



DIOCESAN POST

Celebrating the Diocese of British Columbia

A Section of the ANGLICAN JOURNAL

APRIL 2019

Written in Their Hearts

Christ Church Cathedral's chorister program, unique in Canada, celebrates its first anniversary.

BY PATTI PITTS

This is an excerpt of an article that will appear this year in Cathedral Music Magazine, produced by Friends of Cathedral Music, a UK charity that has given over £300,000 annually to cathedral music foundations. www.fcm.org.uk

It's still dark outside as 14 boys and girls assemble in front of two long rows of choir stalls to start their vocal exercises. With hands on their hips, their Cathedral School uniforms variously tucked in, they follow in the centuries-old tradition of Anglican church choristers, warming up their young voices.

But this isn't a scene in a British cathedral town. This

practice is at Victoria's Christ Church Cathedral. Only one year ago, Director of Music Donald Hunt launched the chorister program, Canada's first and only, fully immersive chorister program based in a cathedral school. "I fell in love with this tradition in the UK and always wanted to start a similar program in Canada," says Hunt, a Canadian, who had worked in several cathedrals from Edinburgh to London.

You've got nine-year-olds memorizing the Magnificat...and this becomes written in their hearts.

As the youngsters hit their high notes, the soaring vaulted ceiling in the Cathedral's Chapel of the New Jerusalem amplifies even the most tentative of voices. "The children are developing the actual sound that I was aiming for much more quickly than I thought they would," says Hunt.



Photo by Susan Down

Accomplished young choristers perform with the adult choir at a recent Wednesday Evensong in the inspiring Chapel of the New Jerusalem in Christ Church Cathedral.

"I think it has something to do with this wonderful space."

The scene invokes a centuries-old tradition; but it is illuminated by the dawning sun through striking stained glass of modern design in a chapel less than 30 years old. And while the year-old chorister program pays tribute to its musical and spiritual roots, it also reflects its location and the modern lifestyles of its Canadian choristers and their families. One young chorister, Elysse, arrived at

a recent 7:30 a.m. practice after already playing ice hockey at a regional rink while fellow singer Alyssa balances singing with dance classes.

Choristers sing to the cathedral congregation once or twice a month at its Wednesday Evensong service where the kids' families now mingle with the regular congregation. "One chorister's grandmother shed tears of joy after an evensong," said Hunt. "People get quite

emotional when they consider what it means to the future of our church."

The chorister program, for students in Grade 4 to 8, is also attracting interest in the adjacent Cathedral School, says Stuart Hall, the Head of School. Choristers receive scholarships to help offset the cost of their school tuition. They even get some pocket money for rehearsals. With increased interest in the school, and *Continued on page 7*

Ladling Out Love

BY SUSAN DOWN

It's Tuesday night in Victoria, and a motorhome parks on Pandora Street, where the sidewalks are still icy from February snows. A volunteer jumps out to festoon a string of lights around the vehicle door. Almost immediately, people find their way in off the chilly, dark street and sit down on the bench seats. Volunteers greet the regulars by name and offer them a

cup of hot chocolate or soup. This is Street Hope in action, an Anglican outreach project that feeds people's spirits as well as their stomachs.

For two hours, people stream in and out, enjoying quiet conversation, and something to eat. Ryan asks for a new toque – his other one was stolen – and receives a black one from the bin of donated clothing and hygiene items.

Van has been homeless for three years, DJ for 14 months since his landlord/boss raised his rent, often sleeping on the sidewalk when he is tired of protecting his

belongings from other shelter users. People admit the food is the initial attraction, but they all use words like "respectful," "calm," and "unconditional love" to describe why they keep coming back.

Neat and eloquent, Nina is frustrated by her inability to settle into a job and a home. "I used to think 'oh those poor people' and tended to stereotype them like 'that lazy bum,'" said Nina, a regular visitor to Street Hope who came from Winnipeg to help her daughter get off drugs. Unaware that Victoria's rental housing

situation was dire, Nina used her savings to get here and then found herself sleeping in a tent in Beacon Hill Park and collecting bottles for income. "Being in a situation where you are surrounded by a lot of negativity when you are homeless it's easy to forget nice people and good things in life," said Nina. "Street Hope has me looking forward to something for the first time in a long time. It reminds me of my old life. It encourages me to get back on track and make goals. It restores my hope."

Continued on page 7



Photo by Susan Down

Michelle Hardy strings lights outside the motorhome.

Re: Again



Bishop Logan Writes

BY THE RIGHT REVEREND DR. LOGAN MCMENAMIE, BISHOP, DIOCESE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Let's take some time during this season of Lent to re-examine who we are as disciples of Jesus Christ. How are we living according to the principles of the Gospel? How are we placing Christ at the centre of all we do and who we are becoming?

Traditionally, Lent has been a time to focus on what we have not done and what we cannot do because of our frailties. Let me

invite you to look at this again. Our diocesan vision is for a renewed people with renewed hearts and spirits—a truly Lenten theme. The prefix “re” means “again.”

We, as Anglicans, pride ourselves as being both Catholic and Reformed. Throughout our history, we have been affected by the reforming movements of the whole church: the Protestant Reformation, the Oxford Movement, and the Wesleyans, to name but a few. All these reforming groups have challenged the Anglican Church to look again at who we are and what we have become. They have also challenged the church to look beyond this and see what more we can become with Christ.

Through prayer and reading of scripture, we are called to look at who we are as a diocese, as parishes, and as individuals on these islands and inlets; we must listen when God asks us to look again. Reforming is not just a one-time event, but a continuing way of life for the Christian. We are

always being asked to look again at what we do and how we are doing it. There is a small book I use as a devotional called *Always We Begin Again: The Benedictine Way of Living* by John McQuiston II and Timothy H. Grayson. This book helps me to look at what I am doing and how I am living as a disciple of Jesus. Based on Benedict's Rule, it is a contemporary reflection on living life as a disciple.

I invite you to join me to *look again* at our observance of a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. To make a right beginning of repentance and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer. However, not with a focus on what we have not done or cannot do, but with a focus of what each of us as an individual, we as a parish, and we as a diocese can do with Christ. Lastly, I invite you to use this prayer to look again at what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ:

Bishop's Calendar

April

- 1-3 Anglican Church Women's Conference, Qualicum Beach
- 5-6 Emmaus Retreat, Bethlehem Center
- 7 Parish Visit to St. Barnabas, Victoria
- 9 Archdeacons and Dean Meeting, Synod Office
- 14 Parish Visit to St. Dunstan, Saanich
- 18 Maundy Thursday Service, Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria
- 19 Good Friday Service, Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria
- 20 Easter Vigil, St. Mary, Oak Bay
- 21 Easter Sunday, St. John the Divine, Victoria
- 25 Finance Committee, Synod Office
- 27 Diocesan Council, Holy Trinity, Sooke

Thank you for the blessing of your call.

Thank you for calling us to realize our potential.

Not be stuck in a false humility that pretends we are not wonderful; not minimizing the beauty and diversity of the gifts with which you bless us;

not pretending that we are worthless,

which is such an insult to you. Help us to recognize just how wonderful we are – and let us use our gifts to help others recognize theirs, so that together we can reflect your glory in serving and celebrating and redeeming the world.

-Zam Walker

ANNUAL FAITH & FELLOWSHIP GATHERING

March 31 to April 2, 2019
at St. Mark's Anglican Church
138 Hoylake Rd W, Qualicum Beach

Together Strong and Bold

Speakers: Bishop Logan McMenamie, Sylvia Olsen, Barbara Henshall, Gloria Hockley

Cost: \$60 includes 2 meals • Registration deadline: March 15
Drop-ins \$10/speaker (no meals) register on the day

Email register: Carole Gill, wcgill1@shaw.ca
or mail: #1-491 Lakes Rd, Duncan, V9L 3E9

Accommodations available at Qualicum Beach Inn, 1-800-661-0199 or info@qualicumbeach.com (rooms will be held until Feb. 28 for booking)

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Some costs associated with the production of the Anglican Journal and the Diocesan Post are offset by parish contributions to the diocese. In return, parishioners receive a copy of the Anglican Journal, including the Diocesan Post at no cost. Other subscriptions: \$20/10 issues or \$2/issue. The Anglican Journal and Diocesan Post do not share subscription lists with outside organizations or businesses.

Submissions

News, letters and other articles are welcome. Please limit articles to 500 words and letters to 200 words. Submissions must include name and contact information of the author. Pictures must be a resolution of 300 DPI and in sharp focus. Clearly and accurately identify the name of all subjects as well as the person who took the picture.

New Submission Deadlines

January issue - November 25
February issue - December 25
March issue - January 25
April issue - February 25
May issue - March 25
June issue - April 25
September issue - July 25
October issue - August 25
November issue - September 25
December issue - October 25

All material is subject to editing.

Volume 53, No 4



Resurrecting Water Wells



PWRDF Corner

BY GEOFF STRONG, PWRDF
DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVE

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.
- Isaiah 12:3-4

Easter is Resurrection Sunday in the Christian Church. PWRDF often observes a resurrection of hope by people previously dispirited by extreme poverty, drought, hunger, and hopelessness. This is especially true in the sub-tropics where the ravages of global warming continue to visit disaster on those people least responsible for their plight of drought and famine. Just as Christ brings hope and empowerment to us, PWRDF brings hope and empowerment to these people, with development projects like the water wells that allow people to prepare for and help themselves when disaster strikes.

A borehole well is often the most valuable development aid gift for communities in the sub-tropics, offsetting extreme drought due to desertification. Drought can evaporate most sources of surface water contained in rivers and dugouts, which are also often home to disease. A borehole well retrieves safe, older water from deep aquifers unaffected by temporary or even long-term drought. A borehole well in a small community also replaces long daily walks of five to 15 km by women and girls to collect water, and hours lined up in scorching heat, while leaving them vulnerable to sexual assault and other dangers.

Beyond the air that we breathe, no other substance in the universe is as valuable as water. Water is the most common substance mentioned in the bible and is revered, and frequently declared in conjunction with the spirit. Christ says in John 3:5, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

Despite its value, PWRDF during 2018, for valid administrative reasons, had removed borehole wells from their *World of Gifts* catalogue. On receiving the new catalogue

in September, I was dismayed at this removal, for many African countries remain in the middle of severe drought. I expressed my disappointment to PWRDF offices in Toronto, and they promised to consider it further. Shortly after, I was contacted by St. Barnabas in Victoria to give a talk to their Youth Group at a fundraising dinner in November. The youth had been raising money through various means for one of the PWRDF borehole wells, and this dinner was to top off the funds. During my talk I had to tell the youth the bad news about the removal of wells from the program, but I promised to find another source for the well they wished to donate. Their youth leader also wrote to PWRDF asking whether the borehole wells were still available for funding. As of this writing, our combined requests have resulted in PWRDF making an agreement with the Utooni Development Organization (UDO) in Kenya to help build shallow water wells in nine communities in Makueni County, Kenya. They are also ready to approve the 25 more borehole wells for Tanzania but are waiting on a request to Global Affairs Canada to extend the matching grants.



Photo by PWRDF

PWRDF has partnered with Utooni Development Organization (UDO) in a project to install shallow water wells with hand pumps in nine communities in Makueni County, Kenya.

This year, the day after Easter, April 22, happens to be Earth Day. As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, let us also rejoice in this restoration of the water well program in Africa, where the need is greatest.

To learn more about PWRDF work, visit the web site at www.pwrdf.org or ask your incumbent priest to invite the Diocesan Representative, Geoff Strong at pwrdf@bc.anglican.ca to give a presentation or sermon on PWRDF at your parish.

KNITTED TOGETHER IN MYSTERY: DIOCESAN WOMEN'S

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Ministering Administration

*J. Barry Foster
joins the Diocese*

BY SUSAN DOWN

The executive officer's role at the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia is not just about doing paper work, says J. Barry Foster, who joined the diocese in that role in January. "I like to say that this is the ministry of administration. I see it through a theological lens. What the office is trying to do is ensure order so we can be good servants," he said.

After more than 20 years in the executive role at the Anglican Diocese of Calgary, Barry brings a laser focus on results, a direction he sums up on the Post-It note he keeps on his desk. It says build trust, set direction, raise funds. He clearly understands his goals, a change from his earlier self as a young college student asking the big questions, and like most at that age, unsure of his place in the world.

Barry grew up in a Calgary family that was

culturally religious, but not part of a church community; he discovered the spiritual world through literature while working on his arts degree at the University of Calgary. He left after two years to take a library job at the University, but it was authors such as William Blake who started him down the path to faith, and he soon joined an Anglican parish. "I experienced there something I'd been looking for but didn't know how to name," he said. "It was a very supportive environment to explore faith and vocation." Rather than a dramatic visitation, Barry said his call to the priesthood was more like a "slow percolation."

Next stop was the seminary – Emmanuel and St. Chad – in Saskatoon. He was ordained to the diaconate in 1983 and the priesthood in 1984, returning to Calgary to work in parish ministry for 14 years before the bishop asked him to take over the executive role.

During his first weeks in Victoria, Barry, who is married with a teenaged son,

has received plenty of jibes about bringing Calgary's snowy weather with him, and he likely wondered whether Vancouver Island's reputed February spring was a myth.

A staunch supporter, Barry believes the Anglican Church of Canada has a pretty good track record of addressing problems and working through them, including issues such as human sexuality and eco-justice. "It's worth the time and effort because it makes us a more conscientiously inclusive community, which is our actual call by baptism," he said. In recent years, sometimes anxiety over church finances or attendance levels divert attention from the fundamental challenge of reaching out to others at the parish level, he says.

"We follow the wisdom and teaching of someone known as Jesus and we are called on to embrace, follow and act on that in the world," Barry said. "We gather for worship, but our principal task is about forming disciples."



J. Barry Foster

Photo by Susan Down

RENEWED **HEARTS** RENEWED **SPIRITS**
RENEWED **PEOPLE**



I've Been Expecting Your Letter



My Journey

BY ELIZABETH NORTHCOTT

The Rev. Elizabeth Northcott was inducted as incumbent at St. Mark, Qualicum Beach on Feb. 23. She was recently named archdeacon of Nimpkish. My Journey is a regular series of interviews with newly ordained or inducted clergy in the diocese.

What is your background?

I have been fortunate to have wonderful mentors to guide and support me along my life's journey. Growing up in Saint John, New Brunswick, I was the third child of a Scouting family. My Mom was a Cub leader while my Dad was the professional executive director of New Brunswick. My older

brother and sister were my best friends; my sister read me bedtime stories of Anne of Green Gables and my brother taught me the fine art of the hockey slapshot.

My first university venture was at the University of New Brunswick in the Forestry department. After that I was Christian Ed director at Christ Church Cathedral for two years, then Director of the Nova Scotia Forestry Association, dedicated to forestry education through Smokey the Bear and Woodsy Owl who would teach, "Only you can prevent forest fires" and "Give a hoot, don't pollute!"

Why did you choose the priesthood?

I was always reminded, "God doesn't ask for success, rather faithfulness!" It's also the reason I ventured into this unusual ministry of priesthood. I tested a vocation and at every step of the way, even coming to Qualicum, I met kindness and openness and an imagination of what God might be calling

us to do – more than we could ever have asked or imagined. I told myself that I would write to the only bishop in Canada who refused to ordain women (Bishop Harold Nutter) and ask if he would sponsor me. At that time my uncle was a Canadian bishop (Archbishop Walter Jones – Diocese of Rupert's Land) and he might well have been my sponsor, but I wanted to test the waters. Bishop Harold's response was quick and very unexpected. "I've been expecting your letter for some time now..." Then he went on to become my biggest supporter and guide. I attended seminary at Montreal Diocesan Theological College, an affiliate of McGill University. Following graduation from "Dio," I was the second woman in the Diocese of Fredericton to be ordained. Bishop Harold never did ordain any women since he retired before I was ready for ordination. However he was present and "robed," and that was very meaningful for me to see him there. I was made a deacon in 1991, and

then priested in 1992 (exactly 40 years to the day when my uncle was ordained a priest). My uncle did attend and preach at my deaconing, and even shared the "laying on of hands" with Bishop George Lemmon.

I was curate at Christ Church Cathedral under The Very Rev. John Wright for three years before being appointed chaplain to RCS/Netherwood – a private school located in Rothesay, N.B. I found myself with many duties: house mother, teacher of math and science, broomball and volleyball coach and driver to the local pool for early morning swim team practices. My second year at the school lessened my teaching duties, but included a "two-point" parish in East Saint John.

How did you come to the West Coast?

It was my family that drew me away from New Brunswick. I became an associate priest at St. Mary, Kerrisdale for 11 years, followed by 10 years as incumbent of All Saints Anglican Church in Ladner.

While at All Saints, I also served as archdeacon of Westminster. My Mom is still living in Vancouver, and my sister and brother-in-law are close by.

Grandchildren are a great incentive because as everyone says, "they aren't youngsters forever." So when the opportunity to apply to the incumbency of St. Mark came open, I responded quickly and was delighted to find people who were both open and accepting of my life and ministry. I have shared a home there with my spouse, Susan, for the last eight years and love puttering in the garden as well as looking for games to share with my two grandchildren, Leah and Jack.

The Parish of St. Mark feels like home where there is also a hunger and thirst for something both old and new. We've begun Messy Church worship, bible studies and teachings, and we look forward to so many new ideas while holding to a fairly traditional worship style.

DIOCESAN POST WELCOMES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pilgrimage of Faith

A group of UVic students prepares to walk the Camino De Santiago

BY RUTH DANTZER

There is a hunger in youth for authentic spiritual experiences and I believe it is part of the Church’s mission, and my personal calling, to engage this longing in the student population. As a campus chaplain, I always say that it is not my job to make Anglicans, but rather to serve the spiritual needs of the UVic community as a representative of the Anglican Church. At the end of April, I will be co-leading a pilgrimage for UVic students on the Camino De Santiago in Spain. We will leave for Spain on April 28. Our pilgrimage will begin at a monastery situated on the ancient Camino Frances route, where we will spend two nights immersed in the beauty of Gregorian chant and learning more about the Christian contemplative path. From here we will begin the 250-km trek to Santiago.

The planning of this pilgrimage began about one year ago, when the initiative was awarded a Vision Fund grant from the diocese. Henri Lock, the United Church chaplain at UVic, agreed to co-lead the trip; subsequently we were awarded another grant from the United Church. Beginning in September, Henri and I facilitated a regular course on the topic of pilgrimage that was held at the Interfaith Chapel on UVic’s campus. We selected eight UVic students to participate in the pilgrimage

journey, students who were active in regular programming at the Interfaith Chapel. As a group, we meet every week to plan upcoming fundraising efforts, to work through the many logistics of international group travel, and to delve deeper into topics surrounding pilgrimage. Together we are building a deep community of faith, as we share our past stories, express our intentions for the pilgrimage, and work through the various struggles and joys of our individual faith journeys. For example, Scott Constantine, a law student with a Roman Catholic background, wants to deepen his faith by walking through his religious roots in a new light. Having recently found a spiritual home in the Anglican church, he wants to walk a path toward a broader, more inclusive, and more ecumenical understanding of God.

Jessie Paterson is in her fourth year of studying art history and environmental studies, and her journey will satisfy her deep curiosity about the relationship between humans and landscape. As she prepares, she draws spiritual nourishment from the Interfaith Chapel, “A space where I learn to be myself, as well as tapping into a real sense of being a part of something bigger than myself.”

As someone who has previously participated in pilgrimage experiences, I can attest to how powerful such a journey can be in terms of deepening one’s understanding and connection to a faith tradition. As a university chaplain, I am constantly reminded just how formative the university days are and the directions chosen in university can impact the rest of your life. On many levels, the embodied experience of a pilgrimage helps to shape the student’s spiritual



Preparing to walk the Camino de Santiago, UVic students and leaders meet regularly to share their stories.

Photo by UVic

journey, often carving pathways to pursue church affiliation or identification with the Christian tradition in his/her future.

Going on a pilgrimage is evangelical in nature, as participants will have the opportunity to walk an ancient path that is infused with historical, traditional, and spiritual significance from the Christian religion. The learning and formation that comes through engaging in such a powerful expression of Christian practice is indescribable and providing young adults access to the privilege of participation in a pilgrimage experience is invaluable. Most of today’s youth are not interested in Sunday worship as it happens inside the walls of the church, so offering alternative experiences that hold the potential for profound transformation and a deepening relationship with God is absolutely essential.

I believe that the Anglican Church is treading in uncharted waters, and we need to support new ministries in order to expand the definition of who we are. I see campus chaplaincy as a shared responsibility between local parishes, individual dioceses, and the national church, because students come to UVic (or to any other campus) from all over, and after their studies these

graduates are spread out.

I am so grateful to the diocese for supporting Anglican Chaplaincy at the University of Victoria and to the Vision Fund committee for seeing the value of this pilgrimage initiative.

For more information on the pilgrimage and other programs happening through Anglican Campus Spirituality at UVic send an email to anglican@uvic.ca.

For updates on the pilgrimage, check the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/AnglicanCampusSpiritualityUVic/.

For a complete listing of programs at the Interfaith Chapel on campus, please go to www.uvic.ca/multifaith/.

The Rev. Ruth Dantzer is the Anglican chaplain at the University of Victoria.



Pilgrims place rocks at the base of the Cruz de Ferro (Iron Cross) along the Camino Francés.

Photo by Ed Watson

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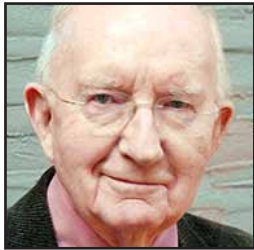
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The Stranger



Reflections

BY HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

First there is the grass beyond the veranda of our cottage in wintertime, after that the gravelly sand that slopes gently into the water. Later in the day, the sand may be slightly warmer; soon after dawn, it is cold and sprinkled with light snow.

Curious how the stillness of a great body of water has the capacity to rivet one's attention. You look at it, your eye moving quickly from the familiar shallows out into depths you can only guess at, a vast foreign country shadowed and silent, hiding things covered for 10,000 years.

It is at this moment I recall another lake. I am standing on the northern shore of the freshwater Sea of Galilee, near the ruins of the once thriving village of Capernaum. I have known this village – in imagination of course – since I was a small boy listening to Bible stories in Sunday School.

Now having carried out a ministry of nearly 70 years, I still have a passionate wish to pierce the long centuries between my Lord's lifetime and my own.

Let's together follow – again in imagination – this narrow village roadway that turns up from the small beach into the tiny cluster of houses that once formed Capernaum. At the end of the quayside we pass the small hut where Levi calculates the taxes on the fishing catches. One day Jesus will turn in to this hut and Levi's life, as Matthew, will be changed forever. Somewhere in these small houses Jesus will respond some evening to an invitation from two brothers –

Peter and Andrew – and their wives, to share a meal.

Jesus lived in this village for at least a number of months. He came here after he had left his family home in Nazareth, about 20 kilometres from here in the hills to the west.

Today 20 kilometres sounds not far away, but in that long-ago world, Jesus would have been the stranger in the village when he appeared here in Capernaum. The times were uneasy, people distrustful. Was he an agent of Herod's ever vigilant police? Was he keeping an eye on things for the Roman authorities? What did he want here in Capernaum anyway?

At the same time, these very authorities that people feared also would have been aware of a stranger in the village. Already it would have been reported that he had been involved with the crowds around John the Baptizer, the activist with his subversive ideas about social and political reform.

So what was this fellow from Nazareth doing here in Capernaum? Was he another firebrand looking for other malcontents so that he could play at being messiah like so many before him, only to become a fugitive in the hills north of the lake, eventually brought in by a Roman patrol to end up screaming and writhing on one of the countless crosses in the area?

Jesus would have been perfectly aware that his activities were not going unnoticed. This surveillance now beginning in this small northern village would continue for the rest of his short life. It would follow him around his own province of Galilee and would intensify as his ministry began to attract interested groups that would eventually become enthusiastic crowds. Finally when he ventured south into Jerusalem and the centres of authority and power, this surveillance would increase even more, even to the point of overt public challenges. From there it would move to

confrontation, arrest, trial, and the unimaginable agony of crucifixion.

Here I am in our quiet wintertime cottage beside a lake 10,000 miles and 2,000 years from the long-ago world of our Lord's earthly life and the lake he once knew. Here I write these thoughts to you for one very simple reason. On that last evening around a table with those fisherfolk friends, he asked them to remember him. Because He lives, He makes the same request of each one of us, and so I write to remember Him.

The Reverend Canon Dr. Herbert O'Driscoll's latest book, A Greening of Imaginations – Walking the Songlines of Holy Scripture, was published in February by Church Publishing Incorporated.

Herbert O'Driscoll is a retired priest, the author of a number of books, hymns and radio scripts as well as a conference leader in a number of provinces of the Anglican Communion.

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Written in Their Hearts

Continued from cover

in the chorister program, Hall is hoping to draw new applications to the day school, founded in 1989 in a massive stone building that was once the Cathedral's church hall.

This program benefits not just children and their families but is helping grow the Christ Church Cathedral congregation by reaching the wider community. "The people who come are elated to

see the children singing. It's so enlivening for people to hear children making music of this quality," said Dean Ansley Tucker, who praises the youngsters' ability to learn difficult music quickly. "You've got nine-year-olds memorizing the Magnificat and being introduced to texts of scriptures and prayers through music and this becomes written in their hearts."

Internationally recognized tenor Benjamin Butterfield, now a professor of voice at the University of Victoria, spent several years at Christ Church Cathedral as a chorister along with his four brothers and

sister. "Singing and sports can co-exist," says Butterfield. "That's what creates well-rounded kids." He thinks his university voice students would benefit from having the same liturgical music foundation that he received. "You develop an ear and discipline," he says. "In church you have to be present and listen before you get up and sing. The church repertoire teaches different aspects of music, such as a sense of structure, music history, language and sight-reading skills. Children don't receive that breadth of training and experience in the average school choir. I also love the idea

that with church music, kids are singing about something a bit bigger than they are."

Hunt envisions building two full treble lines for boys and girls as the program expands. "There's a wonderful base of support from the Cathedral community, and strong interest from parents for activities where children can reach their full potential," says Hunt. "There's also potential for offering greater reductions in Cathedral School tuition through choral scholarships, widening the reach of the program so more families can explore this magnificent opportunity for their children."

He sees a bright future and believes any child with the desire, musical interest and aptitude can succeed.

As the morning practice wraps up, the choristers grab their backpacks and head out in the morning chill for the short walk to their school. Watching them, Hunt sees the embodiment of an ancient tradition in a new generation of choristers.

Patti Pitts is a writer living in Victoria.

For more information: <https://www.christchurchcathedral.bc.ca/music/choral-programs/pages/cathedral-school-chorister-program>



An unusually snowy winter gives Christ Church Cathedral choristers a chance to play during a photo shoot.

Photo by Susan Down

Ladling Out Love *Continued from cover*



Barb Stoeckel makes vats of soup for Street Hope every week in her kitchen.

Street Hope operates two evenings a week (Tuesday and Thursday) and is run entirely by volunteers. It is funded by donations from churches and in-kind supplies from local businesses, as well as support from the diocesan Vision Fund. Tonight the volunteers include Laura Rand, a middle school teacher, who is making sandwiches. The popular combination, she says, is the trifecta of peanut butter, jam and Nutella. Tony greets people with a wide smile, and Michelle and Tim Hardy have been volunteering for eight years, ever since they heard Rob Hosie, another behind-the-scenes supporter, make a call to recruit people at their local Anglican church.

Started by Rick Sandberg in 1986 and funded by the Anglican Diocese, the project's original focus was on street youth who received shoeboxes full of food, socks, and a note. Later, the ministry moved to a building dubbed "Shoebox House" on the property of St. John the Divine. By 2010 the project moved into an aging motorhome, replaced by a newer 1993 model two years ago that was completely renovated to handle crowds of visitors. Rick has moved away now, but the project continues on its firm foundation.

Behind the scenes are people like Barbara Stoeckel, a retired nurse who cooks 18 litres of soup

twice a week (three different kinds from her greatest hits recipes like cheesy potato and barbecued chicken), with help from two other soup makers. Her rationale for doing this? "They know that somebody cares," she said. "We're demonstrating Jesus."

Hosie, a Victoria realtor, ensures there is adequate funding and manages the motorhome. He says it's a privilege to be involved. "We are thankful to be engaged in a ministry where we can share God's love to folks in tangible ways. They recognize God's love in the supportive atmosphere, nurturing food, and the relationships we share."

What You Can Do:

Volunteers needed: Relief drivers for the RV (commitment would be once/month) on either Tuesday or Thursday, a food coordinator to manage food purchases, preparation and clean up, administration, another on-site volunteer for Thursday evenings in the Street Hope RV, (this would be a once or twice a month commitment), on-call volunteers - people to replace those of us who are occasionally away or are sick.

Organize a shoebox drive at your church or host a "Cram-the-Van" event. Financial contributions are welcome as well.



Tim Hardy talks with Street Hope visitors.

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Guidelines for Transforming Futures

Fly on the Wall

BY SUSAN DOWN

This regular column reports on the activities and decisions of Diocesan Council, the “synod between synods” of our diocese. Download monthly meeting minutes at bc.anglican.ca/diocesan-committees/diocesan-council.

Asset Management

Peter Daniel, diocesan asset manager, reported on the Rogers Court Society project at St. Peter and St. Paul, Esquimalt. Following a lengthy process on plans to connect the heritage church and the new building, they are still waiting for the Town of Esquimalt. The construction start for this project, which is financed by the diocese, CMHC, Vancity and BC Housing is planned for summer this year. The project will include a main floor ministry centre and four floors of affordable seniors’ housing.

The snowy weather has slowed down the Mount Douglas Senior Housing Society building project in suburban Saanich. It is now due to be completed by the end of May. This 84-unit affordable seniors’ housing project will complement 80 affordable housing apartments on the same site, originally dedicated by Anglican Church Women in the 1970s.

Plans for the Rogers Court project in Esquimalt and for the Mount Douglas Seniors Housing

project can be seen on the diocesan website www.bc.anglican.ca/resources/asset-management.

Finance

St. John the Divine received approval from Diocesan Council for a \$95,000 lighting improvement project. Funding came from within the parish.

Transforming Futures

Diocesan Executive Officer J. Barry Foster provided council with a package of guidelines and forms that will be given to the Transforming Futures team at each parish, following up on financial campaign voted on at Synod 2018. These documents will be also available on the website. These teams will determine the local expression and strategies of fundraising commitment that will vary from parish to parish.

Foster reminded council that the 40 per cent raised by the campaigns, the portion given to the diocese, would protect the continued existence of treasures of the Anglican ethos in our communities.

Bishop Logan shared three images with the council to guide thinking: a canoe representing journey and change; a full moon resplendent in night sky representing emotion and intuition; and an eagle standing on shore representing wisdom and ability. He asked the council to employ those three images to think about four questions:

- Do you want to see God’s reign as a reality in your life and others?
- Do you have a good heart towards calling and sending folk for the reign of God?
- What do we need to do in the coming year to make that a reality?
- What do you need to do in your parish and your region for this to become a reality?

The council broke into discussion groups and came up with some things to remember as the campaigns begin: history informs our actions, but we need to explore beyond the past patterns; we need to be positive and collaborative; build discipleship; reach out to the community through programs like Anglicanism 101 and through strong communications plans; and that it is people, not buildings, who make “the church.”

Diocesan Animator Brendon Neilson gave a reflection of faithful imagining. Referencing the book *Imagining God* by Garrett Green, he said a key part of understanding the divine through imagination comes from our tools of past experience and metaphor.

Other Business

Diocesan Refugee Committee member Tony Davis, from St. Philip-by-the-Sea in Lantzville, presented to council new guidelines for use of reserve funds, developed by the committee.

Faith in Foundation

Personnel Updates

The Rev. Elizabeth Northcott has been appointed Regional Dean of Nimpkish, as of February 19, 2019.

The Rev. Michael Deck as Interim Priest-in-Charge at St. John the Divine, Courtenay, effective March 15, 2019.

Minding the Diocese

BY SUSAN DOWN

Tara Saracuse is the new executive assistant

Tara Saracuse has an eye for good story, and the diocese is full of wonderful human tales, “It’s a wonderful marriage of my skills,” she said of the role as executive assistant to Bishop Logan that she assumed in early 2019 following Imelda Secker’s retirement. Strong writing skills come naturally; she has a degree in creative writing from UVic, and in 2010 published a popular children’s book, *Island Kids*, featuring 22 short stories about local history from a youthful point of view.

Previously, she worked in administrative roles in book publishing, commercial construction, and the nonprofit

sector, beginning her career in church administration at St. George, Cadboro Bay four years ago before moving to the diocese. She lives in North Saanich with her husband, a police officer. They share the rural acreage with their two dogs and four cats. When she isn’t working on her next book (fiction this time), Saracuse enjoys swimming and bellydancing.



Photo by Susan Down

Tara Saracuse



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