



Faith in Action



Photo by Phyllis Thompson

Rev. Karen Hollis is informed by Andy Gilman, Chair of the Nanaimo-Comox Presbytery, that the Act of Covenanting is complete

The Covenanting of Rev. Karen Hollis at Christ Church Gabriola

By Phyllis Thompson

On April 15, the atmosphere inside the small church on Gabriola Island was alive with welcoming words and last-minute activity as all awaited the Covenanting Service that would officially bind the congregation to its new incumbent, Rev. Karen Hollis and give that worshipping community its new name.

The church is a shared ministry, melded from the original churches, St. Martin of Tours Anglican and Gabriola United. To read about the history that brought the two congregations together and the process that led up to the April 15 Covenanting service, see the DP's May 2017 issue and the lead article by Rev. Peggy Jensen.

www.bc.anglican.ca/news/may-2017-diocesan-post

Andy Gilman, Chair of the Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery for the United Church, led the service, opening with words about covenant—how God was a maker and keeper of

covenants and was good at keeping the covenants made with humans, whereas humans often fell short. Covenants “bind us together in mutual agreement, where all do their part,” he said. A covenant is a rite of passage for both parties, with promises made one to another. “It celebrates a new relationship, it’s meant to be joyful,” Gilman said.

Gilman also touched on the history this congregation lived and worked through as it decided to be a shared worshipping community and ministry on Gabriola Island. These individuals “by their patience, listening, thoroughness and careful discernment, have paved the way for others,” he said.

After the call to worship and opening prayer, people were thanked for their involvement in the discernment and transition processes, and on the search committee. Then Rev. Gail Miller, representing the B.C. Conference of the United Church, introduced the new incumbent, Rev. Karen Hollis.

After scriptural passages were read, Rev. Jim Holland, Anglican chaplain at Shawnigan Lake School and a member of this church’s transition team, preached. He spoke about tradition and the kinds of difficulties that are always present when change happens, particularly as a group works toward resolution and compromise. He noted this group honoured the “challenging work of bringing together different worship styles” and said it represents the spirit of the early church. He said that as this shared community discerned its future, it has become a safe, welcoming place, now supported by Karen’s commitment to stand with the congregants on this new journey.

Andy Gilman led the actual Act of Covenanting, where Hollis responded to various questions and where the congregation also took part in this exchange of promises. Symbols of Hollis’ new position were presented to her: a bible, a chalice, a pitcher of water, and a piece of driftwood. Gilman

said each was “a sign of the new ministry that is ours and yours in this presbytery.”

Anglican Bishop, Logan McMenamie, attended to the final official part of this service. First he offered the support and prayers of this diocese. He then noted that the history leading to this day had been one “of journey, of pilgrimage, of hard work and witness.” He pointed out that in scripture God re-named those who were specially called. “Their new identity reflected a new ministry, reflected a spirit quest to be closer to others,” he said. Here, too. Bishop Logan then officially gave this congregation its new name: Christ Church Gabriola. The service ended with the new incumbent commissioning the entire congregation and offering a benediction. A gracious reception followed.

Here, I add a personal comment about how much music at any liturgical service matters to me.

That day offered some special and meaningful pieces. I mention two: a prelude, with pianist Marilyn Smith and guitarist Jim Hollis, accompanying a duet sung by Karen Hollis and husband Jim—Rend Collective’s “Build Your Kingdom Here” with phrases like “Set our hearts ablaze with hope; like wildfire in our very souls, Holy Spirit invade us now.” “We are your church, set your church on fire.” The other: a postlude, again with Marilyn at the piano and Jim singing “Shine On Us” by Deborah and Michael Smith, and phrases like “Light shine on us, grace fall on us, love with no end come over us, that we may have life.” Perfect musical bookends for this service of new ministry.

Phyllis Thompson taught English at the University of Saskatchewan and is the proofreader for the Diocesan Post. She is also a frequent contributor—covering important events and meetings on the lower and mid-island. She is a member of St. Mary, Nanoose Bay.

Looking Back at the Year of Reconciliation



Photo: Diocesan Post

Bishop Logan Writes

And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors. 2 Cor. 5

Let me thank you for your leadership during the past year of reconciliation. We have done much at various levels of our individual and common lives. Thank you for engaging in this journey.

The year of reconciliation has come to an end. We have recognized that it has been, for us, a year of learning about reconciliation.

As we have journeyed with the First Peoples on these islands and inlets, we have learned a

great deal about the challenges as we tried to define what reconciliation might look like. Through the continuation of the sacred journey, we have begun to build relationships with First Nations communities. The building of these relationships are the first steps on this journey.

Late last year I was invited to visit the fish farms on the traditional territories of the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw Nation. The invitation was to learn and understand the place of fish farms on their territory. I wrote and met with the chief and elders, and with government leadership to help facilitate a conversation about rights and industry. I said to the government that if we are serious about reconciliation, then First Nations must have the right to say what industry is present on their territories.

I was also invited to Kingcome, the traditional territory of the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw. During a ceremony at the big house I asked for permission for us to enter and stay in these territories. I was honoured by the chief and elders and given that permission.

Building upon the work we did with the leadership from the Corrymeela Community through its program Dialogue towards Peaceful Change, we created the diocesan Community of Learning. In the pilots we worked with conflict/dispute resolution as it applied to us personally and as congregations. The pilots have been good and positive experiences for those who participated, as well as for those who led the initial module. We hope to create other modules for the Community and build it up in the diocese as a significant piece of the vision under lay leadership and training.

In some parishes within our diocese, when conflict has occurred, we have helped to clarify language and practice. We continue to bring the voices of the Corrymeela Community in Ireland and the Community of the Cross of Nails from Coventry in the U.K. into our diocese.

Many parishes have experienced the Blanket Exercise and Building Bridges through Understanding the Village workshop and have found them to be profound experiences.

Bishop's Calendar

June

- 9 Youth Council Meeting
- 10 St. John the Divine, Victoria - Parish Visit with Confirmation
- 11 - 14 Standing Committee of Religious Communities
- 16 - 17 Alert Bay - June Sports Day and Parish Visit
- 19 Archdeacons
- 21 Finance Committee
- 24 St. Luke, Victoria - Parish Visit with Confirmation
- 27 New Clergy Orientation Day
- 28 Diocesan Council
- 29 Ordinations at CCC

If you have not experienced either of these, I encourage you to look for one that you can attend.

We have also continued to look at pilgrimage as a personal act of reconciliation within oneself, with creation or others.

We are here in the hope of a world of reconciliation.

May we practice reconciliation with ourselves, with each other, in our community, in and with our world.

For you, God, are the one who brings all things together the one who leads us into deeper life.

Corrymeela Community

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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 52, No 6



Reconciliation Continues

As we close the *Year of Reconciliation*, the Bishop reminds us that there is more work to do on this initiative and his hope is that we will continue with our reconciliation efforts.

There were lots of parish/diocesan activities to support the Bishop's Year of Reconciliation. We've highlighted some of them in the photo montage below. Please remember that we haven't stopped being a reconciling church—the work continues.

House of God Prints Sent to Parishes

As we conclude the diocesan Year of Reconciliation, the Synod has had copies of the limited-edition print created for the diocese by the late Frank Nelson. A copy of the framed print, along with a written description of the artwork, has been sent to each parish of the diocese, to be displayed publicly (in a church hall or other prominent location) as a visible sign of our commitment to continue the journey of truth-telling, healing and reconciliation with the First Peoples of these islands and inlets.



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Learning to Save Lives with Naloxone

By Susan Down

Carefully wielding syringes to inject water into sponges, a group of Christ Church Cathedral (CCC) staff, stewards and parishioners, as well as staff from the Cathedral School and Diocesan office, gathered April 23 to learn how to give a shot of naloxone to save someone from a drug overdose. To remember the steps, we learned a chilling acronym, SAVEME (Stimulate, Airway, Ventilate, Evaluate, Muscular Injection,

and Evaluate) from instructor Kim Toombs, a harm reduction counsellor from AIDS Vancouver Island. “I have been working in the field for 20 years and I have never experienced this level of crisis,” said Toombs, referring to the current opioid addiction situation in B.C.

The session was the first at the Cathedral, and the kits are now available in the church and the Deanery. “It signals an attitudinal shift, a lessening of the stigma,” said Canon Nancy

Ford, CCC Deacon to the City. “The word on the street is that people are quite chuffed, surprised and delighted that the Cathedral is doing this,” she said. “According to the coroner’s report, people in transition are most at risk of overdosing,” says Ford, who would like to explore new support programs that strengthen community relationships.

Susan Down is Communications Officer at Christ Church Cathedral.



Canon Nancy Ford with instructor Kim Toombs of AIDS Vancouver Island

Photo by Susan Down

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Quilters Welcome Newcomers

By Sandra Scarth

Welcome Quilts was started by three long-arm quilters in B.C. in February 2017. It is not unusual for quilters to respond to various needs and they had all provided quilts to refugee families through isolated efforts. What is unusual is that all three (Miriam March from Rock Creek, Parm Gosselin from Vancouver and Sue Bruning from North Saanich) have long-arm machines so they could help quilt/finish/provide quilts for the project more easily than people with regular sewing machines. Sue was the initiator of the project; Parm and Miriam quickly volunteered to help. But they realized they could not make and provide the quilts alone, so reached out to quilting friends and members of local guilds they belonged to.

The Welcome Quilts group has operated a bit differently in Vancouver than in Victoria. In Vancouver the group provided quilts to a refugee processing centre, (30 at the end of April, 26 in July and 37 in December 2017). Refugees were allowed to select a quilt when they left the centre. Parm coordinated the Vancouver distribution, but when she returned to work in January, the group suspended the Vancouver distribution.

In Victoria, the group requests referrals of families (either

currently here or while the sponsorship is in process) from the Anglican Refugee Sponsorship Program and the Intercultural Association (ICA) and then provides a quilt to each member of the family. The last distribution was made in early April; the next distribution is scheduled for June, 2018.

Since the population of refugee families is smaller in Victoria than in Vancouver, the Victoria group provided about 20 quilts every few months while Vancouver provided 30. However, the Victoria group tries to match the size and theme of quilts to recipients (e.g., by age and gender). Sue handles all distributions in the Victoria area through liaison individuals. They have (or are in process of receiving and distributing) about 225 quilts of many sizes, themes and colours.

The quilters have also donated (on an informal basis) quality quilting fabrics, quilts, quilt tops and batting. Welcome Quilts has not organized fundraisers or sought official charity status but does rely on donations. They received about \$40 in donations recently and that money was used to cover some of the postage expenses to mail quilts/quilt tops to Parm and Miriam. The Victoria Quilters Guild Comfort Quilt Society provided a small grant to cover some of the costs



Welcome Quilt Labels

Photo by Sue Bruning

not covered by donations (e.g., batting and postage). Sue, Parm and Miriam cover the rest of the postage and ancillary expenses. The Victoria community continues to support the project in many ways—for example, St. Andrew’s Anglican Church in Sidney donated leftover cotton fabrics from their recent fabric sale for African grandmothers.

All quilts are new but since the quilters rely on donated material, the quilts vary widely in size and theme. I have personally delivered four quilts to one family and three to another, where the six-year-old girl was enraptured with her new pretty pink

quilt. Having done a very small amount of quilting myself, I know the amount of work that goes into making just one of these quilts and think Welcome Quilts offers a wonderful, warm welcome for newcomers to our country. Thanks, Welcome Quilters.

If you would like to donate fabric, quilts, quilt tops, etc. to Welcome Quilts, or help in any other way, please contact Sue at suebruning@gmail.com.

Sandra Scarth is Chair, Anglican Refugee Sponsorship Program, and a member of St. Stephen’s Church in Central Saanich.

DIOCESAN POST

WELCOMES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Update on PWRDF World of Gifts Program

PWRDF Corner



By Geoff Strong

He asked him a third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was deeply hurt that he had asked him a third time, "Do you love me?" So he told him, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you!" Jesus told him, "Feed my sheep. - John 21:17

When an individual donates to PWRDF, it is not possible to track exactly where that gift goes. However, the *World of Gifts* program does allow us to choose the type of gift provided by our donation, and in some cases, where and how it is applied. This program resulted in 8,473 gifts being purchased from PWRDF during 2017, raising \$403,000 for development projects, almost double last year's total of \$210,000. Gifts were purchased by 2,312 individuals (753 for the first time) and 164 churches (16 for the first time).

Participation in this program was enthusiastic, with various youth groups, adult groups, and whole parishes competing to out-

do each other in raising money. For example, the Anglican parish of Heart's Content in Newfoundland even organized a Walk for Goats, raising \$3,965 for the purchase of 132 goats.

Goats were the favourite gift for the second year in a row, followed by ducks and chickens. This year 2,640 billies and nannies were purchased in support of our Food Security Program, compared with 681 goats in 2016. These gifts of livestock have the power to improve a family's health by providing nutrition and a source of income. And when a goat produces its first offspring, the kids (goats often breed twins) are donated to another family, so the program is sustainable and life-changing.

Food supplements for malnourished children in Burundi were next most popular (513 gifts for 51,300 children), and 633 purchases of seeds (12,660 kilograms of seed), which helped farmers in Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda and Mozambique diversify their crops and provide better nutrition to their families.

PWRDF issued a challenge to



Collecting water from new borehole well at Ndomini, Tanzania in May 2017

Photo by Geoff Strong

donors to work together to raise funds to support the construction of 'borehole wells' in Tanzania. One such well was purchased by the Outreach Committee of St. Peter in Duncan, B.C. The purchase means that women and girls in that Tanzanian community do not spend hours each day fetching water over long distances, and girls can attend school instead.

Other gifts included: \$6,450 for food packages for refugee families at Refuge Egypt;

\$8,450 to empower women in Guatemala who were formerly in exile; \$11,416 to support women making and selling peanut butter in the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya; and \$9,500 for two Global Relations projects in the Solomon Islands and Jerusalem. Back home in Canada, an additional \$33,000 was donated to the Anglican Church Indigenous Ministries to help prevent youth suicides.

You can purchase items from *World of Gifts* year-round by

visiting our secure www.pwrdf.org/worldofgifts online site or by calling 1-866-308-7973. Go to www.pwrdf.org to learn more about PWRDF, or contact the PWRDF Diocesan Representative, Geoff Strong at geoff.strong@shaw.ca. Geoff is also available to give a presentation on PWRDF at your parish.

Geoff Strong is the PWRDF diocesan representative.

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2018 Diocesan Women's Retreat

By Annalise Wall

I Am. I am for you. Bookending the April Women's Retreat were biblical readings about the burning bush, the voice of God beckoning Moses, instructing him to refer to God as "I Am," the I Am metaphors of Jesus in the gospel of John, as well as a celebration of the Annunciation in the Sunday worship service. The retreat explored metaphors for the Trinity in scripture, prayer, and life.

After the drive to Camp Pringle, attendees gathered for introductions, prayer, and a shared meal. Facilitator Catherine Pate invited everyone to share their first images of God. Most conveyed that they grew up with the image of God as a potently masculine God. Other words used to describe their childhood vision of God were "remote," "strict" and "a judge." Some women shared that because of their difficult relationships with their father figures, they found it difficult to enter into faith with the traditional image of God the Father, but have found their faith enriched

by other scriptural images of God that helped expand their understanding of God's tenderness and goodness. One woman spoke of her wonderful earthly father who truly helped her trust that a heavenly father would also be very good.

Images and understandings of God as Holy Spirit included "playful," "feminine," "wise woman," "dove" and "enticing." "Friend" and "comforter" were the two main words used when the women at the retreat described Jesus. Many also found connection with Jesus as light of the world, the good shepherd, living water and vine.

On the second day of the retreat, rain began pouring down in the middle of the night, and retreat goes braved the wet morning to gather for coffee and a bracing breakfast in the cafeteria. As the rain continued to pound outside the windows, inside the women reflected on the Trinity within the Trinity that is the body, mind and spirit of self. They bravely began choosing for themselves the images they had selected throughout the



Campfire picture with collages created by participants

Photo by Trish Vollman-Stock

retreat, demonstrating in their work how each of us is created in God's image. They chose words and pictures that reminded them of the three parts of the Trinity and created collages that twined together their perceptions of God and themselves. The afternoon offered opportunities for spiritual direction, meditation, a walk, bible study, or conversation.

The retreat ended with a worship service led by spiritual director, the Rev. Dawna Wall. Sarah Kay's slam poem "B" or "If I Should Have a Daughter" was read, and "Before the World Began (I Am For You)" and "Tell Out My Soul" were sung. Says Wall, "It was exciting to celebrate the courageous and miraculous moment when Mary said 'yes' to God with women from across the

diocese who are also saying yes to God in surprising and wonderful ways." Feedback from the retreat was overwhelmingly positive, and the women look forward to gathering again.

Annalise Wall (a.k.a. Lois Lane, Roving Reporter), writes articles for the Diocesan Post and covers events from a youth perspective.

National Worship Conference: Responding to Disaster

By Ansley Tucker

The Diocese of B.C. and the Lutheran Synod of B.C. are co-hosting the biennial National Worship Conference in Victoria from July 16-19. The conference focuses on the Church's response in the face of disaster of all kinds. It is open to clergy, musicians, and laity. Clergy may use professional development funds to attend. Laity may apply for bursary assistance to the Flitcroft Swallow Lay Training Fund. Dean Ansley Tucker is the Anglican Co-Chair of this year's conference.

It seems as if we learn almost daily of some new devastating earthquake, fire, flood, famine,

hurricane or other natural disaster. And indeed, these have come all too close to home—they belong to the lived experience of countless people. Slave Lake, Fort McMurray, Calgary, the Central Interior of B.C., hurricanes in Texas, the Gulf Coast, Mexico—all of these have pressed themselves forcibly into our consciousness over the past five years. Similarly, acts of terrorism and violence, planned or unplanned, are all around us—Las Vegas, New Orleans, Paris, London, the Middle East, Edmonton, Ottawa, Lac-Mégantic, Quebec City. In early April, a horrific highway accident pitched Humboldt, Saskatchewan, into bewildered

grief. And still seared into our memory in our own diocese, is the murder this past Christmas Day of sisters Chloe and Aubrey Berry, aged six and four.

When disaster comes calling, municipalities and faith communities scramble to provide meaningful public occasions to grieve. As Christians, as citizens, we are perplexed and helpless. We've all seen the roadside memorials, the candlelight vigils, and the frequently bland attempts of public leaders to say "the right thing" under the glare of media lights. Unfortunately, our Church is not well equipped to respond to disaster. Our official liturgies are almost universally cast as

"celebrations"—they simply do not foresee the need for lament. If you google "disaster + worship" you are most likely to be directed to sites responding to American gun violence.

Further, in our current pluralistic and global reality, we often find ourselves working and grieving alongside people of other faith traditions, or of no faith tradition. How shall we pray in the public square? How shall we honour the customs and beliefs of others?

This conference is an opportunity to imagine what the Church can offer liturgically, theologically, and ritually in times of disaster—

both to the household of faith, and in the public square amongst people of differing faith traditions. The keynote speaker, Lizette Larson Miller, is a professor of Liturgy at Huron College in London, Ontario. The conference musician, Chad Fothergill, is a Lutheran organist, composer and writer, deeply engaged in the liturgy of the Church. Register at www.nationalworshipconference.org.

Ansley Tucker is the rector of Christ Church Cathedral and Dean of Columbia. She is the Anglican co-chair of this year's National Worship Conference.

LOOKING FOR MONTHLY INTERCESSIONS? DIOCESAN WEBSITE OR CHECK WITH PARISH

Dorcas Needs Your Help

By Alice Trueman

On April 19, fire broke out in the church office at St John's, Duncan, causing significant damage. Fortunately, no one was injured; unfortunately, the inventory for this year's shipment of Christmas boxes to the Diocese of Caledonia was stored in the attic of the little house. Now, instead of nearing the end of our collection, we are starting at the beginning again. We need your help!

Dorcas boxes go to eight remote communities from Haida Gwaii eastwards across northern B.C. Our needs include: lap quilts for elders in wheelchairs in Haida Gwaii (36" x 48"), baby items, children's sweaters, toques, scarves, socks, and mitts for children and adults, afghans and quilts (crib size to double), and Joy Bag contents.

We send two layettes for new mothers to each parish and as many additional baby items as we can. For children, there is great need for sweaters from size 2 up to however large you can make them. Bright colours and stripes are wonderful. These should be machine washable. Adults receive toques, scarves, mitts, some clothing and personal items. Joy Bags are care kits given to people who have sudden unexpected medical stays.

For knitters, I assemble kits with yarn and pattern for a specific size. If you have your own yarn, but desire a pattern, I can provide one for everything we need. I will arrange drop-offs and pick-ups

in Victoria, Duncan, Nanaimo or Parksville.

An item in the British Colonist in the Fall of 1861 reports that the ladies of the Diocese of British Columbia were once again meeting at Christ Church Cathedral to pack the Christmas bales to be shipped to Caledonia. Please help us continue this outreach of more than 160 years; we must not allow a fire to prevent us from continuing to help people in need in our own province.

God Bless You!
With thanks, Alice

For questions or donations, contact:
Alice Trueman, Dorcas Secretary,
Diocese of British Columbia,
255 Canvasback Place, Salt Spring
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There is Something We Can Do

Poetry Corner by Joanna M. Weston

THE SIZE OF SMALL

<p><i>the world as small as my mind can hold</i></p> <p><i>the nuthatch on the feeder limitless sky with clouds</i></p> <p><i>an ant running through grass the rise of mountains</i></p>	<p><i>the curled cat on my desk stars and galaxies beyond</i></p> <p><i>how large is God how small is God only God knows</i></p>
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DAWN

<p><i>a nimbus of cloud trailing thin lines of bright orange mist as the sun lifts into morning</i></p>	<p><i>and we are lit by the glory of God shining through shining through</i></p>
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Joanna M. Weston has written and published poetry, middle readers and short stories for thirty years.

WEB EXCLUSIVES

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Diocesan Council Prepares Financial Plan Ahead of Synod

Fly on the Wall

By Catherine Pate

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/about.

Transforming Futures

The substantive agenda item for the April Diocesan Council meeting was the review and discussion of the “case for support” that will undergird the fundraising component of a long-term diocesan financial plan.

In his opening remarks, Bishop Logan emphasized the importance of Diocesan Council members being able to articulate the vision, to understand the financial plan and to be able to positively represent the actions of Diocesan Council in their parishes and wherever they travel throughout the diocese.

As reported in the “Bishop Logan Writes” column of the March issue of the *Diocesan Post*, Transforming Futures is the name being given to the fundraising component of the financial plan. This parish-based initiative will centre on raising extra-ordinary funds to support vision-related activities at the parish, regional and diocesan levels. With the success of the 2016-2018 Vision Fund, which has provided seed funding to over 54 projects totalling \$361,400, the need to ensure we are able to continue this exciting work long into the future is critical. For more information about the Vision

Fund and projects supported to date visit bc.anglican.ca/about/our-vision.

Diocesan Council reviewed the draft case for support and provided input. A second draft will be brought to the May meeting. Members of Council spoke passionately about why they believe there is an urgency for such a plan and some came to the meeting with personal cheques to donate to the fundraising efforts.

Parish-Based Stewardship Program

Brian Evans has stepped down as stewardship officer for the diocese (see bc.anglican.ca/news for details). Brian will stay on, in a non-stipendiary role, as part of a diocesan stewardship team that will provide training and support to parishes. As part of the long-term financial plan, the diocese has adopted the Anglican Church of Canada’s Giving Our Thanks and Praise stewardship program and the stewardship team will begin rolling it out in parishes in June 2018. Visit bc.anglican.ca for more information and regular updates.

Finances

Council approved a request by St. Paul’s Housing Society to transfer monies from its unrestricted fund in the Consolidated Trust Fund back to its operating account.

Gail Gauthier, finance officer, provided some preliminary statistics from 2017 parish financial statements and information returns (several parishes still to report) including

that over 75% of parishioners are age 50+, 48% give \$15 or less per week, 19 parishes are projecting deficits and approximately half of the parishes have balances under \$30,000 in their bank accounts.

Payroll costs, insurance and assessment rates were discussed as financial hurdles for many parishes. Although some parishes are generating surpluses, the option of raising the assessment rate for all parishes is not a viable alternative to a diocesan/parish fundraising initiative.

Vision Implementation Teams

On April 21, team leaders for each of the six Vision Implementation Teams (Engaging God’s World, Emerging Ministries, Reconciliation & Beyond, Worship Resources, Youth & Family Life, Lay Ministry & Leadership Formation) met with the bishop to clarify their terms of reference and to prepare an action plan leading up to and following Synod. These teams will meet monthly in preparation for Synod and will report back to Diocesan Council each month on their activities. They will be coordinated by Brendon Neilson as “vision animator.” For more information about the Vision Implementation Teams visit bc.anglican.ca/about/our-vision.

Catherine Pate is the diocesan communications officer, responsible for supporting and animating effective communications in all expressions of the diocese.

There are several ways individuals may find themselves serving on Diocesan Council. Each region of the diocese elects a clergy and a lay representative. Additional members are elected from the floor of Synod. Others may be appointed, either by the bishop or by Council itself. There is provision for one or more youth representatives (aged 16 to 25 according to the Canons). Diocesan officers are ex officio members, while synod office staff attend with voice, but no vote.

Personnel Updates

Appointments

- Rev. Michael Deck as interim priest-in-charge at St. Mark, Qualicum Beach, effective April 23, 2018.

Resignations

- Ven. Brian Evans as diocesan stewardship officer, effective April 30. Brian has graciously offered to remain (in a non-stipendiary role) as part of the stewardship team.

Diocesan Council Meetings 2018

Trinity Church,
Port Alberni

Jun 28 Thursday

St. Philip, Cedar

Sep 27 Thursday

SYNOD Sept. 28-30

St. Matthias, Victoria

Oct 27 Saturday

Christ Church Cathedral

Nov 22 Thursday

St. John the Divine,

Victoria Dec 20 Thursday

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Community of Learning Pilot a Resounding Success

By Wayne Stewart

The first of two pilots of the lay leadership Community of Learning was held on April 14, leaving participants asking for more.

The hospitality crew at St. Peter and St. Paul in Esquimalt worked their usual magic, laying out coffee and muffins as people entered the hall,

inviting one participant to remark “it felt like coming home” and setting the stage for the day.

Each of four presenters—experts at dealing with issues, disputes and conflict—offered information and opportunities to practice, so that participants could use the approaches in their parishes and in their life beyond the church. Emily

Waterman kicked the session off explaining the different language used in disputes and conflict and how disputes can evolve into conflict if not handled properly. Catherine Watson gave a live example of a dispute that was handled effectively resulting in the disputants becoming friends. Rev. Selinde Krayenhoff took those present deeper into the roots of conflict and needs

of individuals in conflict. Wayne Stewart had participants practice techniques for dealing with issues/conflict for groups and individuals. Bishop Logan reminded us of the importance of our work through poems and stories.

Reaction to the day was very positive as each presenter was asked for more. Participants left wanting

a second module on conflict resolution—a clear indication of the importance of the topic chosen for the pilot and the overall concept of lay leadership training.

Wayne Stewart lives in Calgary, Alberta, where he is an active member of the Anglican Diocese of Calgary.

NOTE: SUBMISSION DEADLINES ARE THE 25TH OF THE MONTH (TWO MONTHS IN ADVANCE OF EACH ISSUE). NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS JULY 25TH (FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE).