

## Be it resolved: We will work to rebuild trust

Catherine Pate

The 97<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia could be summed up in two words: Trust building.

Yes, resolutions were passed, charges were heard, songs were sung and acquaintances were renewed. But the real work accomplished by this synod, through the power of the Holy Spirit, was that of naming the truth, accepting responsibility and agreeing that we have work to do — all essential steps towards reestablishing trust within the Diocese. So, what is that work?

### Naming the Truth

In his report to synod, Rob Waller, consultant and author of a planning feasibility study which assessed the diocese's readiness to embark on a financial campaign, shared two key findings: 84% of the interviewees stated that the vision is very important to the diocese and its parishes, and 84% believe the Diocese should launch the proposed stewardship initiative at the earliest.

However, Waller also revealed four critical issues in our diocesan life that need to be addressed prior to embarking on a campaign:

**Trust:** There is little ownership of a diocesan identity

amongst individuals and parishes and an "us and them" mentality is prevalent.

**Case for Support:** A need to tighten up the case for support as articulated in the 10 directions of the diocesan vision.

**Culture:** There is a need for the structures, systems and processes of the Diocese to be loosened up to allow new ideas to emerge and parishes to thrive.

**Leadership:** A lack of commitment for this initiative on the part of key leaders (including many clergy) will hamper its success.

During a committee of the whole (a time when the assembly is considered one large committee) a motion was brought to the floor that would see the Diocese move towards a financial campaign by first engaging in pilot projects in a few parishes over the coming year. After much discussion about the need to rebuild trust at every level of the church before engaging in a campaign, and the need for individuals and parishes to share in the diocesan vision, this motion was tabled. It will be put on the agenda of a future Diocesan Council meeting to discuss next steps.

### Accepting Responsibility

In his opening charge to syn-



Photo: Ed Lewis

Ian Alexander outlines the procedure to follow as Synod begins the Saturday morning session

od, Bishop Logan called for a diocesan-wide public reading of the 94 calls to action outlined in the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action* (download a copy of the report at [trc.ca](http://trc.ca)), particularly those directed specifically to faith communities, on the Sunday closest to National Aboriginal Day (June 21, 2016).

The Bishop went even further, calling for the Diocese (the people of the Anglican Church of Canada on these islands) to work toward the revitalization of Indigenous languages and culture, closing of the econom-

ic gap between First Nations/Aboriginal people and non-Indigenous people, recognition of the First People's rights to lands and resources found there, and a commitment to do our part in implementing the TRCs 94 calls to action.

A motion arising from the Bishop's charge committing us, as Anglicans on these islands, to work toward these goals was later passed overwhelmingly. (see the article Synod Motions.)

The need for truth-telling and reconciliation was not limited to the relationship between the church and the First Peoples of this land (those both in and out-

side the church). Synod heard clearly, as mentioned in the findings from the feasibility study, that truth and reconciliation is also needed amongst the rest of the diocesan family as well.

In his partner reflections to synod, The Most Rev. John Privett, Archbishop of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon, commended the synod on its willingness to name the fact that many are still hurting after the closing of parishes and Camp Columbia,

**See Synod  
Page 3**

## Ladysmith Parish to close

Staff

The parish of St. John the Evangelist, Ladysmith has decided to disestablish. Parishioners have worked very hard over the last number of years to keep the ministry to the people of Ladysmith going.

However, at an annual meeting in March, 2016 a motion from the parish council to disestablish was passed by 81%. "This decision was made because of lack of funds to be able to maintain a building or to lease anywhere else. A declining and aging membership has also contributed to the decision," notes parish warden, Louise Crossley.

The first meeting of Anglicans in Ladysmith occurred on September 6, 1901 in a local schoolhouse. Since then, the parish has had a long and ven-

erable presence in Ladysmith.

In a recent letter to the parish the Rev. Susan Hermanson told parishioners, "After many years of working hard at keeping the church doors open the people of St. John have voted to close the parish. This has been an emotional time for many of us. For some it is like a death and are



Photo: Post file

St. John the Evangelist Church, Ladysmith

going through a grieving process. For others it is an opportunity to explore new places of

will be able to recognize how God has been working in the church and in our lives. This is

worship and a way of growing spiritually with a new faith community. And others are somewhere in between. Wherever you are in this journey remember the God walks with you. I expect that when we look back on this we

will be able to recognize how God has been working in the church and in our lives. This is

a time when we hope to support each other and be kind to one another acknowledging how difficult it is for us."

A special service of Deconsecration will take place the evening of June 30. The service will be an opportunity to give thanks for the laity and clergy who ministered in the community. Bishop Logan McMenamie will preside at the service.

Following the closure of the Parish, parishioners are encouraged to attend either St. Philip's Parish in Cedar, Nanaimo or St. Michael and All Angels' Parish, Chemainus. Those who are not able to travel to these communities are being encouraged to attend the United Church or St. Mary's Roman Catholic Parish in Ladysmith.



# Bishop Logan Writes

*By the time you read this .....*



*By the time you read this*, I am hopeful that a number of things will have started to come together. In this edition of the Diocesan Post you will read about the synod held in April. It is my hope that the Sacred Journey continues at a parish level within the life of the Diocese and that the relationships we have begun

will continue to grow with the First Peoples in your areas. I hope that we, as a Diocese, continue to make a reality the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

*By the time you read this*, I expect that Diocesan Council will have begun to look at the re-shaping of the vision into three groups: Faith in Foundation, Faith in Action and Faith in Formation. I hope that working groups will have been established to work on the further shaping and

implementation in the life of our parishes and diocese. As we have said often, the Vision will come to form us and shape us. I am hoping by the time you read this that we will have begun to see a plan for that to take place.

*By the time you read this*, I also hope we will have begun the work called for in the Waller and Associates Report to Synod. We spoke at Synod about the need for us to regain trust in the life of the Diocese, the need for healing - to make well the hurts that exist be-

cause of our decisions as a Diocese to disestablish parishes and close Camp Columbia. These issues are not going to change overnight. It will take all of us, as a Diocese, to address our part in the healing process.

*By the time you read this*, I hope we will have begun to see the light of the new day dawning. At Synod it was said that we stand on the verge of a new season as a Diocese. I believe this to be true. When we journey into God's unknowable future there can be fear and ap-

prehension. I believe that is why Jesus consistently implores his disciples not to fear. He realized how they and we can scare ourselves in such a way that we only hurt ourselves.

*By the time you read this*, I hope that the sun has come up on this new season for us. I hope by the time you read this you have felt the warmth of this new day and have begun to relax into the future God has in store for us as a Diocese.

**Bishop Logan**

## Personnel Notes

**Appointments:**  
**Alastair Hunting** as Facilitator of Liturgy and Pastoral Care at St. Columba, Port Hardy, and St. John, Port Alice, effective May 2.  
**The Rev. Canon Bruce Bryant-Scott** as Regional Dean of Tolmie Region, effective May 2 replacing the **Rev. Canon Dr. John Steele**

whose term has ended May 1.  
**Resignations:**  
**The Rev. Ed Lewis** as Editor of the Diocesan Post, effective June 30.  
**The Rev. Canon Dr. Richard LeSueur** as Incumbent at St. George the Martyr effective

August 31. He is resigning to offer ministry to the wider Church.  
**Ordinations:**  
**May 29** at 4:00 pm at Christ Church Cathedral, the postulants to be ordained to the priesthood are: **Selinde Krayenhoff** and **Craig Hiebert**; the postulants to be ordained to the permanent

diaconate are: **Bill Poppy, Marg Misener, and Patrick Sibley**, and to the transitional diaconate are: **Gillian Hoyer and Matthew Brown**.  
**June 22** at 4:30 pm at the Parish of St. John the Divine, Courtney, **Tanya Packer-McKoen** will be ordained to the priesthood and

**Alastair Hunting** will be ordained to the diaconate.  
**July 24** at 4:30 pm at Christ Church Cathedral, **Meagan Crosby-Shearer** will be ordained to the priesthood and **Rob Crosby-Shearer** and **Christopher Samsom** will be ordained to the transitional diaconate.

## The Bishop's Calendar

During the next few weeks Bishop Logan will be taking part in the following events:

- June**
- 2 Archdeacons Meeting
  - 3 St. Luke - Fantastic Friday
  - 6/9 APCI - Clergy Conference
  - 12 St. Peter, Quamichan - Parish Visit and Confirmations
  - CCC - Service for Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday
  - 14 Educational Trusts Board
  - 15 St. Mark, Qualicum Beach
  - Induction of Susan Hayward-Brown
  - 16 Finance Committee
  - 19 Christ Church, Alert Bay
  - Parish Visit and Confirmations
  - 22 Ordinations at St. John the Divine, Courtenay
  - 25 Diocesan Council
- July**
- 7/12 General Synod 2016
  - 24 Christ Church Cathedral - Ordinations
- August**
- 17/21 CLAY Gathering, Prince Edward Island

## FIRST NATIONS

rich harmonies  
of ancient songs  
rise from salmon  
through cedar

from ocean's pulse  
on lift of raven wings

chants flow through  
fur of Bear  
as she stands  
full-height singing  
on cliffs of  
immortality

*Joanna M. Weston*

## The Diocesan Prayer Cycle

Your prayers are asked weekly for  
**Bishop Logan McMenamie**  
and the following parishes:

- June 5, Pentecost 3**  
**St. Andrew, Sidney**  
The Rev. Canon Philip Wadham, Interim-Priest-in-Charge
- June 12, Pentecost 4**  
**St. Barnabas, Victoria**  
The Rev. Canon Dr. Travis O'Brian, Incumbent  
The Rev. Meagan Crosby-Shearer, Assistant Curate
- June 19, Pentecost 5**  
**National Aboriginal Sunday**  
**St. Paul, Nanaimo**  
The Ven. Brian Evans, Incumbent  
The Rev. Justin Cheng, Assistant Curate  
The Rev. Lynn Cawthra, Deacon
- June 26, Pentecost 6**  
**St. Peter and St. Paul, Esquimalt**  
The Ven. Lon Towstego, Incumbent

The July and August list was not available at press time.



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contributions to the National Church. Others: \$15.00 per year.

### Submissions:

News, letters and other articles are welcome. Please limit articles to 600 words and letters to 200 words. Submissions must include name and contact information of the author. Pictures must be at least 6" X 4" with 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.

### Submission Deadlines:

- January issue - December 1
- February issue - January 1
- March issue - February 1
- April issue - March 1
- May issue - April 1
- June issue - May 1
- September issue - August 1
- October issue - September 1
- November issue - October 1
- December issue - November 1

**All material is subject to editing.**

**Volume 50, No 6**



## Synod from page 1

and acknowledged the courage it took for the Diocese to admit that. Bishop Logan also spoke to this in his charge and said that diocesan leadership would be seeking ways in the coming months to give people the opportunity to properly mourn the losses and to hopefully bring some healing to these wounds.



**Bishop Logan delivering his charge to Synod**

The other piece of difficult truth-telling came in the report from the finance officer. With a projected 2016 deficit of nearly

Over the coming months, parishes will be offered resources to help them see how what they are currently doing fits within one or all of the three areas of focus, where God might be calling them to centre their energies,

and how they can celebrate all of the ways God is working in and through them.

### Celebrate What God is Up To

Amidst the difficult information synod had

to hear and wrestle with, there was also a sense that there are lots of good things happening in the Diocese including, but not

his charge, Bishop Logan committed to finding ongoing ways to continue to listen to the individuals and parishes across the Diocese (including holding regional events in the fall). He also challenged synod, "There is work to be done in this Diocese and we are the people called to do this work. A new day is about to dawn. It is time for us to stop telling our problem-saturated story. We need another story to tell, a new story. What will that story say about us?"

As a postscript to his charge, Bishop Logan included the following message:

"The morning after Synod I went out early walking with Moraig outside Lake Cowichan. I was thinking about Synod and what message might have come to us to us from the Creator if we had been outside and listening, as we did on the Sacred Journey, to the Creator speaking through creation. As I walked in the silence I started to hear the sound of frogs in the forest. At first, I was upset as they were interfering with my silence but was then reminded of what I learned on the Sacred Journey: to listen with my heart and to see with my heart, to look beyond the obvious and look deeper into the forest. When I came back home I looked up the meaning of frogs in coastal peoples tradition. What I found was this:

"The frog is a sign to our people to put away the winter activities and prepare for a new season. The frog symbolizes cleansing, peace and rebirth. In northwestern aboriginal culture, a frog is a great communicator and often represents the common ground or voice of the people. Frogs' songs are believed to contain divine power and magic. The frog is a messenger and communicator between species, being valued for his adaptability because he freely travels between and survives in two worlds - land and water, inhabiting both natural and supernatural realms."

... and so the work of creating our new story together continues.



**David Woller explaining his report to Synod**

\$265,000 there is a need for the Diocese, at all levels, to look realistically at our current financial position with a sense of urgency for a clear strategy to address what this deficit represents at the parish, regional and diocesan levels.

### Our Work - A Shared Vision: Renewed Hearts Renewed Spirits Renewed People

In the second part of his charge to synod, Bishop Logan reframed the *Diocesan Vision* into three areas of focus: faith in foundation, faith in formation and faith in action.

Under the umbrella of *Faith in Foundation* the Bishop outlined the directions of the *Diocesan Vision* which are a part of the everyday work of any diocese: shared and remote ministries, asset and financial management, current ministries, and effective communications. Under *Faith in Formation* he placed lay ministry and leadership formation, youth and family ministry and worship resources. The third area of focus—*Faith in Action*—includes: Engaging God's world, emerging ministries and reconciliation and beyond.

limited to, the following diocesan committees/groups: refugee committee, creation matters, justice matters and relationship matters. At the parish level we are welcoming newcomers like never before, supporting one another in our faith journeys and continuing to provide the many ministries of spiritual, physical and emotional support to those in need.

### What's Next?

The final part of the day was an opportunity for members of synod, given everything they had heard, to provide input into the next steps in our journey together. Then, in the third part of



**Discussion Time**

Photos of Synod: Ed Lewis

## Three new Lay Canons



Photo: Ed Lewis

At Synod, Bishop Logan announced the appointment of three new honorary lay canons for the Diocese. Shown above are two of the new canons: Mrs. Judy Trueman and Mr. Ian Alexander with Bishop Logan. Mr. Wayne Stewart, the third canon, was not present at Synod.

## Bishop encourages Parishes to celebrate Aboriginal Sunday

During his charge to Synod Bishop Logan encouraged all parishes of the Diocese to get involved with our Aboriginal brothers and sisters. In particular he asked that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action directed to church groups be read on the Sunday closest to the National Aboriginal Day - June 21. See his comments in the front-page story - Synod. We also draw your attention to Bishop Logan's letter in the April issue of the Post.

The recommendations can be found on the Truth and Reconciliation website: [www.trc.com](http://www.trc.com).

In addition to the Truth and Reconciliation material, service resources for the National Aboriginal Day can be found on the website of the National Church. See [www.anglican.ca](http://www.anglican.ca) and look under resources for Indigenous Ministries.



**CHRIST CHURCH  
CATHEDRAL**  
C-RIST CONNECTING COMMUNITY

## SUMMER AT CCC

**ATLANTA BOY CHOIR**  
Saturday, June 4, 7:30 pm

**SUMMER ORGAN SERIES**  
Fridays, June 10, 17 & 24 at 7:30 pm  
June 10: Sandra Fletcher, June 17: Shawn Potter,  
June 24: John Tuttle

**SPECIAL CHORAL EVENSONG SERVICE**  
In Celebration of the Queen's 90th Birthday  
Sunday, June 12, 4:30 pm

**BENEDICTINE SPIRITUAL PRACTICE**  
June 16 and July 21, 7:00 pm in the Chapter Room

**IN CONVERSATION POTLUCK SUPPER**  
June 17 and July 15, 6:00 pm in the Chapter Room

**GAY PRIDE SERVICE**  
Wednesday, June 29, 7:00 pm

**RAVEN BAROQUE CONCERTS**  
Saturdays, July 2 & August 6, 10:00 - 11:30 am  
on the South Lawn

**SUMMER RECITAL SERIES**  
Every Saturday from July 9 to August 27 at 4:00 pm

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Trinity Ecumenical Centre, Nanaimo - Host Church for Synod

New Synod officers introduced:



Stephen Martin  
Executive Officer  
(formerly Diocesan Treasurer)

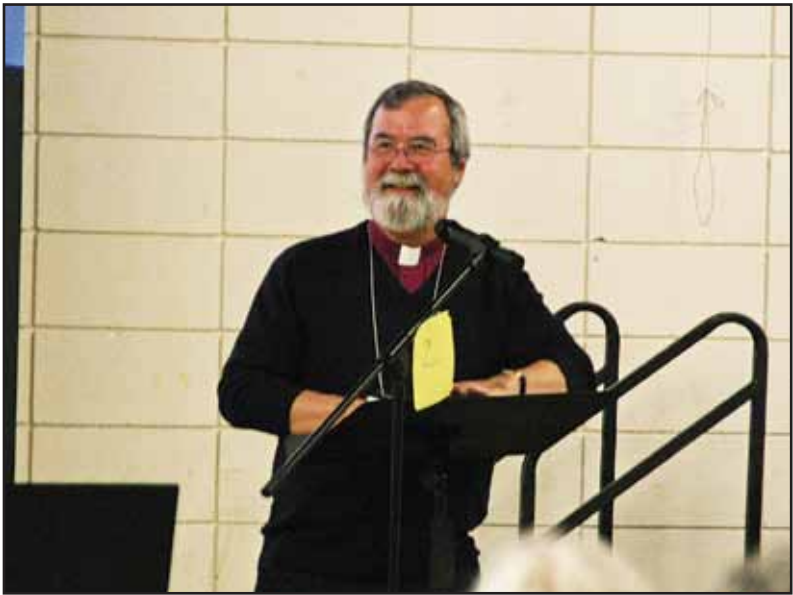


Gail Gauthier  
Financial  
Officer



Catherine Pate  
Communications  
Officer

Greetings from the Archbishop



Archbishop John Privett brings greetings from the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon and gives his reflection on the working of Synod.

Synod Motions

Four motions were presented to the members of synod. The first three were carried while the fourth one was tabled.

**Motion 1:**  
That Synod recognize the unifying work of God in the refugee ministry of the diocese and lends its full support to this work; applauds the efforts of all those involved in carrying it on to meet the radically changed circumstances of refugee migration around the world; and thanks and supports the diocesan administration in ensuring that it is recognized and supported as a priority ministry, to recognize fully its importance to God’s children and its importance in community and inter-community building, and interfaith cooperation

*Canada, and to actively respond to those Calls directed specifically to faith communities. In particular, we commit ourselves to supporting, complying with and furthering the principles, norms and standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and we undertake to foster increased awareness and support for those principles among all Anglicans of the Diocese, beginning with a special focus on this subject in all parishes on the Sunday before National Aboriginal Day, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – these activities to be undertaken, wherever possible, in partnership with local First Nations representatives.*

**Motion 2:**  
That the following message be conveyed to the hereditary and elected chiefs, elders and councils of all First Nations of the Coast Salish, Nuuchah-nulth, and Kwakwaka’wakw peoples on these Islands.  
*We the Bishop, Chancellor, Clergy and Lay members of the 97<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia, meeting this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2016, on the traditional lands of the Snuneymuxw and Snaw-Naw-As First Nations, greet you in the spirit of our sisterhood and brotherhood as children of the Creator. We solemnly pledge that the Sacred Journey recently begun by the Bishop will be continued by Anglicans on these Islands, as a way of continuing along the path of right relationship and reconciliation. We also commit ourselves to taking concrete steps to support all the Calls for Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of*

**Motion 3:**  
That Articles I *Definitions and Interpretations*, III *The Composition of Synod*, and X *Notice of Synod* found in the *Constitution of Synod* and Canons 1.7 *Regions, Archdeacons and Regional Deans*, 1.5 *Appointments and Retirements*, 6.4 *Clergy Housing*, 6.8 *Appointment and Election of Church Wardens*, 6.9 *The Parish Council*, be amended by deleting the words ‘mission’ and/or ‘missionary district’ wherever they occur and that these amendments be approved.

**Motion 4:**  
That Synod encourage Diocesan Council to approve and facilitate, at an appropriate time, pilot fund-raising projects in which parishes collaborate with the diocese, along the lines suggested in the Waller Report.

Synod Elections

A number of elections for various offices took place at Synod.

- Elected were:
- Clerical Secretary** – The Rev. Canon Susanne House
  - Lay Secretary** – Mrs. Judy Trueman
  - Treasurer** – Mr. Michael Murgatroyd

Diocesan Council

- Clerical**  
The Rev. Eric Partridge  
The Rev. Canon Dr. Dawna Wall

- Lay**  
Canon Ian Alexander  
Bruce Winter  
Penny Holt  
David Stewart

- Youth**  
2 positions – vacant

Regional representatives elected at regional meetings:

Region	Clerical	Lay
Cowichan/Malaspina	The Rev. Selinde Krayenhoff	Tony Davis
Haro	The Rev. Eric Partridge	Janice Varga
Nimpkish	The Rev. David Fitzsimmons	Andrea Davis
Selkirk	The Ven. Lon Towstego	David Buckman
Tolmie	The Rev. Craig Hiebert	Jeanette Muzio



# Reflections

## THE MAN WHO INVESTED IN THE FUTURE

(a reflection on Jeremiah 32: 1-15)

In the year 597 BCE the most powerful military machine in the world of that time attacked Jerusalem. During the months leading up to that attack a single voice dominated the discourse of that small society. His name was Jeremiah.

We know some things about him. He was highly emotional, immensely courageous and politically savvy. He insisted that it was futile to try to defy the Babylonians. For this determination he was ridiculed as a collaborator, and even imprisoned.

But before this happened he made a gesture that has come down through time and speaks to us powerfully today. He bought a piece of real estate. On the surface it probably seemed idiotic to buy a property with the market crashing around him. Yet he did it. He even took care to have a lawyer present. He called witnesses to see what he was doing, and perhaps

because he saw utter bewilderment on the faces around him, he held up the document of purchase and declared, *"I want this to last for a long time because thus says the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel – houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land."*

So why should we be in the least interested in that long ago incident? Why bother? I would suggest we bother for a very important reason. We are living at a time when confidence in the future is at a low ebb. We all know the litany of reasons for this:

Climate change with its threat to every form of life.

Population growth that strains our capacity to provide resources for living. Vicious wars, some expressing political revolution, other conflicts arising from religious fundamentalisms.

Growing inequality of income and of access to

resources even if they are available.

Arising from all of these, great tides of migration sweeping across countries and even continents.

The list is formidable and fearful.

Somewhere within all this ferment are the stresses being felt in all institutions and organizations, from the ordering of societies, the unavoidable growing pains of an increasingly multicultural world, and, because we are referring to these things in a church publication, the place and role of religion in modern society, not to mention the complex interplay of religions and their accompanying social and cultural differences. Once again we face a future that can easily challenge even our best efforts at remaining hopeful. But remain hopeful we must.

The single finest expression of Hope as a necessary virtue that I

know is that of Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of Great Britain, in his book *THE DIGNITY OF DIFFERENCE*. Here is part of it...

*Optimism is the belief that things will get better. Hope is the faith that together we can make things better. It takes no courage to be an optimist but it takes a great deal of courage to have hope.*

*Hope does not exist in a conceptual vacuum... It is born in the belief that the sources of action lie within ourselves. We are not unwitting products of blind causes. Humanity has never been at a loss for worldviews that place the source of action outside ourselves. Hope is the knowledge we can choose, that we can learn from our mistakes and act differently next time, that history is a long slow journey to redemption, whatever the digressions and false turns along the way.*

*Hope is a human virtue but one with religious*



**Herbert O'Driscoll**

*underpinnings. It is the belief, not that God has written the script of history, that He will intervene to save us from the error of our ways or protect us from the worst consequences of evil, but simply that He is mindful of our aspirations, with us in our fumbling efforts, that He has given us the means to save us from ourselves, that we are not wrong to dream, to wish and to work for a better world.*

That long ago day, Jeremiah would almost certainly have gone to inspect his purchase. As he walked its perimeter I suspect he was hoping that his gesture would engender hope and stiffen the resolve of those around him.

## Diocesan Women's Day

*Barb Coleman*

Joke Bergink of Precious Jewels Ministry was guest speaker at the Diocesan Anglican Church Women's meeting in Duncan on March 23.

She opened her talk by saying, "The Lord leads us at times into incredibly dark places." Following their displacement from the Day Care Centre in the hospital in Manila, the Precious Jewels Team had to choose daily to trust that God had not abandoned them, and seek the Lord's will for them each day. She commented that the year since her last visit had been a year of transition and it was a challenge for staff not to "jump ship".

The ministry to HIV/Aids affected youth and families has been focused on community visitations and a day program outside the hospital in Manila. The blessing that has emerged is that doctors and nurses are visiting the program on their days off and stronger relationships with individual patients are being built. Bergink was sad to report that cases of HIV/Aids is again on the rise in the Philippines,

and Precious Jewels has refocused on education, prevention and awareness under a program *Sound the Alarm* symbolized by the wearing of a 'red ribbon'. To date they have hosted training days for 18 organizations, and encourage mentors to walk alongside to support the affected families.

The PJM Team continues providing Grief and Loss leadership training in Northern Uganda and participants come from many countries. An Anglican priest from Kenya asked if they might come to train lay pastors. When asked his responsibilities Bergink learned he is responsible for an Anglican Church School with 600 students and runs annually a camp program for 2000-2500 youth. Negotiations are underway on how the PJM Team might assist in training lay pastors.

She also presented a short DVD giving a wonderful overview of the Ministry that highlighted "Nothing is impossible for God" and our call is to obey what he asks of us to be about 'his doings'.

The group also provided lunch for Bishop Logan and those accompanying him on the Scared Journey as they arrived for mid-week worship at St. John the Baptist Church, Duncan.

During the service, the Rev. Clara Plamondon, in her homily, focused on the pain and sorrow of betrayal not only by Judas but also by his other close friends as Jesus journeyed to the Cross. She encouraged us to keep our eyes on God and continue to learn how to love as God in Christ loves us.

Following lunch, Bishop Logan spoke on walking religiously in silence and solitude while being escorted by eagles and friends. The journey has helped to build friendships and companionship along the way. He commented that he feels there is a loss of balance in society; that we speed through life with little thought for creation. By walking the Island he feels much more connected to the land. He shared a personal vision that while stopping to look at a fallen tree he became very



Photo: Sydney Langhelt

**Joke Bergink speaking to the ACW meeting in Duncan**

aware of how roots of his personal, church, social family histories are all very much a part of who he is today and how new life grows forth from the dead tree. He has been blessed by the welcoming hospitality received on stops along the journey.

Those gathered had opportunity to shop for Sacred Journey tops and handicrafts from the Philippines. The offering returned to the gathering from worship was given to support the Precious Jewels Ministry.

### MAY GOD

be thanked for green  
be blessed under blue  
be praised by hands

let earth's turning  
be known in bounty  
of flower and fruit

may God be thanked  
by soil  
be blessed in rain  
be praised by fire

let our hearts  
overflow with joy  
for God's great gifts

may God be thanked  
by wheat  
be blessed through  
psalm  
be praised for wine

*Joanna M. Weston*





# Women's Retreat: Work, Women and A New Cosmology

Barb Coleman

Therapeutic tapping, interactive listening, circle dancing, artistic journaling and reflective meditating were methods experienced at the Spring Women's Retreat held at Camp Pringle in April to inspire new insight into our call to be co-creators.

Facilitators, the Rev. Canon Rosalind Westaway and Di- Anne Keno invited us to be: to be at peace through the weekend while exploring and experiencing God in the center of our being by bringing mind into heart - our spiritual center.

This 'inner/outer' work began with retreatants responding to the question, "How do you understand work: as a child, as a teen, as an adult?" It came to light that our perspective on how we view the world and our work is important because "the world we think we live in (cosmology) is the world we live in." In relating work to faith the facilitators encouraged a practise of daily blessings whether an experience was one of joy or sorrow, because all experiences are part of the transforming work of God in creating who we are now. They encouraged all to see the gifts given each individual and not the limitations. Quoting Michael Fox, "Work is one of our most important sources of tasting Spirit. All authentic work is



Photo: Barb Coleman

Participants at the Women's Spring Retreat held at Camp Pringle, April 15-17

a thank you for being in the cosmos, our home."

It was suggested that often all women are inclined to pass judgement on self and worry about what others think/say about self. Inner work brings internal healing and opens the heart to let the Holy One in to continue the on-going work of transformation that enables each to love self and to reach out to

deepen our relationship with God and others.

We were encouraged to hear the psalmist words, "Heed the counsel of your heart." Inner healing allows for different perspectives; seeing with new eyes. Rosalind commented that within our faith journey we are always facing paradoxes and paths before us that can be life giving or non-life giving. We need to

be attentive to what the heart is asking of us and be willing to flush out inner attitudes that do not 'purify our hearts.'

The Outer work we are called to do springs from the Inner work. We should see all work as holy and something to be honoured and celebrated. Rosalind asked, "How do you manage inner/outer work?" and suggested that "In today's society there is

work to be done on inner work." She encouraged us that we invite one another to this work. It was said, that every part of the universe has work, but it is only the human species that has created unemployment. When work is viewed as sacrament then to bring forth God work becomes true labour. Work becomes a thank you to God for bringing the Divine into the world. This ecosystem of physical and spiritual work unites all of God's creation - cosmic light. As beloved children of God and co-creators all contribute in this sacramental work in the universe as it comes from the heart and builds community.

Woven through the weekend were times of worship, singing and meditating on a wonderful display of women at work in the cosmos. The Rev. Karen Pitkin led a study on women in the Bible and the Rev. Canon Nancy Ford offered times for personal spiritual direction.

Retreat Weekends provide opportunity to maintain a balance between Inner and Outer Work. The Fall Retreat will be held at Camp Pringle, October 21-23 on the theme *Forgiving and Forgiven- the Dance of Reconciliation* led by the Very Rev. Ansley Tucker.

## Anglican Women Faith and Fellowship Gathering 2016

Barb Coleman

**Leaders of Courage; Serving by Faith** was the theme for the Anglican Church Women's Annual Gathering held at St. Mary's Church, Metchosin, May 2-3. This was the first Faith and Fellowship gathering that the Diocesan Anglican Church Women will host this year.

The theme was brought to life through first-person stories of women in scripture portrayed by the Rev. Heather Robinson; from speakers' life experiences; from reflections on historical biographies in table discussion as well as sharing of who we see as *Leaders of Courage; Serving by Faith* within our present day settings.

Author Muriel Brakefield told her story of being very involved in Christian community, but finding a disconnect between her head and heart knowledge of the gospel in lived experiences of abuse and dark days of depression since her teen years. In clinging to God's word, 'truth will set you free' and claiming God's promise that '[He] will never leave nor forsake you,'



The transition team members pose with Bishop Logan following the Eucharist

Photo: Sydney Langhelt

she was able to unpack her emotions and tell her story. Through centering prayer she continues to walk in the transforming love of the Lord to bring mind and heart into unity through forgiveness to freedom.

Lawyer Jane Morley, who worked on Residential School settlement claims and served

on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, commented that 'to step out in faith is an act of courage.' She was deeply moved by the courage of the people who came forward to tell their painful stories. As she listened she absorbed the reality and became deeply remorseful of policies that failed to protect

children and culture causing generational social ills. For Jane it is fundamental for all Canadians to own the experience; in order to enable reconciliation with Indigenous people. Reconciliation needs to happen within families and generations, within communities weakened by loss of culture. A sign in Nunavut,

"He who cannot forgive breaks the bridge over which he must pass" caused her to wonder 'what does forgiveness mean?' We need to act in transformative ways, building trusting and respectful relationships. She found the TRC journey humbling and her faith strengthened in hearing how healing was found in forgiveness.

Daryth Patten spoke of her pilgrimage on St. James Way (The Camino de Santiago in Spain) being decided solely on a 'strong heart desire to go'. Through a slide show she shared stories of companions on the journey, hospitality extended along the way and beautiful churches found in the smallest of villages. Her journey took her through diverse terrain; some very dry & barren, others lush & colourful. The shell symbol marks the historical purpose when people took the walk to receive forgiveness once they reached the sea.

Lynda Avis of Provincial

**Continued  
on next page**



# Meet Catherine Pate

## Diocesan Communication Officer

*On January 18, Catherine Pate began working at the Diocesan Synod Office as the Communication Officer. This is full time position created as a result of the Diocesan Visioning process, which named effective communications as a priority in moving the Vision forward.*

*The following is an interview she had recently with the Editor of the Post.*

**The Post:** Welcome to the Diocese. Let's begin by hearing about who Catherine Pate is.

**Pate:** I'm the adopted daughter of David and Lyn Pate. My father is a retired priest of the Diocese of Rupert's Land. My mother is a retired volunteer coordinator who most recently worked with people living with AIDS.

I'm the youngest of their four children; two are biological and two of us are adopted. My adopted brother is a First Nations person. We grew up as children of a very active clergy home during the 70s and 80s. Dad was a very busy clergy person and not around home a lot so Mom had to take on a lot of the parenting a whole bunch of the time with four kids all within five years in age.

I was born and raised in Winnipeg and other than a year spent in Vancouver after I graduated from high school and another year in the north of England, I have lived the whole of my life in Winnipeg until moving to Victoria.

**The Post:** What is your education background?

**Pate:** I have a degree with a double major in English and Theatre, and have also studied

marketing management at the University of Winnipeg. In addition I have completed part of the M.Div. program at St. John's College and the University of Winnipeg.

**The Post:** What work did you do before coming to Victoria?

**Pate:** For five years, I had my own marketing and communications company where I acted as consultant and communications manager for a number of small/medium sized businesses that did not have such a person on staff.

Before that I worked for the National Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada for the Evangelical Lutheran Women – their counterpart to our Anglican Church Women. I was Program Director and Editor of their national magazine – *Espirit* for six years until the organization went defunct.

Prior to that I was with the Manitoba government as a senior policy analyst and before that I was the Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator for the Diocese of Rupert's Land.

**The Post:** You have had a variety of work that seems to fit you for your work here in this Diocese.

**Pate:** Yes. It's very interesting how I've been in and out of the church environment, but I really feel that the variety of communication roles and responsibilities that I have had (some have called it God's leading) have brought me to this place.

**The Post:** What did you expect your job to be when you

began in January?

**Pate:** Well I understood my job to be one to help develop and implement a communications strategy for the Diocese and thereby help improve the communications on all levels of the Church.

**The Post:** So what did you find?

**Pate:** I think there are a couple of things that need immediate attention. There is a need for education about what communications is and what role it can play in helping people live out their ministries, as well as what it cannot do. There has been a lot of emphasis on different tools – for example the website.

But I believe it's most important to know what it is we want to communicate and why, and then the tools follow. There is a lot of reliance on the website. "Well if we have a great website, then we will be fine." It's more than having a good website, or a great poster, or a good parish newsletter or making your Sunday bulletin look a certain way.

We need to first ask ourselves why we exist and who out there cares; then what do we need to say to them? I guess there has been a lot of emphasis placed on communications (or lack thereof) being responsible for a lot of our problems, which may or may not tell the whole story.

**The Post:** In concrete terms, what do you think are the first steps that need to be taken?

**Pate:** There are some system-wide improvements that can be made that will help better communications. These are like low hanging fruit – pieces



Catherine Pate - Diocesan Communications Officer

Photo: Ed Lewis

that can be easy to address. For example the technology that we are all using- are we using it to its greatest capacity?

Better coordination of this is just good stewardship of our resources.

And then it is the equipping of the saints – my job is to go out to help parishes be effective communicators and so I want to offer some workshops in some basic communications as well as some tailor-made ones, for example using social media correctly, or understanding your key messages. People get a little nervous when you use marketing terms like that in a faith-based setting, but we do have some key messages and I think we have to be clear what they are.

Other things that need to be worked on include making a resource-rich website that will serve the parishes; improving our systems; getting a regular 'e' newsletter going so that parishioners can hear directly about what is going on throughout the Diocese and to share what is happening in their parish.

**The Post:** Where do you see the *Diocesan Post* fitting into

this plan?

**Pate:** (laughing) ... So says the Editor of the *Post*... *The Diocesan Post* is one very important channel of communication with our parishioners throughout the Diocese. Like the website it has a particular function and we need to continue to utilize that to the fullest. When you go online, you are usually looking for short bits of information. When you are reading the paper you want to dive deeper into the issue.

**The Post:** Any last thoughts?

**Pate:** As someone coming into this role, I want to be seen as a straight shooter. You get what you see. I think effective communications is built on trust and a willingness to be vulnerable and respectful. I hope that I will bring that to my work with individuals and parishes and I hope they will do the same. I hope that we can be mutually forgiving, gracious and generous, and recognize that we are all trying to do our best to be faithful disciples.

**The Post:** I wish you well in your work ahead.

## Women's Gathering

from previous page

Health Care Auxiliaries Association arrived in period dress as Florence Nightingale, founder of modern nursing and advocate of social reform. Lynda spoke on the challenge of aging demographics facing hospital auxiliaries and religious, social and recreational agencies. She encouraged us to 'dream big' and 'outside the box'; be prepared to change, think of new ways to recruit volunteers. Be passionate about what we do, how we tell our story. Florence stepped outside her comfort zone to respond to God's call to spend her life in the service of others. Holding up a period lantern she said, "It is better to light a candle than com-

plain of the darkness". There is a light in the heart of each of us to help move forward.

At dinner Bishop Logan and Marcia McMenamie joined the gathering. The Bishop showed a DVD documenting the Sacred Journey, and then highlighted happenings at Synod relating to the Vision Statement. He expressed the need to walk gently with one another and listen with the eyes of our heart as we move forward together. He went on to say that the church has been in times of change since he entered Holy Orders. Strong women have a role to play in shaping the church of the future; we need to wait upon the Lord and to act in God's timing to assist the church to step out to meet

needs in today's world.

At the end of December 2015, the Anglican Church Women of the Diocese closed as a registered Society. A requirement of closure under the Societies Act of BC is to disburse funds. A gift was made to Victoria Streethope while the balance of the ACW funds held by the Diocese have been transferred to Mt. Douglas Senior Housing Society begun by the ACW in the early 1970s.

Diane Hutchison, Gloria Hockley, the Rev. Heather Robinson, Joyce Langhelt, Carol Gill, Carol Shaw, Gail Crawford, Lorrain Jordan, Shirley Briggs, Alice Trueman and Barb Coleman make up the Team as ACW moves through transition.



Photo: Ed Lewis

## Wedding Bells

Congratulations to our proofreader Sheila Martindale and Ted Lavallee who were married at Christ Church Cathedral on May 7. The marriage service was conducted by our Reflections columnist, the Rev. Herbert O'Driscoll.



# A Week in the Life of the Anglican Communion

From 12-18 April, the Rev. Sheila Flynn, Canon Pastor of the Diocese, represented Canada at the Anglican Communion Safe Church Network meetings in Lusaka, Zambia, which occurred in conjunction with the 16th Session of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC-16).

The following is her account of that trip.

On the first day, as an observer to ACC-16, I sat in on a discussion concerning the mutual recognition of clergy and interchangeability of clergy in churches who are in full communion with one another. Some years ago, this issue was at the forefront of discussions on full communion between the Anglican and Lutheran churches in Canada.

Agreement was eventually reached, and now this full communion is a sign to the world of our unity in Christ. With all such ecumenical dialogues, the hope is that "if we are seen to be one, then the world may believe."

The second day was one of highs and lows. Throughout the day, I answered questions from people across the worldwide Anglican Communion about our Diocesan Sexual Misconduct Policy and our Diocesan Safe Church Policy.

Our group visited the Elephant Orphanage Project, a conservation, anti-poaching rescue project. The baby elephants whom we saw are orphans whose parents were killed by poachers. By educating the children, project organizers hope to eventually eradicate the hunting/poaching of elephants across Zambia.

On the way home, we traversed one of the slum areas of Lusaka, in order to see, as our tour guide put it, "how the other half lives." The happy chatter in the bus was abruptly stilled as the reality of what we were seeing sank in.

Seventy percent of the 2.5 million residents of Lusaka live in the slums; whole families spend their entire lives in poverty, deprivation, and filth where stagnant water in the streets and marshes breeds malaria, cholera, and yellow fever. It is absolutely gut wrenching to see so many of God's beloved children living at a level lower than that of animals.

Each day, Morning Prayer was held in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross: peaceful, quiet calm, with traffic and the noise



Beginning morning session of ACC-16 at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka, Zambia

of the city in the background, reminding us that we are in the world, but not of it.

On day three, we presented two Safe Church workshops. There were three of us co-presenting with a total of 23 people attending.

The first item was to discover where each of the Dioceses represented are in terms of a Safe Church program. We knew that North America, England, Australia, and Wales all have programs, but we were unsure the rest of the Communion. For many,

their enforced labour in his country's mining industry. For those of us in the Western world,

bishop of Canterbury spoke to us about discipleship in today's society.



Slum areas of Lusaka, Zambia -- 70% of the city's over 2.5 million people live here



Entrance to St. Mary's church

"Safe Church" is an unknown entity.

One delegate's concern was not so much about the sexual abuse of children, but about

Church" means safety from suicide bombers and other terrorist acts. Clearly, we need to look at this side of the issue.

On the fourth day the Arch-

He asked, "What is it to be a Christian disciple in today's society? What difference does it make to the society? Why is it that in some of the most Christianized countries in the world, do we find such high levels of corruption, violence, and conflict, perpetuated by persons who call themselves Christian?"

Why is it that in countries with high proportions of Christians, major genocides and atrocities are occurring, without the Christian population having any effect on opposing such terrible activities?

Where are the multitudes of children who were in our Church Schools in the "golden age" of the

fifties? They are not in church now. Where did they go? The answers to all of these questions," he said, "lie in the area of discipleship."

The Archbishop continued, .... "How can we make disciples if we are not living out discipleship ourselves? It takes disciples to make disciples. .... Making disciples is not a sideline that some people do -- it is what all disciples cannot help but do. Religion is not a leisure interest -- it is what we take on when we are consumed with the love of Jesus Christ.

The Archbishop of Canterbury's talk was followed by a youth presentation, which focused on telling what it is like to be a young person in Africa today. There is alcoholism, drug addiction, pressure at school and at home, not enough appreciation, and the stress associated with gaining an education and a paying job.

The church provides a respite from much of this for the youth of today. The church was told that God has called them to be an answer to young peoples' prayers. Young people have enthusiasm, vitality, imagination, and intelligence, and they need a safe space to explore their selves, their world, and their place in it.

Sixty percent of churchgoers at one time were made up of youth, but not any more. We were told that there is much talk with regard to the place of youth in the church, but there is very little action taken to integrate youth into the life of the church.

Why is the church not welcoming the energy and the inno-

**Continued on  
next page**



L-R: The Rev. Canon Emmanuel Chikoya, Resident City Canon, Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Diocese of Lusaka, Zambia; the Rev. Sheila Flynn, Canadian Representative of the Safe Church Network and Canon Pastor, Diocese of British Columbia; Mr. Garth Blake, S.C., Convenor of the Anglican Communion Safe Church Network, Sydney, Australia.



## ACC continued from previous page

vation of its youth? Why does the church still insist that young people must conform to styles of liturgy and worship that are centuries old, when they have so many young people eager to explore new ways of expressing their interactions with God, and their new ways of being with God in the world?

On Sunday, 17 April, we attended churches across Lusaka. I was assigned to a three-point parish in Lusaka, called Kabanana Sub-Parish. ("Kabanana"

means "little banana.") We began with a service of Holy Eucharist that was three hours long, with multiple choirs involved, each of which sang its own music. The Mothers Union provided singing and dancing throughout the service.

At the end of the service, the visiting clergy were invited up to bless the children. A female priest is such a novelty here that I had large numbers of small children queuing up to receive a blessing from me. The little girls were elbowing the little boys out of the way to be first in line to receive a blessing from "the lady priest!"

Once the service was over, we lined up outside the church

in the sunshine, with the parish priest and the two bishops who were present, to shake the hand of every single person who had attended church that morning - roughly 500.

Following the service, we were taken to the other parish points before being the guests of honour at a parish luncheon.

At the first point, a new Rectory has been half-built. Fr. Zulu has plans for the expansion of St. Mark's at the second point and is in the process of rebuilding the church at the third point. There is no land available for rebuilding, so the new structure is being erected around and over top of the old one. The outside walls have been built of concrete block, and Fr. Zulu is attempting to raise sixty thousand kwachas over the next four months to pay for the new roof; the exchange rate is roughly ten kwachas for one Canadian dollar.

St. Mary is referred to as the "mother church" out of which the other two were planted. Essentially in the midst of a slum, the church operates a school teaching the children to read and write, as well as the rudiments of arithmetic and science.

There are no educational materials and no playground equip-



Some members of the Mothers' Union at St. Andrew's Church

ment -- only broken-down furniture, charcoal and scrap-wood fires for cooking their lunches. The wall of the building itself has been used to draw a botanical illustration in order to teach the children about the different parts of a flower.

On my last day, we began with Morning Prayer, followed by Bible Study, after which five new members were elected to the Standing Committee, one of whom is Bishop Jane Alexander, Bishop of Edmonton. The Eucharist was held at noon, and throughout the day, resolutions were moved and debated.

One of the major impressions that I received from this experi-

ence is how far ahead of most of the Anglican Communion our Diocese actually is in terms of Safe Church protocols and training. We have, over the years, built a solid foundation and a strong program. One of the challenges ahead will be to share our experience and expertise with those member Provinces and Dioceses of the Anglican Communion who are just now beginning this vital work of ensuring that our churches are places of peace and safety for all.

**All of the Photos in this article are by Sheila Flynn**



The Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade at St. Andrew's Church

## ACC passes Safe Church Resolutions

The International Anglican Safe Church Network put forth several resolutions to the ACC all of which were passed including one that was suggested by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who requested a Safe Church presentation at the next Lambeth Conference.

The most important one passed was resolution 16.26 - a proposal that there be an international sharing of information about clergy who have committed acts of sexual misconduct.

Here are the Safe Church Network's Resolutions:

### Resolution 16.24: Safe Church Commission

The Anglican Consultative Council requests the Secretary General to establish a Safe Church Commission, once necessary funds have been secured, upon the terms set out in the Report of the Anglican Communion Safe Church Network including to identify policies and procedures currently in place for the safety of persons in the provinces of the Anglican Communion; and to develop guidelines to enhance the safety of all persons especially children, young people and vulnerable adults, within the provinces of the Anglican Communion for consideration by the Anglican Consultative Council at its the next meeting, and thereafter for implementation, as far as practicable, by each province; and to develop resources for the effective implementation of the guidelines in the provinces.

### Resolution 16.25: Anglican Communion Safe Church Charter

The Anglican Consultative Council reaffirms its commitment in Resolution 15.09, to promoting the physical, emotional and spiritual welfare and safety of all people, especially children, young people and vulnerable adults, in the provinces of the Anglican Communion through the Charter for the Safety of People within the Churches of the Anglican Communion. It recognizes that this Charter is a practical expression of walking together in the service of God in the world.

The Anglican Consultative Council requests each province of the Anglican Communion to report to ACC-17 as to the steps taken to adopt and implement the Charter.

### Resolution 16.26: Protocol for the disclosure of ministry suitability information

The Anglican Consultative Council welcomes the Protocol for disclosure of ministry suitability information between the churches of the Anglican Communion set out in the Report of the Anglican Communion Safe Church Network; and requests the Secretary General to provide a template of forms as a resource for the provinces to enable implementation; and requests each province of the Anglican Communion to implement the Protocol, and report to the next meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council.

### Resolution 16.27: Safe Church and the Lambeth Conference in 2020

The Anglican Consultative Council requests the Archbishop of Canterbury to consider including in the programme for the Lambeth Conference in 2020 a session on the Anglican Communion Safe Church Charter.



Across the street from St. Mary's Congregation in Kabanana Sub-Parish, Lusaka

## Impressions of the Day Lusaka, Zambia

Sunshine and soft breezes;  
Broken glass and barbed wire atop walls surrounding homes and shops;  
Baby elephants and bounding antelope;  
Scum-green ponds where disease-carrying mosquitoes breed unchecked;  
Zebra stripes, ripples of black and white in the sunshine;  
Starving dogs collapsed beside ramshackle houses;  
Brilliant butterflies flitting in the breeze, and birds chirking in the trees;  
Garbage strewn around houses made of scrap wood and broken cement;  
Giraffe striding majestically through the treetops;  
Dilapidated huts roofed with shredded plastic and rusted strips of tin;  
Hibiscus, bougainvillea, jacaranda, lifting blossoms to the sky;  
Throughout it all, the Spirit moves . . .  
Blowing love's healing breath over Holy Creation.

*Sheila Flynn*

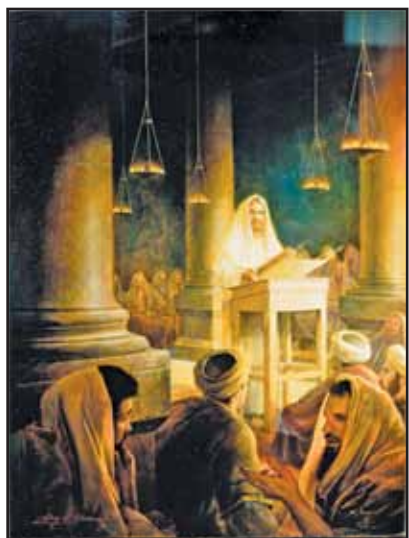




## FAQs about PWRDF Aid Programs

Discussions or presentations on PWRDF often generate one of three frequently asked questions (FAQs). Some might think these questions rude or trite, but in fact, they are quite reasonable to ask, and therefore deserve reasonable answers, preferably backed by scripture.

The first question is rather general: Why do we provide aid at all, anywhere, and why not look after ourselves and let others do likewise? Luke 4:14-21 provides one justification for providing aid. Jesus had just completed 40 days in the wilderness, where he likely used much of that time in prayer and planning for his (short) life's mission. One of the first towns he reached was Nazareth, the place where he had grown up. He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath, was presented with the scroll, and chose to read Isaiah 61:1-2: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." Luke tells us that instead of giving his interpretation of the reading as was the practice, he sat down. Then



Jesus reading from Isaiah 61:1-2 in the synagogue at Nazareth.

after a few moments silence, he simply added: "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears," meaning that he was the one of whom Isaiah had spoke of 700 years before. He knew full well that his statement would upset both the Pharisee priests and the ruling Roman government, for he was claiming to be the Messiah of which the prophets spoke. The spirit of this reading from Isaiah is of 'outreach to others', and this became Christ's mission to his followers, and by inference, to us today. The mission statement of PWRDF, when it was formed in 1959, could be said to be based on this passage.

The second FAQ is more specific, and is: "When we send money overseas, are we not taking it away from needy people in our own community?" When you consider Victoria's 'tent people,' or homeless and hungry people that can be found in every city and town in this country, and in every other country, then this question may have some validity. But consider that PWRDF cannot be in every town or city. There are other people and agencies working on these local problems. So instead PWRDF tries to alleviate worst-case suffering in other parts of the world where there is no local help. When asked this very question following a presentation this past winter, and not wanting to sound antagonistic or defensive, I replied: "Are you part of one of the local groups in Victoria who are working to help solve local homelessness and poverty?" Christ had a simpler answer to this, as related in Mark 9:41, when he said: "For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in my name will by no means lose the reward." One can interpret this to mean that there is enough water (or food) to go around for everyone.

The third FAQ comes from people who can barely afford to take care of themselves or their own families, so that they have very little to offer others. The question they ask is: "Since there is so much need in the world, what possible good can the little bit of money that I can give do?" It is easy to draw on the example of the widow's mite in Mark 12:41-44, but better known by Anglicans is the Doxology that we frequently recite at the end of a service, a re-wording of Ephesians 3:20-21. Indeed, God's power, working through each of us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Believe it, and support PWRDF as well as local charities, even if your gifts are small.

For more information on PWRDF, the official outreach arm of the Anglican Church of Canada, or if you would like a presentation in your parish, contact the PWRDF Diocesan Representative, Geoff Strong at [geoff.strong@shaw.ca](mailto:geoff.strong@shaw.ca) or 250-710-8011.

## A fly on the wall at Diocesan Council

Judy Trueman

Diocesan Council met on April 2 at St. Peter's Parish, Quamichan. It was called to enable Council to gather before the upcoming Synod April 22-23 in Nanaimo. After being introduced to the parish, Council engaged in a Bible Study based on Jesus' post-resurrection appearance to his disciples, with Thomas absent and then with Thomas present (John 20:19-31). In our table groups, we had interesting conversations around the questions: "What do you need to see to be convinced that it is Jesus who stands before you?" and "What do you need to see to be convinced that Jesus is present in the vision, dream, congregation, plan or programme of our diocese?"

Bishop Logan shared some insights from his Sacred Journey through the Diocese, stressing that the journey was just a beginning of better relationships with the First Nations on the Islands, and that there is much more work to be done.

Some agenda time was given to the Financial Statements to end of February 2016, and to the prospect of having a separate bank account for the Refugee Committee, within the very strict rules that the CRA has around transparency in how money is handled. Council approved the opening of this new Refugee account.

A primary reason for this pre-Synod meeting of Diocesan Council was to hear a report from Rob Waller of Waller and Associates Ltd., Specialized



St. Peter's Church, Quamichan

Photo: Judy Trueman

Consulting and Fundraising Services. Council had received a lengthy Planning Feasibility Study Report prepared for the Diocese, along with an Executive Summary. The Feasibility report and recommendations will be an important item on the agenda of Synod. Council was challenged with the question: What needs our immediate attention, going forward? Some of the comments reflected the insights that will very likely come from Synod: for example, the re-affirmation that this work does not exist in a vacuum, but arises from conversations, interviews, and synods over the past year(s). Information will need to be communicated for those not involved in previous Synods and for those in our parishes who will need to understand the process which brought us to this point.

Many of the members of Diocesan Council will be retiring after this meeting, and Bishop

Logan expressed thanks for their faithful participation. As we reconvene in May, there will be new clergy and lay members, elected at Synod, and new members nominated by regions and approved at Synod. Present at every Diocesan Council are the Ex Officio members: Bishop, Dean, Lay and Clerical Secretaries, Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, and Diocesan Treasurer. Executive Staff also sit on Council: Director of Finance, Diocesan Executive Officer, and Assets Manager.

Diocesan Council, the monthly "Synod between Synods" needs and appreciates the prayers of the diocese as it seeks to continue to do God's work on these islands. Full minutes of the meetings can always be found on the diocesan website.

Judy Trueman is Diocesan Lay Secretary and a parishioner at St. George's Church, Cadboro Bay.

## New *Alpha* Resource for your parish

Rob Szo

You've likely heard of the *Alpha Course*, which has been used by countless churches to introduce people to Jesus. Never ones to rest on their laurels, the Alpha team has updated the talks and materials for a new generation of spiritually curious people.

In the past a church had to buy the materials; today all you have to do is register your course with Alpha Canada. They send you login information, and you then go to their website and download the talks, small group discussion questions and training materials at no charge. The only financial cost to your parish is for food at the weekly meal.

Better still, *Alpha* has now been completely re-filmed in a way that's more visually engaging. The teaching material is still excellent, but the way it's pre-

sented is much more interesting and dynamic. The new *Alpha Film Series* is the best-presented material I've seen. It combines live action with stunning graphics and international locations, including our own British Columbia. When our parish started using the new resource in April, our course members were very impressed with the content and presentation.

If you'd like to learn more about using this resource to renew the spiritual life of your members, and reach new people, let me know. I'd be happy to share my experience with *Alpha*. You can reach me through our parish website: [www.ParishCS.ca](http://www.ParishCS.ca)

In the meantime, check out the trailer: <http://www.alpha-canada.org/run/resources/>

Rev. Rob Szo is Rector of the Parish of Central Saanich

## BELONGING

a sense of camaraderie when oars pull together and sweat runs freely in the dragon boat

a feeling of community as we cheer every goal scored by our favourite major league hockey team

kinship in shared meals at table with family with memories shared our joys and sorrows mixed

that knowledge of relationship in a unity of prayer to our one and faithful God here in time and space

Joanna M. Weston



# Rebalancing Spiritual Teaching:

A review of David G. Benner's *Human Being and Becoming: Living The Adventure Of Life And Love*

by Christopher Page

The problem with writing book reviews is that the request for a review necessarily comes with a deadline. This is true, and particularly problematic, when the request comes from the revered and sadly soon-to-be-retired editor of the "Diocesan Post."

An Ed Lewis deadline for a book review is a challenge because the books for which he seeks comment usually merit long slow reading and careful study. This is especially true when the book is by prolific author and spiritual guide Dr. David G. Benner.

Rushing through Benner's latest offering is a frustrating exercise. Reading Benner's *Human Being and Becoming: Living The Adventure Of Life And Love*, the reader frequently wants to stop, ponder, and ideally discuss the thoughts, insights, and wisdom that proliferate on every page. This is a book to be taken in small bites and absorbed carefully. While eminently readable, it is not light reading easily tossed off as a distraction from the pressures of routine life.

In every chapter of his latest book Dr. Benner seeks to redress an imbalance in many presentations of the spiritual journey.

In chapter one he calls the spiritual practitioner back to a vision of the full glory of what it means to be truly human. Benner decries a spirituality that "has led many to mistrust their bodies, emotions, sexuality, intuitions, and much more," (7) and pleads for a spirituality in which people embrace "the fact that their deepest nature is gloriously good."

In chapter two Benner cautions spiritual seekers to avoid the kind of disembodied spirituality that has bedeviled the history of spiritual teaching for centuries and in many faith traditions. He reminds the reader that, "An honoring embrace of materiality is the single most important missing ingredient in most contemporary spiritualities – Christianity certainly included." (36)

Chapter three argues that the goal of spirituality is not

to generate meaning, but "to discover a meaningful way of living life." (43)

In chapters four through seven, Benner aims to restore a deep appreciation for mystery, a healthy understanding of ego, the value of the heart, and the centrality of love as the foundation of authentic spirituality.

In his final chapter, Benner pleads for a spirituality that embodies an alternative to individualism, tribalism, and perfectionism. Instead, Benner suggests we need to learn to "live wholeness." And, as in all his writing, he offers practical and challenging pointers to what it might look like to live from a more holistic vision.

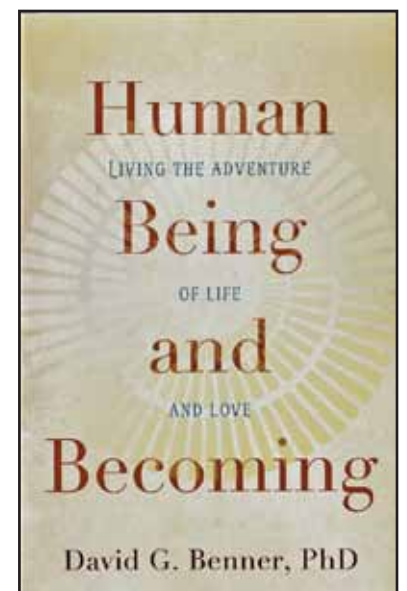
In all of this, Benner brings refreshing candor, honesty and humanity to the wisdom he shares.

But, perhaps most refreshing of all, Benner aims to write with an expansive spirit that has the capacity to communicate across the artificial boundaries we so often erect in the human community. He articulates this goal in his introduction

suggesting that his book is written for "Christians or non-Christians, religious or nonreligious, people of faith or none." (xvii) He achieves this goal admirably, making *Human Being And Becoming* a book you could share, without embarrassment, with a diverse group of spiritual seekers.

The only people who will struggle to find inspiration in Benner's writing are the people he calls "Finders". These people, who have given up the exciting journey of being seekers are, Benner suggests, willing to "listen only to voices that tell them what they think they already know." (xvii)

Anyone who considers him/herself still a "seeker" will find deep encouragement and a healthy balance in Dr. Benner's words. He offers profound and compassionate support on the journey of becoming more deeply and authentically human. He invites the reader to enter more deeply into the "stream" of love in which we "allow ourselves to be seized by love and lose ourselves in love and then pass this liberating and



Published by Brazos Press, Grand Rapids, Michigan  
Available at Amazon.com

whole-making contagion on to others." (110)

Benner's vision of love holds the potential to transform, not only our individual lives, our institutional life, but also the world as a whole. Dr. Benner's book deserves to be widely read and the world will be deeply enriched as his wise words are put into practice.

## 24 young people off to CLAY



Photo: Rth MacIntosh

Five of the young people who are going to CLAY at a recent Sunday morning Bake Sale at Christ Church Cathedral

Ruth MacIntosh

This summer 24 young people from our diocese will travel to Prince Edward Island for CLAY (the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth gathering). These youth are from Campbell River, Qualicum Beach, Chemainus, Tofino, Ucluelet, Duncan and Victoria. Leaders are from Victoria, Duncan and Tofino. This is truly a diocesan experience!

These young pilgrims will spend time in Nova Scotia, being hosted by the Anglican Church in New Germany. They will have some recreational time with youth in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and

P.E.I. and then they will travel to P.E.I. to join over 900 young Lutheran and Anglican Christians from across the country!

In small and large groups they will participate in a variety of worship settings, and experience different kinds of Christian spiritual practices. They will participate in service and ministry projects. They will have opportunities to think and engage theologically. Their experience of church will expand, and they will return with new ways to share their gifts in the diocese!



This is an expensive endeavor! Each participant has paid their

registration fee of \$350 and committed to another \$350 of "individual" fundraising. The home parish of each participant has contributed \$300 and the diocese has matched that with another \$300. The diocese will also cover flight expenses for three leaders. This leaves nearly \$15,000 in 'group' fundraising! Youth have been holding bake sales and bottle drives, dinners and bar-b-ques! We hope you will see the value of this trip and find ways to invest in these young people.

Some quotes from three of the young people planning to attend ...

The  
*Contemplative*  
Society

The Mystical and Visionary Thinking of  
Teilhard de Chardin

WITH  
The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault  
Wisdom teacher and renowned author

**Monday, September 19—Saturday, September 24**  
2016

Cowichan Lake Research Station Conference Centre  
Vancouver Island, BC, Canada

This Wisdom School will embrace new evolutionary ground as we explore the mystical and visionary thinking of Teilhard de Chardin. His work, as made more accessible by Cynthia Bourgeault, is critically important for shaping a renewed Christian path for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and enabling us to embrace the future with compassion, courage, and spiritual intelligence. As with all Wisdom Schools, there will be a balance of teaching, meditative sitting, liturgy, and embodied practice.

Cost: shared \$800 / private (limited) \$1000—includes meals and accommodations  
For more information and to apply, visit [contemplative.org](http://contemplative.org) or call 250-381-9650

"I want to go to P.E.I. for one reason: I'll be with kids who aren't afraid to say they go to church" (14yrs.)

"I want to go to CLAY to meet new people, learn new things and see the other side of Canada. I hope this experience will help me inspire the people around me" (16 yrs.)

"CLAY sounds like a fun experience. I hope I will meet interesting people and learn new things" (15 yrs.)

For more information about CLAY and how you may be able to help, please contact Ruth MacIntosh who is the family ministry co-ordinator at St. John the Divine Parish, Victoria.



# Editor retires

Catherine Pate

With this issue, The Rev. Ed Lewis hangs up his...well his keyboard I guess...and officially retires as editor of the *Diocesan Post*. Ed has been editing and laying out the paper since 2010, having assumed the position two years after he retired from parish ministry. When asked what has been the most rewarding part of his ordained ministry Lewis replied, "Working and caring for people. There have been too many good memories to count, including the honour of being there to hold someone's hand while they were dying. Some years ago a young woman came up to me at an event and said, 'Thank you for what you did for our family

after my parents died, helping me get a scholarship to go to university.'" Ed has continued to exercise his ordained ministry as honorary assistant at Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria over the last nine years.

In addition to his love of people, Ed has a love of newspapers. "Printer's ink is in my blood," remarks Lewis with a twinkle in his eye and a smile. "My grandfather was a newspaper man. He was one of the first employees and eventual owner of the *Western Star* in Newfoundland.

The first dollar I ever earned was in my grandfather's print shop." Lewis would go on to become the associate editor of the Newfoundland diocesan

paper, editor and managing editor of the Edmonton/Athabasca paper and then the Saskatchewan paper before moving to Victoria and eventually editing the *Diocesan Post*. In all he has had twenty years devoted to directing church papers.

So, what does Ed think is so important about church papers? "I think a diocesan paper does a number of things: It tells the story of what's happening in the diocese, it provides spiritual reflection materials for its readers and it's a place for parishes to share information about upcoming events. I also think it's a place for people to share their views on important issues facing the church," points out Lewis. When

asked what the biggest challenge has been for him in this role Lewis is quick to reply, "It's been a bit lonely. The editor should have a group to consult with, who will hold the editor accountable and also be a sounding board as well as help plan the year's schedule. Otherwise, it can feel like you're out there on your own. With a new diocesan communications officer in place, this is a good opportunity to make some changes. I wish whoever takes it on all the best."

On behalf of the readers of the *Diocesan Post*, the parishes of the diocese, the writers, the photographers and the countless other people the *Post* has given voice to, thank you Ed. As the bishop



Photo: Catherine Pate

Ed, with his trusty camera at Synod last month

said at synod, you have matured the paper into a well-respected publication that we can be proud of.

Ed's last word: "I see the paper continuing. The readership still relies on print to receive news. The printed word is still an important part of society."



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## WOMEN'S FALL WEEKEND

Camp Pringle  
October 21 - 23

*Forgiving and Forgiven -  
the Dance of Reconciliation*

**Facilitator:** The Very Rev. M. Ansley Tucker  
**Spiritual Director:** The Rev. Canon Nancy Ford  
**Leader of Music:** Diane Bell

Registration Forms available at your parish office  
(Registration deadline October. 12)

**Cost:** \$165.00 - sharing  
\$200 for single room  
(\$50 cancellation fee)

Please note: For contact/info only:  
Brenda Dhaene: (250 748-7183) [birish@shaw.ca](mailto:birish@shaw.ca)  
OR Pat Coward-Walker: [patcoward@me.com](mailto:patcoward@me.com)

## Come to Sorrento Centre this Summer

for a Course on environmental justice



**THE CLIMATE IS NOW:**

*Climate Science and Christian Witness*  
Monday, August 1 - Saturday, August 6

Discover how scientific facts on climate change and scripture are entirely compatible. In this course, the science is condensed to the simple and scripture expanded to meet it. Learn how/where global warming is already creating havoc on Earth, and how/why we can and must individually contribute to the obvious solutions.

The course is led by co-chairs of the Diocesan Creation Matters Group on Vancouver Island, the Very Rev. Ken Gray and Dr. Geoff Strong. Ken has previously taught courses in music and liturgy at Sorrento, and is the newly-appointed Dean of St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral in Kamloops. Geoff has over 50 years experience as an atmospheric/climate scientist, and is a Christian education leader at St. Peter's Church, Duncan where he developed a bible study called *Questions of Environmental Stewardship Theology* (QUEST), on which this course is based.

**Course fee: \$260**

For information on accommodations and meals, or to register, go to <http://www.sorrento-centre.bc.ca/>.  
For more details, contact Ken ([grayintheforest@shaw.ca](mailto:grayintheforest@shaw.ca)) or Geoff ([geoff.strong@shaw.ca](mailto:geoff.strong@shaw.ca)).

## Farewell

After editing four Diocesan Papers over a period of 20 years, I have decided that it is time to hand over this work to another person.

So in my last note, I say thank you to a number of people who have helped me over the past six years. Thank you to Sheila Martindale for being such a great proofreader; Herb O'Driscoll for all his reflections; Christopher Page with his book reviews; Joanna Weston for a continuous supply of poetry; and all who have contributed articles over the years. Above all a big thank you to you the readers and supporters of the *Post*.

There is still a place for the printed word in the life of the Church.

Ed Lewis

## CHURCH OF THE ADVENT STRAWBERRY TEA

## & CRAFT FAIR

(free admission, free parking, barrier-free access)

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2016  
10 AM TO 3 PM

## STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

Shortcake & Tea - \$6.00  
Under 5 yrs. - FREE\*  
(\*includes beverage)

## Bake Table Craft Tables

Church of the Advent  
510 Mount View Avenue  
(opposite Colwood School)



Lutheran Church of the Cross &  
St. Luke Cedar Hill present

## AMAZING JOURNEY DAY CAMP JULY 4-8

Calling all super heroes...

Mornings  
9 am to Noon

3821 Cedar Hill X-Road  
St. Luke's Activity Centre

Elementary &  
Preschool Program

\$30 first child  
\$25 second child  
\$20 third child

For info or to register contact [amazing4kids16@gmail.com](mailto:amazing4kids16@gmail.com)