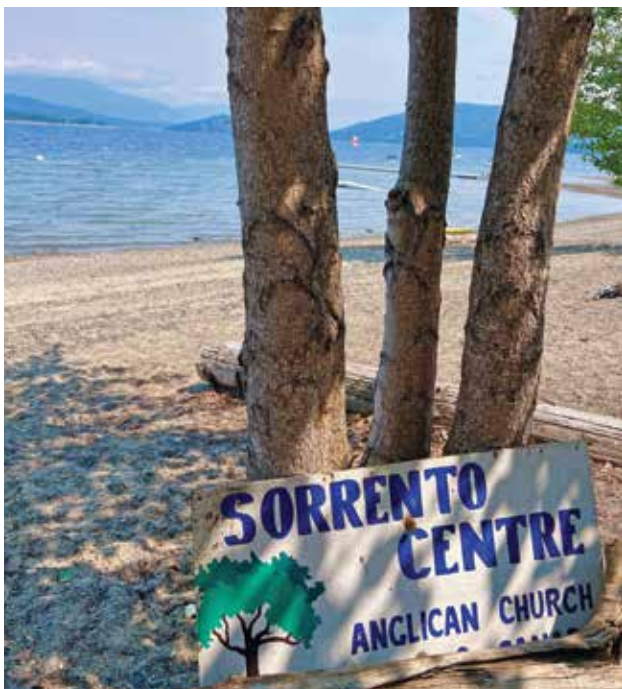
As has been the case for the past few years, the Centre's Executive Director, Deacon, the Rev. Michael Shapcott and his staff provided warm hospitality and great experiences for all. The summer staff children and youth program leaders, Hayden Blair of Victoria and Aleta Pappas of Edmonton did an exceptional job organizing and overseeing the chil-



LEFT Longtime Sorrento Centre attendee, associate, and current board member Elisabeth Thompson of Edmonton and summer program leader Hayden Blair of Victoria leading a beach singalong. RIGHT Lauren Odile Pinkney, Liz Macdonald of All Saints, Ladner, and the Reverends Andrew Halladay and David Taylor leading morning worship.



Outing to Shuswap Cider Company in Salmon Arm.



The Centre's waterfront.



PWRDF Youth Council members Duncan Chalmers and Robyn Sulkko.



People gathering to say a prayer at the planting of an anniversary tree



People lining up to get slushy mocktails made and served by Lauren Odile Pinkney.



The Rev. David Taylor and the Very Rev. Chris Pappas enjoying some refreshing drinks and conversation.



Dean Chris Pappas enjoying time with his granddaughter.

the Father's Glory | 60 Years of Sorrento Centre

dren and youth programming. Both Hayden and Aleta are longtime Sorrento Centre attendees and have served as Summer Youth Staff in previous summers.

Several clergy (some currently active, and some retired) connected to the diocese of New Westminster were at Sorrento Centre during the ten days, including: the Archbishop of the diocese of Kootenay and Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC and Yukon, the Most Rev. Lynne McNaughton; Dean of the diocese of New Westminster and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev. Christopher Pappas; retired Dean of the diocese of New Westminster and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott; retired Bishop of Edmonton and former Executive Director of Sorrento Centre, the Rt. Rev. Ken Genge and his wife Ruth; the Ven. Richard Leggett; the Rev. Paula Porter Leggett; the Rev. Jonathan Pinkney; the Rev. Jessica Schaap; and the Rev. Areeta Bridgemohan.

In addition to the children's and youth programs and the rest and relaxation program, several courses were going on during this time which covered parts of two summer programming weeks. Archbishop Lynne McNaughton led a course called *Clothed in God: Christian Mystics*, and the Very Rev. Peter Elliott and the current Dean of Trinity Episcopal

Cathedral in Portland, the Very Rev. Nathan LeRud led a course called *Gospel of Musical Theatre: Race and Redemption*. Dean Nathan LeRud co-led via Zoom from Portland. Salmon Arm resident and longtime Centre attendee and program leader, Phil McIntyre-Paul led a five-day hiking course called *21st Century Pilgrims: Walking on Holy Ground*.

Jane Dittrich and Lauren Odile Pinkney, Children, Youth and Families Minister at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver; Missioner for Youth, Chair of the Diocesan Youth Movement (DYM) for the diocese organized social gatherings for the July 10 "Cathedral Week," all of which were well-attended and proved to be opportunities for fun and fellowship. On the Monday, Lauren prepared slushy mocktails served on the back porch of the Centre's office building *Spes Bona*, while a singalong organized by Jane happened on the lawn, using songs from Sorrento Centre's old worship songbooks. The Rev. David Taylor got the singalong started with his infectious brand of musical direction, and a special time was had by all as refreshing cold drinks were enjoyed on a day that reached the mid-30s in temperature. On Tuesday, a group of about 15 enjoyed a walk in Herald Provincial Park (located 29 km from the Centre) to Margaret Falls, one of BC's famed waterfalls. Supersized

ice cream at the Tappen Co-Op on the Trans-Canada Hwy followed, especially to the delight of Kiran, enjoying his first ice cream cone on what was his third birthday! Kiran is the eldest son of the Cathedral's vicar, the Rev. Areeta Bridgemohan. On Wednesday, a group of nearly 25 went to the Shuswap Cider Company in Salmon Arm to enjoy organically sourced BC fruit ciders, non-alcoholic drinks (for those driving) and delicious pizza prepared by Panzudo Pizza. Dean Christopher Pappas offered some spiritual reflections, and then asked those gathered to break into smaller groups and discuss the *Five Marks of Mission*. It was a wonderful few hours of conversation, people getting to know each other, all complimented by delicious food and drink.

Other activities included the Monday night campfire, treats and singalongs at the beach (the "campfire" was a controlled propane fire pit due to the open fire ban in BC), and a Wednesday evening talk titled *Coming Home to the Heart* by Archbishop Lynne McNaughton. Following her talk, Archbishop McNaughton planted and blessed a tree in celebration of and in gratitude for the Centre's 60 years of ministry in the Anglican Church of Canada.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



Archbishop Lynne McNaughton watering the tree which she planted to commemorate Sorrento Centre's 60th anniversary.



Jane Dittrich, ODNW and Robb Watt, ODNW (Robb is the Warden of the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster) of St. Catherine's in North Vancouver catching up.



Dean Chris Pappas and longtime Christ Church Cathedral parishioner, Lesley Godwin, following morning worship.



Course leader Phil McIntyre-Paul (right) getting ready to lead a hike. His course was called *21st Century Pilgrims: Walking on Holy Ground*.



Morning worship in St. Francis Chapel, led by the Ven. Andrew Halladay.



The participants in Archbishop Lynne McNaughton's course *Clothed in God: Christian Mystics*.



The participants in Dean Peter Elliott and Dean Nathan LeRud's course *Gospel of Musical Theatre: Race and Redemption*.

Fill This Land with the Father's Glory | 60 Years of Sorrento Centre

A report on July 9 – 18, 2023 at Sorrento Centre

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Blessing of the Tree

*Blessed are You, Lord our God,
Ruler of the universe,
For your creation of trees;
To exchange oxygen,
to produce food,
to provide shelter and shade,
to be beautiful and stately,
to be a symbol of spiritual strength,
rooted and reaching,
holding the earth and nourished by your hidden stream.*

*Bless this tree that it may grow strong and fruitful.
May it bless Sorrento Centre as a sign of hope.
May it feed many of your creatures.
May it bless the ministry of Sorrento Centre.
May it bless all who came here
for beauty and refreshment.
May it bless Sorrento Centre
with abundance and joy.
Amen.*

Thursday eve was the Sorrento's Got Talent night, and Friday afternoon saw the Closing Eucharist/Gratitude Gathering in the outdoor chapel of St. Francis, followed by a Community Dinner and a dance in the Centre's outdoor Amphitheatre, Kekuli. During the Eucharist/Gratitude Gathering, Executive Director, the Rev. Michael Shapcott thanked the Parish of Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver for its ongoing support of the Centre.

Sorrento Centre, located on 25 acres of gorgeous waterfront property on Shuswap Lake, remains a place of: hospitality, friendships old and new, learning, personal and spiritual growth, care for each other and for the earth, and of great holiday times for all ages. As is always the case, the guests are a mix of people who have deep roots and lengthy histories with the Centre, and people attending for the first time. One young family from the diocese of New Westminster came for the first time in 2023 and while one of the children declared that "Sorrento was his favourite trip," his father stated, "For me, it was the most relaxing." ✠

Congratulations Sorrento Centre on 60 extraordinary years!

EDITOR'S NOTE | On August 18, Sorrento Centre was closed down and the residents of Sorrento were placed under evacuation notice due to the Bush Creek East wildfire that spread over 20 klicks in less than 12 hours. The Centre survived the fires undamaged and reopened to welcome overnight guests September 14.

For more information about the Sorrento Centre, have a look at their website at <https://sorrentocentre.ca>

Follow the Sorrento Centre's Facebook page to keep informed on everything going on at Sorrento throughout the year, and for various ways that you can support the life and work of the Centre at <https://www.facebook.com/SorrentoCentre>



Ice cream break.



Jane Dittrich and Kiran enjoying ice cream. This day marked Kiran's 3rd birthday, and his first ice cream cone! He is the eldest son of Christ Church Cathedral's vicar, the Rev. Areta Bridgemohan and her husband Chris.



The Rev. Jessica Schaap and her family, Jennifer Halyk of Christ Church Cathedral, Jane Dittrich, Kiran, and Karen Blair of Victoria on the trail to Margaret Falls.

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Community Garden Opening at St. John the Apostle, Port Moody

KERRY BAISLEY, ODNW

Missioner for Indigenous Justice, Diocese of New Westminster

The promotional flyer proclaimed, “All are Welcome,” and at least 100 people, nearly half of them children, took up the invitation, coming to enjoy the afternoon, get their face painted, practise their golf swing, paint a rock, and enjoy the wonderfully abundant raised bed gardens in the front lot of the parish office facing St. John’s Street in Port Moody. All of that excitement requires fuel, and it was generously supplied in the form of free hot dogs, popsicles, water and great big cookies.

The Parish of St. John the Apostle reached out to the Condo/Apartment dwellers in the neighbourhood inviting them to come and grow in the newly-installed raised garden beds the parish created this year. Those raised beds came into being thanks to many hours of volunteer labour and financial support from the diocese of New Westminster, the Port Moody Foundation, and Salal + Cedar.

The Ven. Ruth Monette, Archdeacon of Westminster provided a prayer for the gardens and warmly thanked everyone who had volunteered to create and maintain the gardens and make the celebration possible. The Mayor of Port Moody, Megan Lahti, came to the party with her electric bicycle and gave a brief speech (“brief”—the best

kind), thanking the Parish of St. John’s and the community for their efforts.

Evidence of the garden’s success came from Emilie, one of the community gardeners. She admitted to walking by the garden with her dog even on days she did not need to water or weed her plot. She wanted to see if there were other gardeners working, and if someone was working, she would open the gate, introduce herself and when gardeners meet, there is much to talk about.

The parish is looking at further ways to support growth in the community and enabling some of the land to support plants that lived there before the church was founded in 1899. Reaching out to the community and to the natural world is part of the mission of St. John the Apostle, Port Moody.

The parish has served the surrounding neighbourhood in various ways over the years, particularly in ministries relating to food and community. Most notably, with a food bank and hot lunch program. When the program closed due to the pandemic, the parish shifted that ministry to financial support for the established neighbouring food bank at SHARE. ✦



Community Gardener, Emilie.
PHOTOS collected, curated & submitted by Ruby Ng and Kerry Baisley



The gardens.



Port Moody Mayor, Meghan Lahti; MP, Bonita Zarillo; and St. John’s Warden, Ruby Ng.



Blooming flowers.



A view of the site during the “party.”



Red peppers.



Golf lesson.



Rock painting.



Every party needs a DJ.



Face painting.



The entrance to #3 – 6678 152nd Street. PHOTOS Randy Murray, except where noted



LEFT Closer POV of the warehouse door entrance. RIGHT Past-president of the diocesan ACW, Gail Revitt, ODNW at the welcome table with Elizabeth Murray, ODNW signing the guestbook.



LEFT The Rev. Miranda Sutherland leads the blessing of the new facility. PHOTO Amelia Foster RIGHT Vice-President, Amelia Foster staffs the hot drinks station.



Kelly and National ACW Board Secretary, Margaret (Marni) Crossley from the diocese of Ottawa. Marni, who went to nursing school with a longtime diocesan ACW member, was in the Lower Mainland for a reunion and dropped by the grand opening.



The communications officer of the diocese wasn't the only Synod staff person present. Deirdre Thornton, Screening in Faith Coordinator and Administrator for the diocese who is also a warden at St. Alban the Martyr, Burnaby was on hand. Here we see some bags of donated items ready for sorting and bundling.

Grand Opening of the New ACW Place

RANDY MURRAY
Diocesan Communications & Topic Editor

On Saturday, September 9 from 11am to 2pm, a large cohort of diocesan Anglican Church Women (ACW) members with family and friends attended the Grand Opening of the new ACW Place located in the Hyland Square light industrial park (#3 – 6678 152nd Street) in Surrey's East Newton neighbourhood.

Since the 2011 sale of WA Memorial House located on 14th Avenue in Vancouver's VGH/City Hall neighbourhood, the Anglican Church Women of the diocese of New Westminster have headquartered their ministry at the first ACW Place in Burnaby, southeast of Metrotown. By the spring of 2023, unable to continue in that facility with an expired lease reverting to a month-to-month tenancy, ACW leadership went looking for a new home and they found a great one at the Hyland Square location. This facility allows the ACW to continue their ministry, specifically, collecting donations of clothing, bedding, shoes, baby furniture and more to send in bales to those in need in the northern parts of Canada. The new ACW Place is quite similar in layout to the Burnaby location, with a separate gathering space (in a loft this time), small kitchen with laundry, office space and a warehouse for storage and the assembly of the bales. In fact, the two facilities have the exact same square footage. The Hyland Square location is near new, bright, and cheery with a large parking lot and easy access both by car and by transit.

The Grand Opening consisted of a welcome offered by diocesan ACW president, Kelly Bowman of St. Cuthbert, Delta which was followed by a blessing by ACW Chaplain, the Rev. Miranda Sutherland, Vicar of Holy Spirit, Whonnock and Interim Priest-in-Charge of St. Matthew's, Abbotsford. Diocesan ACW director, Beth Fortin of St. Cuthbert, Delta performed a smudging ritual. There was a delicious potluck lunch buffet (the Spring Rolls were topnotch) and a celebratory sheet cake, with the first cake cut performed by Mother Miranda and served by President Kelly. Bishop John Stephens was unable to attend but he was well-represented by the Ven. Luisito Engnan, Archdeacon of Fraser and Vicar of St. Michael's and Christ the Redeemer, Surrey.

Diocesan ACW vice-president, Amelia Foster, ODNW of St. Hilda's, Sechelt had this to say:

"What a great turnout! We were blessed with beautiful weather and so much positive feedback from all who attended. More women want to volunteer. Everyone was happy. We are off to a great start in our new ACW Place. We will thrive by God's grace and continue this ministry for many years to come opening the doors for the younger generation. What a wonderful team."

Please enjoy these photos from the day. ✨

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



A view from the loft of the north side of the warehouse section of ACW Place.



A view from the loft of the south side of the warehouse.



The gathering and meeting space in the loft.



Members of the ACW chapter at St. Michael's, Vancouver (Multicultural) except for Judith Carling who was washing dishes.

Blessing of ACW Place

ACW Chaplain, the Rev. Miranda Sutherland, Vicar of Holy Spirit, Whonnock & St. Matthew's, Abbotsford

Greetings to all of you and thank you President Kelly for your welcome and introduction.

We gather here today at our new ACW Place, satisfied that we have done well in securing our new home. The efforts of President Kelly Bowman and the Board must be commended in making this happen.



The sheet cake.



Archdeacon Engnan beside the Rev. Miranda Sutherland who is cutting the cake with Beth Fortin and Kelly Bowman.



President Bowman serves the cake.

All the work and prayers have surely paid off. Thanks be to God for grace and mercy that has brought us thus far.

I am proud to be associated with this awesome national Christian Group of women as your Chaplain and will continue to hold you up in prayer and to make myself available to you in any way that I possibly can — assist in providing spiritual support, facilitating discussions, offering pastoral care and collaborate with other leaders within the ACW and through the Board, to ensure that the spiritual needs of the organization are being met; as well as to encourage participation in the activities and events organized by the ACW.

The Anglican Church Women of Canada (ACW) became the new name in 1964, after it was founded as Women's Auxiliary in 1893. With the mission "to empower and support women in their Christian faith, and to promote social justice and peace within their communities," we here in the diocese of New Westminster, will continue to do our part in all the practical projects, singularly or in partnerships with other organizations and spiritual training and development as a unique set of stewards in the Kingdom of God.

A passage of scripture that I am inviting us to reflect on this morning is written in *Psalm 127:1-2* (NIV):

"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat—for he grants sleep to those he loves."

This passage reminds us of the importance of seeking God's guidance and blessing in all our endeavours, including the establishment of this new space.

It emphasizes that without the Lord's presence and providence, our efforts alone are in vain, but with His involvement, our work can bear abundant fruit.

It's a fitting passage to reflect upon as we dedicate our new ACW Place to the service of God and this community and in this diocese.

Prayer of Blessing & Thanksgiving

Let us pray.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God of Creation and Source of all Goodness, we are gathered here today with hearts full of gratitude and joy, to celebrate and bless our new Anglican Church Women of Canada (ACW) Place. We thank you for guiding us to this space, a place where we can continue to grow in faith and carry out your work with renewed dedication.

For this ACW Place, we thank you O Lord.

Lord, we are thankful for the opportunities that this new location offers us to expand our outreach, service, and ministry. May this space be a sanctuary of love and compassion, a place where your grace abounds, and where lives are transformed through our activities and service to others.

For this ACW Place, we thank you O Lord.

We invite you Holy Spirit, to be present in every room, at every corner, and in every heart that will gather within these walls. May our gatherings here be filled with the spirit of unity, understanding, and purpose. May our meetings, discussions, and activities be guided by your wisdom and inspired by your love.

For this ACW Place, we thank you O Lord.

Lord, we are mindful of the responsibility that comes with this new beginning. Grant us the strength and commitment to use this space for the betterment of our community, our church, and the world beyond. May it be a beacon of hope, a place where lives are touched, and your name is glorified.

For this ACW Place, we thank you O Lord.

We also offer our gratitude for the hands and hearts that have labored to make this new location a reality. We thank you for the leadership of our diocese—our bishop, John, for our ACW president, Kelly, for the Board of Governance and for all those who have worked tirelessly to prepare and maintain this space, and those who have generously supported this endeavour and will continue to do so.

For them and for this ACW Place, we thank you O Lord.

And now O God, as we embark on this new chapter in the journey of the ACW of the diocese of New Westminster, we seek your guidance and blessing.

Bless this ground, this location, our neighbours, all who will gather here to give alms and all those who will come to seek alms and support of all kinds. Bless all our programs and givers in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

May our efforts here bear much fruit for your kingdom, and may your presence continue to dwell richly in us and in all that we do, all for Christ's sake. Amen.

We now close with the singing of the doxology—

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above the heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Amen ✠*



Members of the diocesan ACW and guests pose for a group photo.

An Interview with ACW Treasurer Mary McIntyre, ODNW

The New ACW Place in Surrey | #3 – 6678 152nd Street | Hyland Square in East Newton

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

For many years Mary McIntyre, ODNW has been a lay leader of: her parish, All Saints, Mission; the diocesan Anglican Church Women (ACW) with terms as president, vice-president, and treasurer; and she has served the diocese as a Member of Synod and of Diocesan Council. Mary was recognized by her parish for her service with investiture into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW) in 2015. Mary was instrumental in guiding the sale of WA House in Vancouver, the subsequent move to the first ACW Place in Burnaby and now the move to the second ACW Place in Surrey.

We met up at the Grand Opening of the new facility in Surrey, September 9, and Mary agreed to answer a few questions about the process of seeking a new facility and the move.

The Interview

Q. Thanks for agreeing to speak with me today. The former WA Memorial House located on West 14th Avenue in Vancouver's VGH/City Hall neighbourhood was sold in 2011, with the final meeting held there in July of that year, just prior to the move to the first ACW Place (7012 Unit B Merritt Avenue) in Burnaby, southeast of the Metrotown area. Please tell us a little bit about the sale of WA House and the move to the first location.

A. WA House needed major repairs. The east side windows, the porch and roof supports had dry rot. We would've needed to raise over \$100,000 to repair the building. The house was purchased to accommodate missionaries back in Canada to visit and raise funds for their work as well as preparing bales of clothing for the Yukon.

As we no longer hosted missionaries at the house and the basement was small, we had to consider that there was a lot of equity in the building, if sold, could allow us to find a place to do the bales with more room and easier access for the women working on the bales. So, we thought a more central location for the active ACW groups would be better. We presented this to the ACW AGM, and the membership agreed it was time to move. We discovered that although the Society had updated its name from the *Women's Auxiliary of the Church of England* over the years we had not updated the name on the land deed. The diocesan legal team helped us with this, so that we could sell the property.

The realtor we engaged had prospects, as several of the houses around us were being changed into multi-family housing with carriage house(s) and multi-car garages. As soon as we were ready to list, he had offers ready. An offer was accepted a few days later and looking for a new place began.

We looked at several properties in New Westminster and Burnaby, with the Merritt Street location being the best choice at the time, close to the SkyTrain, room for hi-lo shelving/racking, a kitchen, and a meeting room.

Q. Moving up to the present, please describe the situation around the ending of the lease on the Merritt Avenue facility and the subsequent search for and securing of the new location?

A. When the landlord presented a new lease in March 2023, weeks before our meeting, we learned that the base rent was to increase 30% with subsequent increases to come. The City of Burnaby was to start major road work in the fall. The ACW investments had seen a \$250,000 loss in 2022 which left us with a thin cushion to absorb the increased rent and taxes. For less money we could get a place closer to where those members who were committed to being bale workers were coming from (Delta, Surrey, and Coquitlam). We looked at several places, some smaller but all had only one or two parking spaces and little street parking. We made offers on a few but they fell through. We were able to negotiate a lower rent all in for five years, so no future increases due to taxes, etc., and lots of parking. New, bright, and open in an active blended-purpose commercial building. Easy access for those coming from Hwy 1 or Hwy 10.

Q. Much of the ACW's 57th AGM business meeting on May 27, 2023, involved discussions around the need to find a new ACW Place and protect the organization's commitment to continue stewardship of its financial resources to support ACW priorities. The finding of the new facility and the move appears to have been very successful. Without going too far out on a limb, what is the general feeling amongst the membership regarding these current events?

A. The open house was the Board's opportunity to showcase the new facility. And I believe we received positive feedback. We will look into getting a chair lift for the upstairs meet-

"We are hopeful that with this new location we can get more people interested in helping with our outreach to the north and local groups, like Dress for Success and new immigrant families, with clothing, bedding, and gifts."



Treasurer, Mary McIntyre presenting at the ACW AGM, May 27, 2023. PHOTO Randy Murray

ing room in the future, to make that space more accessible. With the new location we are getting more interest from the valley ACW groups to help with the bales.

Q. How will this new facility affect the current and future mission and ministry goals of the diocesan ACW?

A. We are hoping to engage valley youth groups in the bale process. We will keep our commitments to key outreach programs, such as the VGH Chaplaincy, but will have to reduce our gifts to others until the investment market recovers more.

Q. What was the biggest challenge involved in the process?

A. Finding a new place and getting it ready for the opening. The bales team are still getting use to the new place and where everything is located.

Q. What was the happiest surprise?

A. The neighbours' friendly greetings and the handy garage bins.

Q. Is there anything that you and the leadership might've done differently in hindsight?

A. We might've done a better job of communicating to the members the reason for moving and not make it feel so rushed.

Q. What does the future hold for the ACW in our diocese?

A. We are working on speaking to parishes currently without ACW Groups, letting them know that they can still contribute to the work we do. That ACW is more than local parish fundraising and putting on "Teas."

We are hopeful that with this new location we can get more people interested in helping with our outreach to the north and local groups, like *Dress for Success* and new immigrant families, with clothing, bedding, and gifts.

Q. Anything else you'd like to add?

A. Change can be frightening, but as we found 12 years ago, it also brings new beginnings. ✦

Faith Leaders Meet with Mayor Sim | Dialogue about the Downtown Eastside

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On the morning of Wednesday, April 5, 2023, a significant police presence assembled in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES) to shut down the remnants of the Hastings Street encampment that had at its zenith contained nearly 200 tents and similar structures. Approximately 600 folks inhabiting those shelters had been removed since August, however there still remained an estimated 85 people with some of the structures housing multiple people. Although the City of Vancouver's plan had been leaked earlier with the results being that members of the Hastings Street community and allies held a Monday, April 3 press conference to raise concerns about the approaching action, the dispersal of those who remained (with some of their belongings) and still living in the makeshift neighbourhood on the street was a shock to many.

On April 6, Bishop John Stephens with advice from the Rev. Fr. Matthew Johnson of the Street Outreach Initiative headquartered at St. James' Anglican Church composed a letter to Vancouver's Mayor Ken Sim. The second paragraph of Bishop John's letter reads:

"I watched with great dismay the destruction of tents and property belonging to those living on the streets in the Downtown Eastside. I understand this issue is complex and not easily resolved. Yet, at a time when the issue of housing and homelessness is at a peak of concern it seemed intentionally unsympathetic to remove unstable housing from people who have no realistic options in terms of other housing possibilities."

The letter did make it to Mayor Sim and over the next 5-6 months a group of Vancouver faith leaders, most with long and deep ties to ministry in the DTES connected to set up a meeting with the Vancouver mayor. The date for the meeting was September 14, 2023.

The group that gathered for the meeting were: Amanda Burrows, Executive Director, First United; Tariq Tyab co-founder of Foundation for a Path Forward and principal of the Columbia Institute; Rabbi Dan Moskovitz, Senior Rabbi of Temple Shalom on Oak Street; Bishop Kathy Martin of the BC Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; Archbishop Michael Miller, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver; Bishop John Stephens, Anglican diocese of New Westminster; the Rev. Fr. Matthew Johnson; and Randy Murray, Communications Officer of the Anglican diocese of New Westminster, staff support.

Tariq Tyab, a Muslim leader has a remarkable record of promoting equality and interfaith collaboration. Tariq and Mayor Sim have worked together and are engaged in ongoing dialogue and inclusion program implementation. Tariq has also become an active participant in the ministry of our diocese, specifically around housing and property development projects. He works with Director of Mission and Ministry, the Rev. Tellison Glover and with Vicar of the Parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral, the Ven. Richard Leggett on the now in-progress Holy Trinity New Westminster development project. Although Rabbi Dan Moskovitz and congregation do not have a building in the DTES, that community is engaged and wants to become more involved in compassionate service to, and equality for the residents of DTES. The other leaders present have a more direct connection to the area through their church buildings and established outreach initiatives.

As it was his letter that got the dialogue started, Bishop John informally facilitated the agenda for the faith leaders. Everyone introduced themselves and gave a brief explanation of their organization's connection to the DTES.

Following the introductions, Mayor Sim addressed the remarks in Bishop John's letter. He clarified that the April 5 action was not a law enforcement decision, but a Vancouver Engineering decision as repeated discussions around the potential threat of fires, explosions and catastrophic events that would take many lives and destroy property had resulted in consensus amongst the relevant city personnel that this action was necessary. The safety of the community was and is the priority. Mayor Sim also stated that there were three in-person attempts to communicate to the remaining members of the encampment that there was housing available for each of them, however, very few raised their

hands to take the offer.

After the mayor spoke, each person had an opportunity to present their point of view and offer ideas for consideration that might move towards a better situation. As this was the first meeting, much of what was discussed is in early stages but what is important is that a dialogue has begun and out of that good can come.

It is hoped that the meeting in the Mayor's Office, September 14, 2023, will be the first of a series of dialogues and together faith leaders and the City of Vancouver can work together to make the DTES a safer and more habitable place for all. ☩



Mayor Sim addresses the faith leaders. PHOTOS Randy Murray



The group gathered for that first dialogue around the table on September 14, 2023: (left to right) Rabbi Dan Moskovitz, Bishop John Stephens, Amanda Burrows, Fr. Matthew Johnson, Bishop Kathy Martin, Archbishop Michael Miller, Tariq Tyab, and Mayor Ken Sim.



Shailene Caparas, CPA, CGA
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Lord, my influence in this life is on many people in many ways. Help me to leave a lasting, positive legacy in all areas of my life.



Father Matthew Johnson speaks about his ministry in the DTES.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Topic Correction, Editor's Apology & Asparagus

The cutline for the last photo, lower left on page 13 of the September/October 2023 fall issue of *Topic* incorrectly identifies the person on the far right. Many thanks to the Rev. Karin Fulcher, co-chaplain for the Diocesan Retired Clergy and Spouses for drawing my attention to the fact that the person is Judith Pike (not Peake), the spouse of the other co-chaplain, the Ven. Andrew Pike. Judith was instrumental in making the Spring Luncheon a huge success and I am so sorry for the gaff.



LEFT Judith prepares the flowers for the June 7 event. RIGHT The Rev. Karin Fulcher and Judith Pike. PHOTOS Jane Dittrich



Continuing along the thread of the coverage of the spring 2023 *Retired Clergy and Spouses Luncheon*, I received a note from *Topic* reader, Tory, who wrote:

"My mouth was watering as I looked at the photo of Bette Geddes's Asparagus Dish served at the Retired Clergy and Spouses Luncheon for spring 2023. I'm hoping that Bette will share her recipe."

I reached out to Bette, and she was happy to share the following information:

"As with most of my cooking I don't use recipes, the asparagus recipe being one of them. So, here is a rough guideline for the Roast Asparagus:

- Mix together...*
- Black olive tapenade*
- Some more chopped black olives*
- Chopped balsamic onions*
(Check out Bosa foods)
- Chopped cherry tomatoes*
- Chopped parsley*
- Chopped basil*
- Little bit of garlic*
- Fresh ground pepper*
- If too dry, add some olive oil*

"I think you could add lots of other yummy ingredients too: artichoke, parmesan cheese, capers etc. Let your taste buds guide you."

Thanks Bette... • EDITOR ✦



The asparagus. PHOTO Randy Murray

The Parish of St. Thomas at Chilliwack Pride

SUBMISSION & PHOTOS Lori Martin

Many thanks to Interim Priest-in-Charge at St. Thomas, Chilliwack, the Rev. Lorie Martin for sharing photos of the August 19, Chilliwack Pride and St. Thomas's presence at the event. The photos did not arrive with cutlines, but they don't really need much explanation.

Accompanying the submission, the Rev. Martin wrote the following about the parish's experience:

"What a positive community spirit in action. Many people came to our booth to say hi, share some of their past and present stories of their lives, receive lemon or cold mint water to quench their thirst, brought some of their pets or just took a pause to have a candy or two.

We love being an affirming Church and receiving and giving nourishment today was beyond what we imagined.

Can't wait to explore more healing and friendships in our special community. Thank you all!" ✦



AROUND THE DIOCESE

We're Back!

The first scheduled staff meeting at the Synod office following the summer of 2023, took place on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. A popular feature is the staff birthday greeting portion that begins the meeting (following prayers and the Territorial Acknowledgement). Three September birthdays were marked: Accounting Clerk, Prashanthi (Shanthi) Yadavalli; Diocesan/Provincial Archivist and Privacy Officer, Marché Riley; and Director of Mission and Ministry, the Rev. Tellison Glover. Marché was not present, however Shanthi and Tellison were onsite and participating

in the birthday ritual. For Tellison the next day, September 7 was a milestone with a 0 birthday, so he got to do the cake cutting honours.

Executive Assistant to the Bishop's and Executive Archdeacon's Offices, Bill Siksay jumped up to serve the cake.

The meeting wasn't all cake and song as the staff led by Bishop John discussed several important issues and given the length of time apart reported in more detail than usual on the current work being done by each staff member. ✦



The Reverend Tellison Glover's last day of his 30s, September 6. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Tellison cuts, Bill serves, and Shanthi, the other birthday celebrant present looks a bit suspicious of the process.



Diocesan Council 2023 – 2025

Diocesan Council, the "Synod between Synods," the governance body of the diocese gathered for the second time since being elected and/or appointed in May 2023 for the annual day long Diocesan Council

Retreat. The Retreat took place at the Synod Office on September 16. Here is the photo taken of the Diocesan Council members present during the morning of the Retreat.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEMBERS 2023 – 2025

- The Right Reverend John Stephens | Bishop
- Robert Hardy, ODNW | Treasurer
- George Cadman, KC, ODNW, AAM | Chancellor
- Kevin Smith, ODNW | Vice-Chancellor
- The Reverend Andrew Halladay | Chair of the Mission & Ministry Development Committee & Clerical Secretary of Synod
- The Reverend Amanda Ruston | Burrard – clerical
- Teofilo Bosaing, ODNW | Burrard – lay
- The Reverend Joyce Parry-Moore | Capilano – clerical
- Meg Stevens | Capilano – lay
- The Reverend Simbarashe Basvi | Fraser – clerical
- Frances Fagan, ODNW | Fraser – lay
- The Reverend James Hwang | Granville – clerical
- Don Thompson | Granville – lay
- The Reverend Laurel Dahill | Lougheed – clerical
- Ann Turner | Lougheed – lay
- The Reverend Justin Cheng | Westminster – clerical
- Deirdre Thornton | Westminster – lay
- Ryan Bowie | Youth
- The Venerable Stephen Muir | Archdeacons and Dean
- The Venerable Stephanie Shepard | Archdeacons & Dean
- The Venerable Richard Leggett | Bishop's Clergy Appointment
- The Very Reverend Chris Pappas | Bishop's Clergy Appointment ✦



Back row: (left to right) The Ven. Richard Leggett; the Ven. Stephanie Shepard; Ryan Bowie; Kevin Smith; the Rev. James Hwang; the Ven. Stephen Muir; Bishop John Stephens; the Rev. Tellison Glover; Bob Hardy, ODNW; the Very Rev. Christopher A. Pappas; the Rev. Andrew Halladay; the Rev. Amanda Ruston; George Cadman, KC, AAM, ODNW.

Front Row: (left to right) The Rev. Laurel Dahill; Ann Turner; Frances Fagan, ODNW; Shailene Caparas; the Rev. Justin Cheng; Deirdre Thornton; the Rev. Joyce Parry-Moore.

Absent from the photo: The Ven. Philippa Pride; the Rev. Simbarashe Basvi; Teofilo Bosaing, ODNW; Don Thompson; Meg Stevens; Jennifer Dezell, ODNW; Donald Paul, ODNW. PHOTO Randy Murray

International Dinner Returns to St. Helen's, Surrey

SUBMISSION Robin Ruder-Celiz

On Saturday September 16, the Parish of St. Helen's Surrey was pleased to re-launch their annual *International Dinner*. This was the first since the pandemic. A sold-out crowd enjoyed cuisine from around the world and from the countries of origin of members of the parish. The centre piece included a spit roasted pig that was donated by a parishioner.

During the evening, people were invited

to place a pin on the world map indicating the country they are from. A band, *Max 11*, also provided music and an opportunity for people to dance the night away.

While there was a lot of work that went into planning and organizing the event, the relationships formed, and community built made all the planning and hard work more than worthwhile. ✦



Sold out parish hall at St. Helen's. PHOTOS Submitted



The map awaits the placement of pins.



Hungarian food.



The pig.

St. David's Hidden Turf Now Indigenous Garden

SUBMISSION Elizabeth Murray, ODNW

Blessing of St. David's *Indigenous Garden* by the Rev. Simbarashe Basvi on Sunday, September 17, marked the end of a 15-month project, and its beginning as a new place of meditation among the broader-locale's healing plants.

Transition of a hidden corner of church property, that had become a wilderness of invasive weeds, began when then-people's warden, Phil Severy and assistant warden, Mary Savage headed a committee to "break new ground." Thanks to an incredible team of *shovels-and-sweat-volunteers*, and the ongoing support of Claire Forster (parish garden expert), the restored area was ready for planting by early-June. Then came establishing and identifying some 40 native species in three areas: a pre-defined stone circle medicine-wheel, a "meadow" of berries plants, and a walkway of ferns and flowering shrubs.

The intrepid gardeners were advised by Tsawwassen First Nation to work with Coastal Salish Plant Nursery. Its ethnobotanist, Cease Wys, visited the site to help in the selection and location of plants, in sensitive accordance with proper protocol.

On the Saturday preceding the dedication of the garden, herbalist Leona Browne

of Nisga'a and Gitksan First Nations conducted a well-attended workshop in the parish hall. At the end of an instructive demonstration in *Making Healing Salves from Native Plants*, each participant went home with a small tin of healing Devils Club salve.

St. David's *Indigenous Garden* was made possible by two grants. The first from the diocese of New Westminster's Salal + Cedar Ministry, and the second from the Diocesan Climate Emergency Grant. ✦



Leona Brown guides Claire Forster as she pours Devils Club salve into containers for folks participating in *Making Salves from Native Plants*.



LEFT Parishioners pass the new medicine-wheel as they gather around the garden after worship, September 17.



PHOTO Mary Horton RIGHT The Rev. Simbarashe Basvi blesses the *Indigenous Garden*. PHOTO Loy Yeo

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Clergy & Staff News Around the Diocese

The late spring and fall are times when there is an increase in personnel movement around the diocese. At the time of this writing in late September there are several parishes welcoming new ordained leaders.

The Rev. David Taylor concluded his ministry as Rector of the Parish of St. Dunstan, Aldergrove on Sunday, September 9. That parish is beginning an interim period with the Ven. Al Carson as interim priest-in-charge. David began his new ministry as Rector of St. Mark, Ocean Park, September 16, and the Celebration of New Ministry took place Monday, September 25. Coverage of the liturgy will be available in a future issue of *Topic*.

The Rev. Liz Hamel completed her interim post as Interim Priest-in-Charge of St. John the Baptist, Sardis, September 15 and began her next appointment immediately as Interim Priest-in-Charge of All Saints, Ladner. This is a two-year term.

The Rev. Monte Tugwete, recently serving assistant curacies at both Holy Trinity Cathedral and St. Alban the Martyr, Burnaby began his new appointment as Interim Priest-in-Charge of St. Alban the Martyr, August 1.

St. George, Fort Langley began an interim process in September with the Rev. Georgina Harris as interim priest-in-charge (60%).

The Rev. Eric Mason completed seven years of ministry as Rector of the Parish of St. Laurence, Coquitlam, September 24. Eric, originally from Colorado, is returning to the parish where he did his curacy, Grace Episcopal Church, Bainbridge Island, Washington.

Deacon, the Rev. Carole Neilson retired September 30 from active ministry at Holy Trinity Cathedral concluding more than 35 years of diaconal service at the New Westminster parish.

Vicar of Holy Trinity Cathedral, the Ven. Richard Leggett will retire December 31. The ministry posting and parish profile were linked online and circulated at the end of September.

The Rev. Paul Woehrl, Rector of St. Cuthbert, Delta will retire from full-time

ministry, November 30.

Bishop John Stephens has appointed the Rev. Jonathan Pinkney, Rector of St. Christopher, West Vancouver. The Rev. Pinkney has been interim priest-in-charge of the parish in relief of the Rev. Karen Urquhart since late in 2021. The Rev. Urquhart remains a priest of the diocese but continues on long-term disability.

The Rev. Joe Dirbas, Rector of the Parish of the Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock was appointed Chair of the diocesan Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) Unit in late September.

The Rev. Howard Keith Adan voluntarily relinquished the exercise of his priestly ministry on August 29, 2023.

SYNOD STAFF NEWS

The Ven. Douglas Fenton who retired as Executive Archdeacon, January 4, 2023, returned to the Synod office, mid-September on contract as a consultant. Archdeacon Fenton will not have set hours but will be in the office 1/2 time.¹

Regarding Archdeacon Fenton's position, Bishop Stephens said:

"He is not stepping back into his former role but as a resource for me while Executive Archdeacon, the Ven. Philippa Pride is on medical leave. Philippa is on short term medical leave for the next while as she receives the medical care that she needs."

Communications Officer and *Topic* Editor, Randy Murray submitted his resignation to Bishop John in mid-September with a retirement date of December 15. His last day will be December 1.

The diocesan communications job was posted on September 15, 2023, a posting which immediately produced a substantial number of applications. More information about staffing regarding diocesan communications will be available on the diocesan website news pages and in future issues of *Topic*.

¹ The Ven. Douglas Fenton's email address is executivearchdeacon@vancouver.anglican.ca

Episcopal Visit to Holy Cross, Vancouver (and... baby raccoons)

On Sunday, September 17, Bishop John Stephens paid an episcopal visit to his parish of Holy Cross, Vancouver for their patronal festival day. Joining the bishop was Christ Church Cathedral's, Deacon for Diversity, the newly ordained deacon, the Rev. Kevin de la Mare.

The vicar of the parish, the Rev. Alecia Greenfield led the bishop and deacon on a walk through the parish's stunning memorial garden and ran across some baby raccoons (Mother Alecia used the descriptive term "adorable" in her notes to diocesan

communications, which they kind of are, but...) waiting for their mother at the gate. The theme of Bishop John's sermon was the Feast of Holy Cross (Celebrated on September 14, transferred to Sunday, September 17 for this liturgy).

Following a tasty potluck meal featuring Japanese cuisine, Bishop John sat down with the community to hear their worries, their excitement for the future, and all gathered were enthusiastic in their gratitude for God's grace and care for the Parish of Holy Cross. ✠



The vicar and bishop pause for a photo in the Holy Cross Memorial Garden. PHOTO Submitted



A view of the Memorial Garden on a beautiful late summer's day. PHOTO Bishop John Stephens



Holy Cross parishioner, Sally with the Rev. Kevin de la Mare. PHOTO Submitted



The baby raccoons huddle in the gate's ceiling. PHOTO Bishop John Stephens

Blessing the PWRDF Wild Ride Participants

On Saturday morning, September 23, 2023, a few minutes before the scheduled *Conversation with the Primate* event for the clergy of the diocese of New Westminster, the Primate, the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls took a few minutes to bless the diocesan PWRDF folks supporting the annual *Wild Ride* fundraiser.

Appearing in the photograph are the Rev. Margaret Marquardt, Diocesan PWRDF Unit; Bishop John Stephens; Liz Macdonald, ODNW, Diocesan PWRDF Unit; Jane Dittrich, ODNW, *Wild Ride* cyclist and principal local *Wild Ride* fundraiser; Peter Goodwin, Diocesan PWRDF Unit; and Mark Halyk, Christ Church Cathedral PWRDF representative.

After receiving the archbishop's blessing, the group walked through Vancouver's Shaughnessy district and down the Arbutus Corridor as part of PWRDF's 2023 *Wild Ride*.

The graphic shows that as of September 23, Jane was right behind Her Grace with the second highest total of money raised. ✠



The after-lunch dialogue with the bishop. PHOTO Submitted

Top Fundraising Individuals

- Walk with the Primate!**
Raised \$3,960.00
- Jane Dittrich (Vancouver)**
Raised \$3,600.00
- PWRDF Wild Ride In Memory of Rev'd Canon Greg Smith**
Raised \$2,825.00
- Joy Zips Across Maffeo Sutton Park - St. Paul Nanaimo**
Raised \$1,726.00
- Yukon Betty**
Raised \$1,100.00



PHOTO Randy Murray

OPINION

The Perils of Preaching | Part 2

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

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

I promised to return with a reflection or two about the many episodes of humour one can discover in the usually serious world of the pulpit. For me, two priceless moments remain from those long-gone days in the Divinity School of Trinity College Dublin, where I studied (yes, I really did from time to time!) and from which I emerged an eager and earnest deacon in the year 1952.

During those years we divinity students, as we were then called—these days we have for some reason become seminarians—worshipped each Sunday morning in the University Chapel. Immediately I think about that building certain words come to mind—words like serious, austere, formidable, dark—a building that disciplined rather than comforted, demanding wakefulness and attention rather than any allowance for indolence. God forbid that there should be any morning fraternization among us worshippers, above all any frivolities such as smiling or greeting one another.

And yet, from time-to-time humour defied all efforts to entirely banish it from these solemn precincts. Two moments come back over the years. Not intended humour of course—perish the thought—but nevertheless unwitting forays into laughter, subdued of course out of fear that one's levity might be discerned by those members of the faculty who sat behind and above us students.

Now, I will introduce two people, not just ordinary mortals but respectively the Regius Professor of Divinity and the Regius Professor of Philosophy. For the most part we were preached to by the members of the faculty but from time to time one of these two senior worthies would mount the pulpit armed with a sheaf of manuscript from which he would address us.

The opening sentence was usually the most fertile time for some unwitting humour by the preacher.

The Regius Professor of Divinity was a shy, withdrawn cleric who lived in an enormous house with his elderly mother



Ireland's largest University, Trinity College, Dublin. IMAGE Marc Lechanteur (iStock ID#838371028)

and whose shyness made him quite unable to indulge in the most minimal small talk. A short diversion if you allow me will illustrate this. Every Sunday four of us students received an invitation to afternoon tea. Admitted to the entrance hall of the house, we would be met by an unvarying sequence. A servant would take our coats, then our host would appear to welcome us, after which he would gesture to the upper landing and say rather diffidently, "Gentlemen, if any of you wish to wash your hands the washroom is upstairs, literal on the right, metaphorical on the left." The tone in which this was said indicated that it was to be received as the good doctor's attempt at levity for the occasion.

But I digress and we must return to Sunday morning and the chapel. There came a morning when the Regius Professor of Divinity—by no means a spring chicken, climbed the pulpit steps, shutting behind him the small door that prevented him from stepping back too far and leaving the pulpit precipitously. On this particular Sunday, he placed his manuscript on the rostrum, said the ascription, looked over

the awaiting congregation and slowly and deliberately announced "Gentlemen, I will have you know that St. Paul was no reactionary obscurantist." Then for the next 40 minutes he proceeded to ensure that we students knew in excruciating detail why this fascinating insight into the great apostle was a truth we needed to be aware of. Thus, I share a memory of worship that has lasted a lifetime.

Another hilarious moment involved the Regius Professor of Philosophy who stood in the same pulpit, announced as his text, "There is a River," paused and then announced as if it was a newly discovered archeological wonder, "Gentlemen, there is a Cosmic Influence that impinges on the Terrestrial..."

I spoke of two remembered moments but a third yearns to be told. The attitude of the divinity school of those days towards preaching was quite cavalier. Basically, it assumed that you would join one of the two large associations of the university, the University Philosophical Society and the University Historical Society. Both of which were the equivalent of what Oxford and

Cambridge call the Union. By doing this it was assumed you would become a competent public speaker. This competency you would then bring to your preaching ministry. This at least was the plan. However, by 1951, there were voices expressing the need for change. So, in that year three Saturday mornings in each of the three academic terms were set aside when final year students would be requested to offer a Homily and have it critiqued by a faculty member.

On one such Saturday a final year student stood to offer his homily. One day he would succeed Jonathan Swift as the Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral. However, he had yet to attain such eminence. In this moment he is one of a number of us about to be ordained.

Looking back, he had obviously decided to stretch the bounds of that era's preaching style. Today we would know immediately that he was striving for a vivid narrative style. He began descriptively, invoking the scene and its characters including our Lord. He was describing the day on the Lake of Galilee when suddenly a voice rang out with a single word: "STOP!"

Absolute silence, the preacher silenced in mid-sentence, we all awaited the next word from the source of authority. It came, slow, very deliberate, rich with sarcasm. First naming the obviously nonplussed preacher, the professor said, "Mr. Stewart, may I ask if you have recently obtained access to documents hitherto unknown? An embarrassed voice said contritely, "No sir." Long silence for effect. Then sternly, getting louder towards the end! "Then stick to the text, Mr. Stewart! Stick to the text!"

I often wondered if Maurice—his name has come back over the years—as he lived all those busy years being a worthy successor to Jonathan Swift as Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral, ever recalled that Saturday morning.

Such disciplinary moments fashioned great preachers. At least one would hope so! ✠

A Visitation of Voices

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

It was summer and the setting sun poured along the corridor as I looked for the ward he had been moved to. Len was dying peacefully and so those who loved him kept watch, always one, sometimes two. This time there was just one sitting by the bed. Len had turned away and was sleeping, his face bathed in the gentle rays of the sun just about to slip beneath the horizon of English Bay.

The two of us went to the bedside and for a moment looked at Len. There was no sign of pain or discomfort. We both took his hand. Very quietly and deliberately we began to say what Len would have known since childhood. *Our Father, who art in Heaven... thy Kingdom come... his hand tightened slightly as if joining us... thy will be done. On earth as in heaven... very slowly an eyelid lifted... then another... then joining us, a voice... for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory... his lips moving, his eyes open he joined us in words remembered since childhood and to which he had remained faithful all his life. We ended together. Len slept again. Just before his eyes closed again, she bent and kissed him. I left them. She accompanied me to the elevator. Their son was due any minute. Len left before sunrise.*

What made this evening unforgettable was what happened after we parted. I had



IMAGE Goroden Koff (iStock ID#1353357598)

decided to see if another parishioner was awake on a lower floor. As I got out of the elevator and started along the floor a nurse

guided a wheelchair into the corridor. Before they turned away and went ahead of me, I saw that the patient was elderly and

frail, so frail that she had to be supported in the chair. Her whole demeanor was one of frailty and extreme exhaustion. I emphasize this because of what took place, astonishing both the nurse and I.

The nurse and her patient were about ten feet ahead of me when I heard a voice, strong and vibrant. I looked around expecting to see someone but there was no one else. The voice continued reciting one of the most frequently quoted poems in the English language, reciting without the least hesitation, every word clear.

*I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd
A host of golden daffodils,
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

On she went, reciting the complete poem. At the end her voice sank back into silence, and she slumped forward in an exhaustion that had been entirely absent as the lovely lines seized her and rendered her so astonishingly eloquent.

I drove home slowly and thoughtfully. Twice in these quiet hours I had heard voices, one approaching death, the other mysteriously transformed from weakness to power. The thought struck me that few people realize the privileges of priesthood. ✠

Where Your Treasure Is, There Will Your Heart Be Also | Part 2

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

Have you ever heard a senior complain, “My aging process is going too slow?” Exactly.

Assuming you will be moving to a smaller abode, whether you take two weeks, two months, or two years to complete the downsizing process, it won't be long enough. The most difficult decisions will inevitably be left till last, probably the evening before the moving company truck arrives. So, do it when there is still time to take the time. If, with the best choices in the world, you will still, years later, have a few regrets, it will be not because you did not take time to consider carefully.

In the previous *Topic* piece (page 25 of the September/October 2023 issue), I asked the question: what the criteria for “Keep It” are and what makes you decide “Dispense With It.”

I grew up in an immigrant community. There were many jokes about how emigrants decided what to put in the crate for overseas transport such as: “We should bring the cinnamon because Dutch cinnamon is the best.” “The rock we use for doorstep, pack it because we might not find such a good rock again in Canada.”

Who doesn't try to cover for future

circumstances; what we might have need of one day. Quick answer: if you have not used it for a long time, dispense. If you ever need it again, check out a thrift store for a similar item. “Where moth and rust do corrupt and where thieves break through and steal,” is a Gospel reminder that nothing is really safe. You feel a need to secure and look after what you own. Is it worth the energy and hassle?

So, here's some questions you might ask yourself honestly. Begin with prayers for discernment and (if that is the case) a confession of hoarding. Can you use it to teach your parents' descendants something about family history and how that history intersects with the larger history of community and the world? Keep your great grandfather's World War I uniform. Does it have a personal story such as a great hurt or a deep joy that is still unresolved and you need to work on it more? Keep it. What can be transferred onto a thumb drive? Has someone expressed a serious interest in having it and can it be picked up or delivered now? As in *Now*. Any large items you feel are truly, truly irreplaceable? Question the double truly. Will a photograph help you to dispose of it? If it's broken but repairable,

can you get it fixed *Now*. Are you certain that in the place to which you are moving there is room for it? Sure, as in, you have measured it accurately, not just a guess. Had you forgotten all about it until you rediscovered it at the bottom of a stored box? Out it goes. You were foolish to acquire it in the first place and regretted that purchase ever since. Will dispensing with it be a threat to your perceived status? Status? Will it help you to reconnect with someone from years past with whom you desire connection and if so, make that reconnection *Now*. Is it a very valuable gift from someone you hardly remember who you never liked? Sell it.

Oh, this is starting to sound too serious. Do not give up anything that helps you stay joyous and generous. Accept your mistakes. Personal story: when we finished our move, the new living room looked like a very large person stuffed into a garment many sizes too small. What did we expect? We kept our large, antique, stuffed furniture!

We also found out to our surprise how

much the thrift store (MCC) was willing to accept. We asked and described before it was trucked there. It was okay. Here's the rub; I volunteer at that thrift store. I try not to look at “our” stuff. I see the framed art on the wall that used to be on our walls, and I whisper to it, “I miss you.” Confession: I bought one piece back. Too much missed.

As for renting storage? You're kidding yourself. All that rental money for storing things that you will have to dispose of eventually. Moth and dust, remember?

What makes our lives rich is our experience of the Lord's presence, to family and friends, to community. What makes it deep is our recollections of times past, to savour not to gulp.

Some readers offered these suggestions: Have *Show & Tell* events. Next time you gather for a social group, ask others to bring significant items from family history or personal life and tell the stories of how these have shaped you. When you feel the story has been fairly told and well received there is a sense of completion which diminishes the need to keep or store the item. When you are tasked with emptying a house after the death of the occupant, bring the interesting and/or valuable items to the funeral lunch or memorial dinner, display them and let others choose items to take home. Use local websites for stuff for Sale or Free. Drag it out to the end of the driveway with a big sign FREE. Count everything you own and divide that number by three. Keep 1/3. My current kitchen counters are 1/3 the size of my previous kitchen. So, I dispensed with 2/3 of those cumbersome counter-top kitchen appliances. So that means less food preparation. Good, I was ready for that anyway. No more three course meals for guests. Come and have a great sandwich.

Return the bulky rock collection to the beach where young guests found them. As we age in smaller places, let's get lighter and lighter. Actively resist the cult of stuff but keep some room for frivolity. Keep the little collection of young oyster shells, translucent as fine china, striated with pink and the edges ruffled. ♣

Hannah Main-van der Kamp is a writer living in Powell River. A senior, she and her husband recently downsized. Author of many poetry books, her newest title, *The Slough at Albion* (Ekstasis Editions, Victoria) will be out in late fall 2023.



ILLUSTRATION Aleutie (iStock ID#923815384)



ILLUSTRATION Aleutie (iStock ID#49695714)

Being a Parent is a Big Responsibility Raising children is not for the timid, but the rewards are great

ART TURNBULL

Retired Priest of the diocese of Ontario; Honorary Assistant Priest, St. Matthew, Abbotsford

My wife Gordi and I were blessed to have three girls. Then we thought adding a boy would be nice. So, we adopted a baby boy. A couple of years went by, and we decided we had resources to raise children. We were never going to be materially rich like the Jones next door, so we poured our riches of another kind into adopting a baby girl and a two-year-old boy, adding them to the other four. Then we began really experiencing what it means to look after these gifts called children. It takes a lot of caring and nurturing and guiding and loving. It was worth it.

Not all children, whether born or adopted in a family, have great beginnings. Harrison Mooney is an example of someone who had to find his way, searching for recognition as an adopted child, to becoming an adult who now knows who he is. He wrote a book about this journey, *Invisible Boy* (Harper Collins 2022). The back cover says about the book, the story, “An unforgettable coming-of-age memoir about a Black child adopted into a white Christian Fundamentalist family.”

I read the book after I learned of it

from a television news interview with the author. His voice, his presentation, his maturity caught my attention. His story made me wince. His adoptive parents gave him no support to find out who he was. Harrison had to conform to the image that his parents believed was correct. His whole childhood, his teen years, and his early adult years at university were a constant search for an image of who he was. He was invisible.

When he became an adult, he connected with his birth mother. The subsequent story is a touching account of discovering love. The closing sentence of the book, the story, says it all. Looking in the car mirror after having this experience with his birth mother, Harrison exclaims, “For the first time in my life, I saw that I was beautiful.”

This story prompted me to review what I'd done as a parent, what Gordi and I accomplished. The book confronted me with the question, “Did we do okay by our children?”

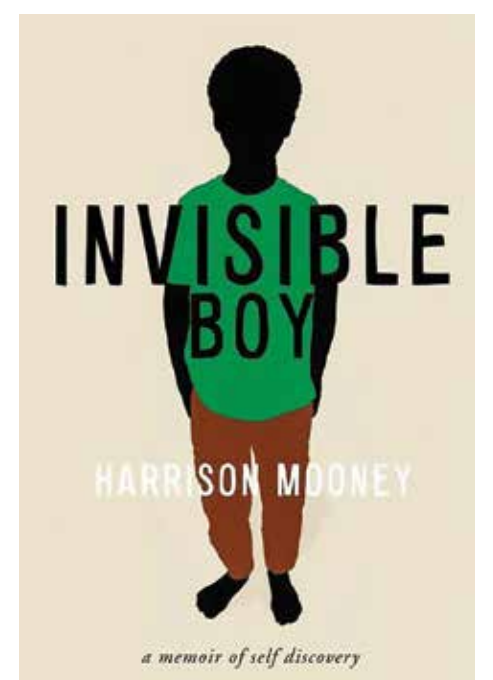
As Christians we should strive to understand what it means when we read in the Bible that God has known us before we were, knew us in the womb. Parents get to

care for these ones loved by God. We get to bring them up. The Bible says, “Those who spare the rod hate their children, but those who love them are diligent to discipline them.” (*Proverbs 13:24*) It takes a lot to understand what this parenting guidance from Scripture means. As children of God, we are all adopted as brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. We are called to be who we are meant to be. Jesus says, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” (*Matthew 19:14*)

I have checked in with my adult children. I know them as parents of my grandchildren. There are now great-grandchildren as well.

I have reviewed how I did at this parenting, how Gordi and I made it through all those years. We did okay. I do hope all parents can say that. Yes, we made mistakes. We were not perfect. But we never forgot that it is a gift to have children for whom we were responsible.

It is my opinion that God blesses all parents, and all parents have the opportunity to share that blessing. ♣



Invisible Boy

Author | Harrison Mooney

Publisher | Harper Collins (2022)

Declining or Discerning?

LESLIE BUCK
Christ Church Cathedral

Many of us are concerned (or should that be “obsessed”) with how church attendance continues to decline in Western society. Church attendance and membership have been declining in Britain, among Anglicans at least, since the 18th century as working-class people forsook the Tory-dominated Church of England for Nonconformist Churches. Even during Victorian times Matthew Arnold saw, “The Sea of Faith... retreating,” and it has continued thus ever since.

The same retreat was occurring in Western Europe, but not so much in North America. When I first arrived in Canada from Britain, I found Anglican churches relatively full, and their members somewhat complacent, as Pierre Berton had just pointed out in his 1965 book *The Comfortable Pew*. The Church had become ossified, and in the process had become too attached to the social, economic, and political establishments. It was not renowned for calling attention to injustice and oppression.

About this same time two other books were published: John Robinson's *Honest to God* in 1963, and the *Qu'Appelle Liturgy* in 1969. Robinson aimed to move the results of 100 years of biblical study out of the universities and into the parish churches, while the Liturgy aimed to move liturgical practice from the 17th to the 20th century. These publications heralded changes affecting three areas of parish life: teaching, liturgical practice, and outwardly directed ministry.

Teaching became less dogmatic and more related to everyday experience, with lay people becoming more directly involved.



IMAGE Conchi Martinez (iStock ID#1211835274)

There was less insistence on the inerrancy of Scripture with questions no longer resolved by a straightforward biblical quotation; reason and experience were also to be taken into account.

Changes in liturgical practice were more readily seen than heard. Morning Prayer was increasingly replaced in our parish churches by celebrations of the Eucharist. At the Eucharist, no one could fail to see that the presider was now often a woman and, woman or man, faced the people, not the east wall. The presider addressed the people as a community not as an assembly of individuals, a community whose members acknowledged themselves as such by

exchanging the Peace with each other as well as with the presider. The Eucharist became more truly eucharistic, expressive of thanksgiving, and not solely penitential in tone.

This greater openness was seen also towards those outside the Church. All Christians were welcomed to Anglican Eucharists, and non-Christians were no longer regarded as objects for conversion. The “soup-and-salvation” approach to outwardly directed ministry was abandoned in favour of service for its own sake and not for its possible effects on membership. Meanwhile, as membership declined it became more diverse in terms of ethnicity,

language, and culture. “Anglican” ceased to mean “English.”

The changes are astonishing to recall, and I suspect that many of our fellow Anglicans are unaware of them or having become accustomed to them have forgotten that they occurred. We have forgotten, too, the changes which did not take root: guitars, liturgical dancing, glossolalia, and house churches, for example. But whether they took root or not, they had been introduced as a response to a moving of the Spirit and not to stem the decline. The Church had been discerning how to preach the Gospel in our time and place.

But the concern (or obsession) with numbers continues, and so also does our pre-occupation with Western society. Perhaps we need to step back a little and adopt a position that is more inclusive of both other times and other places.

Despite the impression given by St. Paul's journeys as related in the Acts of the Apostles, and by the locations named elsewhere in the New Testament (Thessalonica, Corinth, and Rome, for example), our Christian Faith had its origin in Asia, not Europe. The Faith spread from there to the north, south and east as well as to the west. Today, in India for example, we can meet Syrian Christians who look to Antioch as their apostolic home, not Rome (or Canterbury or Geneva). Today, too, we can see the Faith growing fast in Africa and other parts of the world as it once grew in Western Europe. We must bear in mind that the centre of the world does not lie in mid-Atlantic. ✠

Night Prayer

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

Jesus was once — more likely many times — asked what he meant by the *Kingdom of God* or the *Kingdom of Heaven*. He used to give an answer that was simple, almost pedestrian. He would say, “You know how distressing it is to lose something you value very much, and how wonderful it is that having searched high and low, you at last find it? You're absolutely overjoyed. Well, that's what discovering the Kingdom of Heaven can be like.”

Last week I rediscovered something I really value. It's a heavy Celtic ring I've had for about 40 years. Just as I was taking off metal things on me before having an MRI, I realized it wasn't on my finger. I was very sad to have lost it. It wasn't that it was either old or expensive. It was neither, but it had come to mean a lot.

Weeks went by. I gave it up for lost. Then one day recently Paula, my wife handed it to me. I was overjoyed. It had been in her purse. For some reason I had forgotten that I had given it to her before the MRI procedure all those weeks ago. Nothing to do with old age of course! I was overjoyed, and as I savoured the joy of finding the ring, I recalled something that I had been told some years ago about how the whole church nearly lost a real spiritual treasure.

The Church of New Zealand was one of the last, maybe the last part of the Anglican Communion to revise its Prayer Book. It completed its work sometime in 1987. On the evening of the last day the members of the task force, who had worked long and hard on their assignment, met for a short simple service in which they offered their work to God. To lead this final time of prayer the members selected someone who



IMAGE Leo Lingtang (iStock ID#1144522169)

had been Secretary of the Commission and had done yeoman work. His name was John Williamson.

While preparing for the service John wrote a text on a sheet of paper. When he

read it and offered it as a prayer, its simple beauty immediately captured the hearts and minds of the commission. So much so that members were unanimous in suggesting that the text should be included in their

submission to the whole Church.

It was late in the evening, some had left for home or the hotel, including John Williamson. Someone suggested that they rummage through the papers that were strewn around where he had been sitting. Sure enough, his text was discovered in one of the wastepaper baskets. Today it is treasured by millions of people in the world church. You have very likely offered this prayer yourself. Consider keeping it where you keep precious things.

*Lord, it is night.
The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of God.*

*It is night after a long day.
What has been done has been done;
what has not been done
has not been done;
Let it be.*

*The night is dark.
Let our fears of the darkness of the world
and of our own lives
rest in you.*

*The night is quiet.
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.*

*The night heralds the dawn.
Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys, new possibilities.*

In your Name we pray. Amen.

Perhaps it's worth revising what I said. Put this where you keep precious things. However, make sure it's available. It's the kind of thing you will reach for from time to time. ✠

Camp Aspire | A Summer Success!

LAUREN ODILE PINKNEY

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From July 17–24 of 2023, Christ Church Cathedral, in collaboration with St. Anselm's, UBC Endowment Lands hosted, *Aspire Bible Camp*, a summer day camp for kids from across the Lower Mainland. The camp was open to children aged 5–11. Twenty-six children came to learn, explore, and create.

This was the first regional day camp offered in the diocese of New Westminster for many years. This new approach to the vacation bible school concept aims to bring a high-quality summer day camp experience. The collaborative model takes the pressure off smaller parishes attempting such an undertaking, while providing high-quality,

sustainable, and safe childcare for children in the summer months.

Home base for *Aspire* was the Synod Office and St. John's, Shaughnessy (SJS), two entities that share a property footprint even though each has a different address on Nanton Avenue. Worship and morning Storytime took place in the SJS sanctuary with the group also making use of the Sunday School in the basement. That room was set up with various workstations, including a cozy reading nook, a play area with trains and blocks, and a mural wall. Snacks and quiet time were enjoyed in the Trendell Lounge, the large gathering space shared by the Synod and SJS. We made good use

of the covered walkways with craft tables, sidewalk chalk and other curriculum-based activities. The green space between the Synod Office and SJS provided an excellent play space that became competitive parachute tents, a huge tarp ocean, bug observatory and mega slip and slide.

Monday, the first day of the camp kicked off with the story of *Creation*. The story was followed by space-themed activities such as creating Galaxy canvas prints and soothing glitter calm jars for moments of relaxation. Super nova-style tie dye *Aspire* t-shirts were made, and the group managed to avoid too many spills!

On Tuesday, the focus shifted to land

and plants. Francis Hart D'Emilio representing the Salal + Cedar worshipping community led one of the curriculum boxes focusing on trees. The group then headed to the park to make *cyanotypes* (for those who don't know, *cyanotypes* are one of the oldest photographic printing processes. The distinctive feature of the print is its shade of cyan blue, which results from its exposure to ultraviolet light. When the blueprint emerged, *cyanotypes* were traditionally used for reproducing the technical drawings of architects and engineers until the arrival of photocopy machines.). The result was stunning blue artwork made from plant leaves. More leaves and twigs were collected to make a bug hotel. After lunch, we made terrariums and enjoyed exploring the plants and bugs in the garden.

Wednesday's theme was animals, with a focus on *Noah's Ark* through games and activities. The children created birdhouses and enjoyed a quiet afternoon with a movie and snacks.

Thursday was water day. It featured a Godly Play story of *Jonah and the Whale*. There were underwater themed parachute games, and much fun was had crafting underwater blue slime. In the afternoon there were water games, relay races, slip and slide, and even popsicles. Everyone got very wet but dried quickly in the sun.

Finally, on Friday, we focused on humans and caring for the world. From the Godly Play story *Great Family*, the children learned about interconnectedness. We took polaroid photos of the *Aspire* participants, which were then used to create cards to be sent to loved ones. After lunch, we had a dance party with music, games, ice cream and as a special treat, a piñata which the older children had been working on. The younger children took much glee destroying said piñata and enjoying the treats within.

Throughout the week, various people helped with the daily stories and activities: the Rev. Rob James, the Rev. Karin Fulcher, Maggie Sanders, Cristalle Watson, Susan Koppersmith, Francis Hart D'Emilio, and *Aspire* staff members, Allegra Calabrigo, Niel Jongbloed, Lynn Choi, Jay Walton, and Brianna Parlongo. On behalf of the organizers of *Aspire* I would also like to thank the Rev. Terry Dirbas, Elias Neto, Reagan Gorman, Shailene Caparas, the Rev. Tellison Glover and the Rev. Jessica Schaap for their logistical support onsite. Everyone's support helped make the camp a tremendous success. As we bid farewell to this year's *Aspire Bible Camp*, we eagerly anticipate even more adventures and discoveries next year! ✦



The *Aspire* collage.



Godly Play session in the SJS chancel.



In disguise?



Lauren and Francis with all the kids in the chancel.



Tie-dyeing *Aspire* t-shirts.



Soon to be collector's items, *Aspire* tie-dyed t-shirts.



Tree and bug day.



Kids enjoying crafts on the lawn.



Painting birdhouse sections.



Underwater!

PHOTOS With thanks from:

Lauren Odile Pinkney, Alex Wilson, Allegra Calabrigo, Lynn Choi, and Michael Dirk