

CONNECTION



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Anglican Parish of Central Saanich

Number 21



St. Mary's Church

1973 Cultra Avenue,
Saanichton, BC V8M 1L7

Worship Services

Sundays

9:00 am Choral Eucharist & Sunday School
1st Sunday Service of the Word

Third Sunday

7:00 pm Evening Prayer in the style of Taizé
(September - June)

Wednesdays

10:00 am Holy Eucharist
10:30 am Friendship Coffee
11:00 am Bible Study
(September - June)

Office: 250-652-1611 Hall: 250-652-7942
Email: stmarys.saanichton@shaw.ca
Web: www.ParishCS.ca



St. Stephen's Church

7921 St. Stephen Road,
Saanichton, BC V8M 2C3

Worship Services

Sundays

11:00 am Holy Eucharist
and Church (Sunday) School
4th Sunday Praise & Worship in the Hall

Mondays

7:00 pm Bible Study
(September - June)

Tuesdays

11:00 am Prayer Group

Thursdays

Praise & Worship every fourth Thursday

Office: 250-652-4311
Email: ststephens1862@shaw.ca
Web: www.ParishCS.ca

December 2016

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Pastor: The Reverend Robert Szo

Assistant: The Rev. Dr. Brett Cane



www.ParishCS.ca

Anglican Parish of Central Saanich
St. Mary's Church St. Stephen's Church

Dates to Note

Our Parish website – www.ParishCS.ca – is the best place to keep in touch with what is going on, but here are significant dates to note for the next three months:

-
- Saturday, Dec. 3, 9 am, St. Mary's** The Saanichton Community Christmas begins at St. Mary's with a pancake breakfast and pictures with Santa. Horse drawn carriages take you through Saanichton.
-
- Sunday, Dec. 11, 11 am, St. Stephen's** Lessons and Carols of Christmas
-
- Sunday, Dec. 11, 2:30 pm, St. Mary's** Concert by Soundings Vocal Ensemble
-
- Saturday, Dec. 17, 2:00 pm, St. Mary's** Children's Craft Afternoon in the Hall
-
- Sunday, Dec. 18, 9 am, St. Mary's** Lessons and Carols of Christmas
-
- Friday, Dec. 23, 7:30 pm, St. Mary's** A Child's Christmas in Wales presented by Vox Humana Chamber Choir.
-
- Saturday, Dec. 24, 4 pm, St. Mary's** Family Service with Communion
-
- Saturday, Dec. 24, 7 pm, St. Stephen's** Christmas Eve Holy Communion
-
- Saturday, Dec. 24, 9 pm, St. Mary's** Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist
-
- Sunday, Dec. 25, 10 am, St. Mary's** Christmas Day Holy Eucharist
-
- Sunday, Feb. 19, 10 am, St. Mary's** Joint Parish Service followed by a finger food lunch and the Parish Annual Meeting
-
- Sunday, Feb. 26, 2:30 pm, St. Mary's** Sunday Serenade Concert with CapriCCio Vocal Ensemble
-

(No Taizé service in December, and no Wednesday Eucharist at St. Mary's on Dec. 28. Taizé services on Jan. 15 and Feb. 19 at St. Mary's at 7 pm.)

A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES

A Vox Humana tradition. Dylan Thomas' quintessential Christmastime story read by Welshman Melville Jones and accompanied by carols. Enjoyed best with friends and family and appropriate for all ages!



Wednesday, December 23, 2016

7:30pm (doors open at 7pm)

St. Mary's Church

Admission by donation

From the Pastor's Desk

“We thank God for you, and pray that this new expression of the Body of Christ will grow deeper through worship, warmer through fellowship, stronger through discipleship, broader through ministry, and larger through evangelism and missions.”

The above was prayed by American pastor Rick Warren at the launch of a new congregation. It captures perfectly the hopes and dreams we should have for Christian ministry in our two congregations. At last month's Parish Council meeting, we began a discussion about our three strategic goals. These goals were identified jointly in 2015 through a parishioner questionnaire and through work I did at a clergy conference. The goals say that we are striving to be:

1. Committed Learners: We nurture our faith and display the joy Christ gives us (Discipleship)
2. Friendly Inviters: We invite our neighbours to experience our parish family (Evangelism)
3. Sacrificial Givers: We reach out to others (Outreach)

At the November meeting, Council members broke into small groups and discussed the following questions: How are we doing in each of the areas? Where could we improve? What successes should we celebrate? Are you aware of your personal spiritual gifts for serving God?

We also talked about how each of the three goals work together to make a healthy and balanced church. If we focus on one goal, the others suffer; all three are important and create a stronger overall ministry.

So I invite you to ask yourself the same questions the Council members were asked. Make it part of a regular routine, maybe a few times a year. Sit down and look at the three goals and assess how things are going for you personally and for the congregation you're part of, either St Mary's or St Stephen's.



Then, please send your personal answers to the questions to Leslie Pedlow at St Mary's: stmarys.saanichton@shaw.ca Your answers will be added to those of Council, and will help your leadership team evaluate how we're doing in reaching our goals. As you do this, please keep in mind that the goal of this exercise is to grow the ministry of this Parish, along the lines of the model we see in Ephesians 4:11-16. The goal is not to complete another survey, or answer more questions, but to identify practical ways to invite new people to explore faith in Jesus Christ. Along the way to doing this, the body of Christ, the church, "grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." So the work I'm asking you to do is work that will help you and your church family grow.

Thanks for everything you're already doing, and for your faithfulness and prayers. I wish you a very Merry Christmas and every blessing in the New Year.

Peace to you in Christ,

Rob

Helping Newcomers: Diocesan Refugee Program

*Report by
Sandra Scarth*

*“At this point, the
Diocese is responsible
for 78 active cases,
and has a list of many
more individuals and
families waiting for
sponsors.”*

Our Diocese is a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH), which means that we have an agreement with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to submit refugee sponsorship applications for our parishes and for other sponsoring groups who work through us to submit their applications. We are part of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program that began in 1978 when the Mennonite Central Committee worked with the government to negotiate the first formal sponsorship agreement that would allow churches and similar organizations to privately sponsor refugees. This helped open the door for a humanitarian response to the “boat people” from Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. Over 60,000 refugees were resettled in Canada. We are still the only country in the world that has such a program. Since then, over 200,000 people have come to Canada through this program.

The Diocese has sponsored refugees since the early 80s, and managed the program operationally through a small Diocesan Refugee Committee composed of volunteer clergy and lay people. Historically the Committee processed a maximum of three to four files a year. With the death of Alan Kurdi on September 2, 2015, the world woke up to the plight of Syrian refugees, and the demand for more sponsorships and offers for volunteer help skyrocketed. The committee was overwhelmed and needed staffing to manage the coordination and paperwork required. Currently there are two part time coordinators, Rebecca Siebert in Victoria and Tony Davis in Nanaimo that oversee the paperwork, communication and training required. At this point, the Diocese is responsible for 78 active cases, and has a list of many more individuals and families waiting for sponsors.

Since September 2015, we have met well over 100 refugees at the airport and they are now settling in as newcomers. They are learning that food is more expensive here, that they must wear helmets when cycling, and that the library offers English practice online. It has been gratifying to see that 18 Anglican parishes have created groups to sponsor one or two families, and that the Roman Catholic Diocese is working closely with us along with many other churches and outside groups to support the newcomers.

The Parish in the Community *continued*

RAPID Program Update

The RAPID Constituent Group includes St. Mary's, St. Stephen's, Holy Trinity, and St. Andrew's Anglican churches, Shady Creek United Church, Friendship Community Church and Saanich Bible Fellowship. We have a very dedicated group of volunteers from all the churches that have worked cooperatively to support the family. John Smith chairs the committee and the finances are managed through St. Mary's on behalf of all the churches.

The K family arrived in Victoria on June 29, 2016 after leaving Turkey just hours



before the bombing at the airport, having waited there for over two years. They are Ihsan, father and teacher, Sana, mother and homemaker, daughter Hadeel aged 17 and son Wesam, aged 14. Ihsan and Hadeel arrived with rudimentary English while Wesam understood a little, but was shy about speaking and Sana had no English at all. We agreed with the family that working on their English was the immediate priority and were fortunate to have professional ESL teachers amongst our volunteers. They spent much of the summer assisting the family with basic English skills. The parents are now attending classes at the Intercultural Association (ICA) in the mornings. It is gratifying to see how much their language skills have improved, but they all acknowledge that they still have a long way to go before they feel proficient.

Hadeel and Wesam attend Stelly's High School and have had to adjust to a very different style of teaching than what they were accustomed to. We have longer school hours, and much more flexibility in choice of courses. Hadeel is outgoing and a highly

motivated student who decided to take grade 11 over so that she would have a better chance to obtain marks to get a scholarship to help pay for her University education. She received 92 on her first math test so seems to be well on her way. Wesam has had a harder time adjusting to being in Canada. He misses his friends in Turkey, is shyer in temperament, and finds school and making friends more difficult. Both now attend a weekly homework club at ICA where they have met other youth in similar situations and find this helpful. The good news is that recently Wesam was invited to play basketball at the local park with another boy and was happy to go. A few days ago we received a very encouraging progress report from a parent-teacher meeting.

The major issue the family has to address in the near future is how to build sufficient income once their year of help through the Private Sponsorship Program ends. Ihsan now understands that he will not be able to teach. This was very difficult for him, but he has done some gardening, is skilled at making Syrian flat bread, and recently attended a job fair, so hopes to find a job soon. Hadeel has applied for a part-time job at Thriftys and Sana is hopeful that she can do some sewing from home.

Family members speak about the culture shock they experienced after being uprooted from their home on the outskirts of Damascus because of the bombing. They moved many times, sharing crowded accommodations with other families, with little privacy. After living in large cities, the small village of Saanichton has required an adjustment. However, they are very clear that they are happy to be here, and want to become fully Canadian.



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The Parish in the Community *continued*

Eritrean/Ethiopian Family



St. Stephen's is partnering with members of Christ Community Church and members of the wider community to sponsor this family and are still looking for help. If interested, please contact Nichola Wade at Nicholawade6100@gmail.com or 250-652-1021 or Sandra Scarth at sandragscarth@gmail.com or 250-544-0901. Donations and funds will be managed through St. Stephen's refugee account.

Desta from Eritrea, and Mekdes from Ethiopia met as refugees in Israel. They married and have a little girl Bitania who will be five in December 2016. In Israel there is normally no path for refugees to get permanent resident status. Desta and Mekdes had 3-month-renewable temporary visas that in principle do not allow them to work. They had to work anyway, but were without the normal social safety net. In the spring of 2014 Desta was deported from Israel back to Ethiopia where he lived first in a refugee camp and then on a UNHCR permit allowing him to live in Addis Ababa. Mekdes had to support her little girl by herself and does so by working as a house cleaner. Desta worked in his father's electronics shop in Eritrea and as a cook in Israel. He is in danger in Ethiopia and Mekdes fears she would also be under threat if she went back. They plan to rebuild their lives in Canada and bring up their little girl here.

Liza Glyn's family from Syria

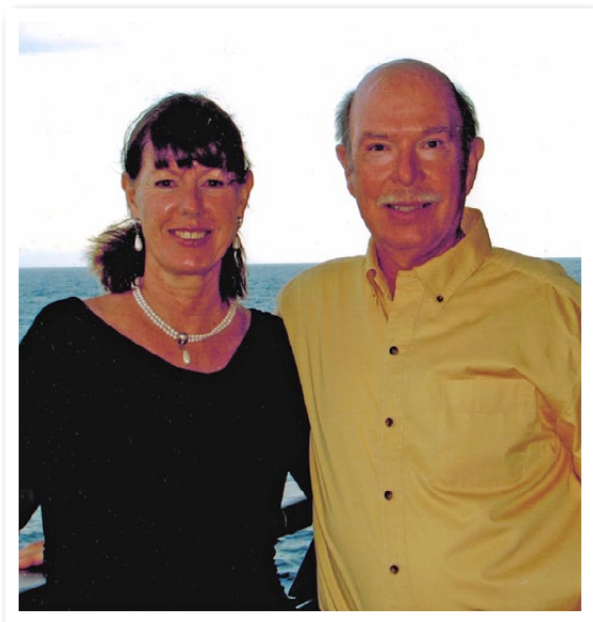
By Greg Robinson



The "Peninsula Refugee Fund" has been set up to facilitate the group which has been set up to sponsor the family of our friend Liza Glynn, formerly of Brentwood Chapel, as refugees who have been bombed out of their home in Syria by ISIS, and are now in Damascus.

When this group arrives they will live with Liza which allows for a much easier transition and will also be able to provide home care for Liza who suffers from advanced MS. Fund raising is well underway and recently a very successful evening of dinner and entertainment was organized which brought us a lot closer to our financial goals.

This group is very thankful to the Diocese of British Columbia, St. Mary's and particularly David Cooper for agreeing to process the finances of this project. In no way is the church responsible, nor is it being asked for financial or any other form of support. The church is solely acting as a bank under the license of the diocese of British Columbia.



Len and Lynn Fallan have for so long been such an integral part of the fabric of St. Mary's and now of the Parish of Central Saanich that it's well past time to profile them in ConneXion.

Len was born and raised in East Vancouver – his brother still lives in the family home near the PNE. Len went to Britannia Secondary School, and revelled in participating in neighbourhood soccer and baseball teams which were good enough to challenge the more formal school teams. In his last year the Navy did a recruiting session at the school, and when Len got a call that he had been accepted, he figured he had to go. So, aged 19, he went for basic training to Nova Scotia where he listed photography as his preferred job as his father was a photographer. They told him there were no photography openings, but there were for stewards, so; “I was sent to HMCS Hochelaga, the Naval Supply Centre in Montreal, for training in how to serve wine.” While on night patrol, Len caught an FLQ intruder breaking in to steal equipment, and although orders were to shoot them, Len just snuck up and handed him in - the man claimed he was trying to run from the FLQ!

Len returned to Vancouver as his Dad was dying and, after training, got transferred to Esquimalt. He was briefly at sea on the WW II frigates HMCS Jonquiere and HMCS Stettler -“where I was sick as a dog”- and so was transferred to land. Finally his wish to be a photographer came true and Len went to Camp Borden for courses. During his ten years as a Navy photographer, he was the official photographer for two visits by the Queen, one by Indira Ghandi, where background security checks were done on Len, Lynn and their families, and Governor General George Vanier, who used one of Len's pictures for his official Christmas Card. Len also accompanied several trips by BC Lieutenant Governors, including one to Masset where the weather was so bad they used lifeboats to get back to the ship, and Len's expensive equipment got soaked in sea water.

As for Lynn, she is from that Icelandic enclave in Canada – Gimli, Manitoba – and, through her mother, is third generation Icelandic. She still calls the Gimli family farm her home. She, together with her younger sister was a military brat, her father being in the air force, so she moved schools many times, including France (where she had tonsillitis that went bad, requiring early return to Canada) and several provinces, including Quebec. Finally she graduated from High School in Courtenay. “This life means you don't have best friends, or get associated with a neighbourhood – you are invisible- but you do develop the ability to walk into new situations without fear.” For example, moving from the regimentation of a private Catholic boarding school in Quebec to the abandon of the Courtenay high school revelling in the 70's sex and drugs scene was a major culture shock.

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Parishioner Profile *continued*



After graduation, Lynn didn't want to live the service life, so, to leave the nest, Lynn flew from Comox Airport to Victoria to stay with her aunt and uncle at Helmcken House (now a museum) to train as a nurse. As he was seeing her off, her Dad saw this young man in uniform boarding the plane, and asked him to look after his daughter on the flight and when they reached Victoria. The young man was, of course, Len, who was returning to Esquimalt from photographing the war games in Norway. (How Comox happened to be on the route from Norway to Victoria is a mystery, but that's how God works!) As things turned out, it was Lynn that did the looking after, as Len had left his car keys in Norway! What a way to steal someone's heart!

It was a whirlwind romance. Lynn was raised Catholic and Len was an Anglican, having gone to Sunday School and Youth Group at All Saints in East Vancouver. Lynn's parents wouldn't have approved if the marriage was not Catholic, so Lynn and Len married at St. Patrick's Oak Bay in 1971. Lynn was 19 and Len was 25.

Lynn also fell in love with Victoria, so it was good that Len didn't get moved around by the Navy. In 1974 he joined the Provincial Government Air Photo Survey Group, where he stayed for nearly 30 years. 1974 is also the year they bought their house on Skyline Crescent.

After a hospital experience with a ruptured appendix, Lynn decided that nursing was not for her, and got a job with BC Tel where the pay was good but the job was mindless, and there was lots of Union 'stuff' going on. So she found her niche at the law firm Harman & Co., where she went from receptionist to being what today would be a para-legal, specializing in conveyancing.

One thing that wasn't happening was children- "they didn't come when ordered". So the Fallans went through the Ministry adoption process, and were told they may have to wait a while. Then in 1981 Andrea arrived, all of 11 days old, and in 1985 against the odds, they became proud parents of Wade.

As you might imagine, being a stay-at-home mum wasn't enough for Lynn and she started teaching piano at Brentwood Music Studio, with students from 3 to adult, also taking music exams up to Grade 10 ARCT. At one point she had up to 30 students! Life at the Fallans became a shuttle experience, especially as, somehow squeezing it in, Len was teaching at the Brentwood Bay Power Squadron. At one point in the eighties, Len says, "I don't remember a whole year of coaching baseball!"

Andrea and Wade were baptised by Bill Hill at St. Michael's. After a bit of church shopping, the Fallans began to look seriously for a church. Neighbours were going to St. Mary's, so they started taking the kids to Sunday School there. One day Len was dropping them off, he dressed in dirty old jeans as he was going to work on the boat (did we mention they had a boat?), and a lady said to him; "Aren't you coming in?" Len pointed at his jeans, and she said; "God doesn't care how you dress." So they became parishioners and Len started singing in the choir under Tony Booker, while Lynn taught Sunday School. This all started at the old St. Mary's across the road – they are in the

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Parishioner Profile *continued*

picture of the procession to the new church in 1986, except of course for Len, who took the picture.

As if she had time on her hands, Lynn went back to teaching piano for a while, and then, after upgrading her computer skills, began her next career at the law firm of Henley & Walden in Sidney, where she ended up leading a team of paralegals with expertise in estates, corporate and conveyancing. Meanwhile Len became immersed in coaching, with Andrea in softball and Wade in baseball and soccer. Somewhere in there he also took on mentoring a restorative justice kid. Also during these times, their home became a second home for Lynn's sister and her niece and nephew.

Meanwhile, what were these two doing at the church? It would probably be easier to list what they weren't doing. Over the years and to this day they have both been in the choir, ran or been involved in the Holly Fair (including the baking stall and the silent auction), been on Council (and 'ops com'), participated in various categories in innumerable thrift sales, kitchen and hall events, bible study, Alpha, Wine Fest, building and grounds maintenance- the list is endless. Len began 'fixing things' around the church to relieve Warden Doug Mitchell from some of his chores (including unplugging the ladies toilets). Len says the worst thing was the time he and Derek Osman decided to repaint the eastern outside wall and erect the cross. "It nearly did me in." As to choir, Lynn and Len found they were going in different directions pretty well every evening, so they resolved to have a 'date night' once a week. Well, choir became their date night!



This couple have had their share of tragedy. Andrea died from brain cancer just before her 28th birthday. As Lynn puts it, she was 'God's gift for us to share'. And Lynn's sister died recently. But Wade's wife Karen has brought new dimensions into the family, with grandchildren Kailey and Oliver (Len and Lynn babysit Sundays and Mondays), and opportunities to participate in things like Operation Track Shoes and Lynn's Haiti experience (written up in a previous *ConneXion*) through Karen's mother.

There's only room to just touch on another Fallan passion – travel, and meeting new people on their travels, which they do well together. Lynn does the planning and Len manages (most of the time) to have them in the right place and going in the right direction. They have been to nearly every European country, and plan to keep on doing this "until the money runs out."

A family tradition has been to camp at Parry's campground in Parksville. At a recent gathering there, there were 18, all of them practising Christians – 'our own family faith group'. Talking of faith, both Lynn and Len say that they couldn't imagine doing what they do and facing what they have faced without their Christian faith. "It's been, and still is, a learning process."

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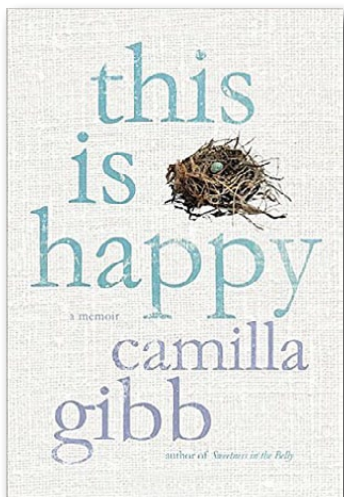
Lynn regrets not having taken one of her many skills through to a degree – she has been on that track several times, but then life would get in the way. But if there were a degree awarded for service to others, both Len and Lynn have earned it. It is significant that, despite the sometimes frantic scurrying they both do, the Fallans have lived in the same house for over 40 years. “At 19, I never thought I’d have a home”, says Lynn. Well, actually they have two homes - the church congregation is another family for them – a family to be nurtured and cared for, and that is what they do and why they do it so well.

Book Review

by Margery Lord

This Is Happy

A memoir
by Camilla Gibb



Gibb is a tremendously intelligent woman who has suffered profoundly but emerged as someone who has accepted her wounds and regained a joy in living.

Her childhood was far from happy. Her father was a sadistic alcoholic who was dismissed from the British army for racist comments and her mother worked for MI5 for which she was far better suited than being a parent. The family moved to Canada in her early childhood.

While studying anthropology at Oxford University, Gibb couldn’t “find her place” and was deeply unhappy. After several suicide attempts and periods spent in hospital, she was diagnosed as suffering from bipolar disorder. Against all odds she succeeded in receiving her Doctorate.

After a time working in Africa, where she experienced several unsuccessful love affairs, she returned to Toronto and identified as a lesbian. Love and marriage followed and after much soul searching the couple decided to become parents. Just eight weeks into her pregnancy her partner stated she was no longer in love and left the relationship. A devastated Gibb realises through her heartbreak, that for the sake of her unborn child, she must not descend into the pit of depression. She purchases a run-down house and embarks on extensive renovations with scarce funds. Thus begins a bare bones existence where at times she sleeps on a mattress on the floor in the hall.

After an absence of many years her brother shows up at her door. He is a homeless, recovering alcoholic who agrees to help with the renovations if he can live in the basement. A lonely female grad student moves in joined by a Filipino nanny who helps look after the baby. What follows is a remarkable story of an unusual community becoming a family.

Gibb’s story, for me, is a moving testimony to the resilience of the human spirit. For those of us for whom experience with romantic love and marriage ends in failure, there is the possibility of another happiness that we must forge for ourselves. It also lends a piercing truth to the statement “that families come in all shapes and sizes.” Gibbs writes of loss and healing, but does not descend into self-pity. Her story is very spare but deeply moving. It will stay with me for a very long time.

A Snapshot of the Church in Ethiopia gained during my 2016 Spring/Summer Trip



Dear friends,

In my previous article, I gave the outline and highlights of my trip earlier this year and in this one will describe Christianity in Ethiopia and the opportunities and challenges facing the Anglican Church there that I saw when I spent just over three weeks ministering and touring in May/June.

Ethiopian Christianity

Some people might not know that Ethiopia is a largely (60%) Christian country, with about half (45 million) the population members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, which can trace its roots back to the Ethiopian eunuch of Acts 8 who became a believer. The full establishment of the church took place in the fourth century when Christianity became the official religion of the Ethiopian Axumite Empire under the leadership of Frumentius, a Syrian Christian who had been shipwrecked on the coast, under whose influence the king, Ezana, was converted and baptized. Links were made with the Egyptian church and it probably has the greatest similarity to Judaism of any church in the world (e.g. use of many Old Testament dietary and health laws, claims to possess the Ark of the Covenant). This could be because of the historical existence of an Ethiopian Jewish community, which traces its roots back to King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba; Amharic, the main Ethiopian language, is Semitic (like Hebrew and Arabic). I discovered that Ethiopian Orthodox have a penchant for building churches on mountain-tops (see my last article) and there are stunning historic church buildings, especially in the north. The Orthodox Church is predominant in the centre and north west of the country while other churches (Protestant - 14 million; Catholic - 1/2 million) are found in the south.

The Anglican Church in Ethiopia

The Anglican Church is mainly found in the Gambella (south-east) region, next to South Sudan, where the people have strong cross-border links. The region is multi-ethnic, with about 70 congregations in at least four different language groups; the population has almost doubled in recent years due to the influx of refugees, many of whom are Anglicans. My friends, Canadians Bishop Grant and Dr. Wendy Lemarquand, live and serve there as leaders of the episcopal region of the Horn of Africa, which comes under the Anglican Church of Egypt. I spent time with them at the Anglican Centre in Gambella, which is a pleasant but not ostentatious complex of buildings including a local church, accommodation and buildings of the recently-founded St. Frumentius Theological College to train local clergy.

After a period of relative calm, there were outbreaks of ethnic violence in the region over the past year, causing great distress for the church. Although the ordinands are at peace with one

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Cane's Corner *continued*



another, ethnic tensions meant that the college had to hold its classes in two locations, it being too dangerous for one group to enter the neighbourhood of the other. While I was there, I led morning devotions for the staff and local church leaders (being simultaneously translated into two local languages!) and visited St. Mary's Church, Itang, a village which had seen much violence (local thugs had looted and burnt 20 of the homes). The church building is a simple mud-floor and corrugated-iron roofed building and I was warmly welcomed and treated to wonderful singing by members of the Mother's Union. The local priest accompanied them on the drum, which is the prime musical instrument for Christians of all denominations in Ethiopia. The challenges and poverty with which most people live are counterbalanced by their lively and joyful faith. The diocese, which has limited resources, is helping people recover with gifts of clothing and financial aid.

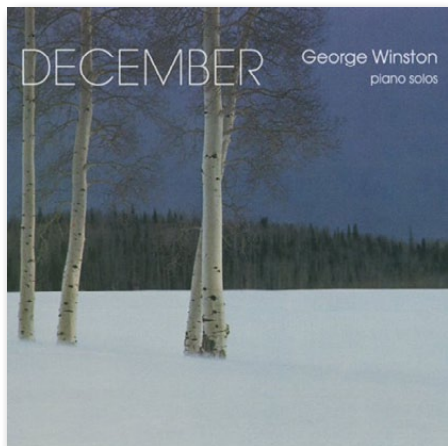


My main responsibility while in Ethiopia was to take Sunday services for four weeks (during the annual leave of the chaplain) at St. Matthew's Anglican Church in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia (and the de facto capital of Africa - the headquarters of the Africa Union is there - Addis has more embassies than any other city in the world except Washington, DC!). The two principal services I took were in English - a 9:00 a.m. contemporary (no robes, largely lay-led and minimal liturgy) with mainly expatriates (NGO, embassy and missionary workers from many church backgrounds) and an 11:00 a.m. more traditional service (robes, full liturgy and communion every week) with half the congregation from other countries in Africa. The early service is larger (about 70/80 people, including 30 children) and the later one has about 40/50 people and both have good music provided by small bands or gifted individuals. The people of both congregations have a vibrant biblical faith demonstrated by lives of love and amazing devoted service. Other services held in the building but led by others include one in Amharic and one in Nuer and a Baptist congregation. I lived in the rector's house in the church compound which also includes a night shelter for the guards (universal in Ethiopia!) and outbuildings which house both a church office and facilities for the church's outreach programme to the children from the local shanty-town which surrounds the compound. Dozens of children are given a daily cooked breakfast before they go to school and they return afterwards to take advantage of the church's library and study programme. The latter is in danger of closing due to a lack of funds - it only costs US\$16,000 a year to run and I am hoping to raise money to keep it open. I have heard that they are keen to have me return next year so the story is to be continued!



December

by George Winston

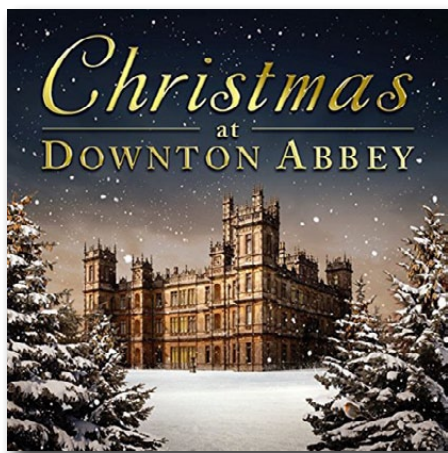


As I listen to this CD, the first few hushed tones and crystal tinkle of piano immediately send me drifting into another time and space of white stillness and the falling of winter snow. Closing my eyes in this world of softness, I feel the peace and sacredness of the season in which we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Christ. I would trade my entire collection of over one hundred Christmas CD's for just this one by George Winston.

Purely instrumental piano solos, it includes original music and a variety of carols including Appalachian and English from the eighteenth century. There is a beautiful adaptation of the Kanon by Pachelbel.

Windham Hill has produced a number of my favourite instrumental CDs, but this one is purely magical. It is beautiful, hopeful and sacred music. My wish for everyone in the Parish is to find it in their stocking Christmas morning. Better yet, order it from Amazon now and let it take you to a gentle place of peace all through December.

Christmas at Downton Abbey



For all of you Downton Abbey fans, in 2014, Warners produced a CD of Christmas music evoking the spirit of those times. It includes a wide range of both traditional and lesser known carols. Many are sung by the Choir of Kings College, Cambridge. The Budapest City Orchestra plays a few pieces including the "Downton Christmas Suite."

Just to make things authentic, cast member Jim Carter (Mr. Carson) brilliantly reads "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and Elizabeth McGovern adds her voice to a couple of songs. Included of course is "The Dance of The Sugar Plum Fairy" from the Nutcracker Suite. It is a great selection of Christmas music.

Whether you are familiar with the TV series or not this 2 CD set is good value of great music, \$15.00 for 45 tracks on Amazon.

Around the Parish by Nancy (St. Mary's) & Margery (St. Stephen's)

Just when you think you have nothing to write about for Around the Parish, all sorts of news comes forth, some exciting and some sad but it's important to share with parishioners the news, both good and bad, from St Mary's and St Stephen's! Let us know of any stories to be told.



Looking back at the last few issues of *ConneXion* we realize how much this Parish has grown! We appreciate what an active Parish we are members of when we list all the activities that have taken place since the previous issue.

John and Sue Smith hosted a party on August 20th at their home for our Refugee family. Ihsan and his wife Sana attended with their children, Hadeel and Wesam, along with guests from the 7 participating churches, St Stephen's, St Mary's, St. Andrew's, Shady Creek, Holy Trinity, Friendship Community Church and Saanich Bible Fellowship. A typically Canadian barbecue of hamburgers and salmon, salads and desserts was enjoyed by everyone.

A combined Parish 10 am service with reception following, was held on Sunday October 30th, to mark the retirement of our much loved Deacon, Gil Shoesmith. Gil gave the sermon, entitled R U Rich? He was presented with an envelope by Pastor Rob and it took 2 cakes to feed the 80 people who attended. Gil was scheduled to have a hip replacement in mid-November. However, he since had to have a root canal and, because orthopedic surgery cannot be done within 3 months of dental work, the hip replacement has been rescheduled for February. Although most of us would consider it bad luck, Gil seems OK with it. It also means we can see more of him until February. Just as long as he's not expecting another retirement party!

NOTE- Derek Atha is taking over heading up pastoral care, replacing Gil.

A November 11th Memorial choral concert was held at Christ Church Cathedral, featuring the Capriccio Vocal Ensemble. Parishioners who attended included, Brett Cane, Jessie Kelly, Catherine Wing, Nancy Choat, Susan Alexander, Diana Abbott, David Cooper, John Smith and Cathy Quicke. Sue Smith is a member of this talented choral group.

On October 14, Dr Brett Cane presented a colourful, humorous and thought-provoking travelogue on his trip to Ethiopia last spring. This was just one of the many countries he visited during his 3-1/2 months away. The 50 plus people who attended were treated to some tasty desserts brought by the attendees! How sweet it was! John and Sue Smith also

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brought our Syrian refugee couple, Ihsan and Sana, giving us an opportunity to meet them. Brett has promised to present future travelogues from his trip so stay tuned!

About 40 parishioners attended two three week Bible Study Series given by Dr Brett Cane. Parishioners could attend either on a Tuesday evening at St Stephen's or on a Wednesday at St. Mary's at 11am. The first Series was entitled, 'Good News'. Based on the book by NT Wright, "Simply Good News", along with videos of him speaking about the Good News. The series refreshed our minds and renewed our spiritual beliefs, reminding us that 'Gospel' means GOOD NEWS. The second Series was entitled 'Spiritual Gifts'. Handouts included a self-questionnaire which provided each of us with some insight as to what spiritual gifts we have that could contribute to a healthy, well balanced Parish. Thank you, Brett, for leading us in both studies.

Note: Be sure and check out the tree in St Mary's Narthex during the Christmas season. Thirty "gifts of the spirit" have been wrapped and identified under the tree!

News from St Stephen's



In our last issue of ConneXion, we missed telling you about the wonderful 80th birthday party held for Diana Abbott (a.k.a. "Lady Di") at her daughter Karen's place. Although after the June date of this important event, it was well worth the wait. Diana's friends and associates from her involvement with such diverse church events as Soups On, the Wine Fest, and the St Mary's choir, enjoyed the festivities on a warm summer evening in August, overlooking the Inlet. Talk about a perfect setting. Classy indeed, as people mingled outside among the gorgeous garden vistas. It was like attending a Downton Abbey party in the 21st Century! Congratulations, Diana!

We were sorry to bid farewell to our dear friends Ken and Lorrie Sleightholme, they were long and faithful members of St. Stephens, Ken as a warden and on Parish council, reader par excellence, and many hours keeping the church and buildings in tip-top condition. Lorrie made countless cookies and lemon squares and was always willing to put the kettle on! they will be missed. A memorial lunch took place at St. Stephen's on November 12.

Ted and Joyce Apps both celebrated their 89th birthdays at Soups On on Friday November 18th. A cake was prepared to mark the occasion by Jackie, a dear friend and everyone sang Happy Birthday...a joyous occasion, enjoyed by a "full house", for sure.

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Around the Parish *continued*

Garlic Gala



Tony Pollard has been in the hospital, we wish him well.

Garden News: Bob and Charlotte have been busy lifting the dahlias and putting the garden to bed. Don had a fine harvest of garlic and the new crop is already sprouting in very straight lines! The vines have now all been removed from the Vineyard. Diana has done a final "cut" of the grass.

The Great and Glorious Gargantuan Gastronomic Garlic Gala, held on Saturday November 5th was a great success and the 80 plus people who attended enjoyed the entertainment for and by all age groups, including the skit that Richard West did with Hilda. There was something for everyone, regardless of your age.

The Gems group will be hosting a Family Night in December. Keep a look out for the dates.

The floors in the hall have been finished and are very new and shiny looking. And finally (!), a new cupboard in the Vestry. Hurray!

News from St Mary's



Mark and Fern Perkins held a series of Indigenous Reconciliation sessions Wednesday afternoons at St Mary's in October. They concluded with a Ross Bay Cemetery tour on Wednesday, October 26th. Fern dressed in historic dress and Mark was the group pilot. Ten sites were visited. Their series provided a hands on way of learning about our Indigenous peoples here on Vancouver Island. Thank you, Fern and Mark. They have said they are willing to provide more talks on our Indigenous neighbours - all one has to do is ask them.

A Service of Remembrance for Ted Bagshaw was held at St. Mary's on Thursday, September 15th, at 2pm. A reception followed in the parish hall. A memorial service for Molly Ott took place at St Mary's on Saturday November 5th with refreshments following.

Royal watchers, Jessie Kelly, Shirley Rainey, Nancy Choat and Susan Pullan stood and waited for hours on end at various venues to catch a glimpse of Kate Middleton and Prince William during their visit to Vancouver Island in September. Nelles Shackleton was involved at Government House with some of the social events. Ask any of them if it was worth the wait!

On August 23rd the members of the Flower Guild, Sue Smith, Sue Rumball, Nancy Choat, Catherine Wing, Heather Geddes, and Erica Harrison enjoyed lunch at the Sea Glass



Flower Guild lunch

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restaurant. Rita Lott, who was an original member of the Guild, but now retired, also attended.

A third Alpha series was held starting in September, with nine people attending the 11 week course. Lynn Fallan coordinated the wonderful meals that were provided by parishioners from both churches. Participants sat down to a wholesome meal (including dessert!) prior to watching a video, followed by discussion. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment.

Upgrades to both inside and outside have “beautified” St Mary’s. The parking lot no longer has those ugly and hazardous yellow bumpers except by the handicap parking; there is new carpet on the floors in the office, the back hall and the two rooms down the hall. In addition these rooms have also been colourfully painted, resulting in a variety of comments, none of which will be quoted in this newsletter!

There is a new “small” choir at St Mary’s made up of Jill Stuart, Lindsay Pedlow, Fern Perkins and Diana Abbott. Some of these also sing in the regular choir which has increased to 14 (in addition to Cathy Quicke, the Music Director). The regular choir welcomes the addition of Bob Quicke, Sandra Scarth, Diana Abbot and Rainy McLeod to its regular members, John McAllister, Lynn and Len Fallan, Sue and John Smith, Pat Duke and Diana Gordon. Congratulations to all of you for making Sunday Service such a joyful time of worship and fellowship!

Irene and Keith Feir celebrated 50 years of marriage in August and parishioners enjoyed a cake to mark the occasion following the service on August 28th. Congratulations, Irene and Keith.

Apologies to Joy Hunter for incorrectly writing in the last issue of ConneXion that she is an ordained minister. Joy was a lay chaplain at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital and is currently a Lay Reader at St Mary’s. Joy and her husband, Nick, have recently returned from a trip to New Mexico. Look for Joy’s article about their trip in another part of ConneXion.

A sold out spaghetti dinner was held for a second year on Wednesday November 9th at St Mary’s. This popular event, organized and presented by the Saanichton Village Association, was attended by 100 hungry and enthusiastic community members. Knackers Yard, a Celtic Band, provided lively music in the church following the dinner. This is a win-win situation for both the SVA and St Mary’s as for each of

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November spaghetti dinner



Around the Parish *continued*



More scenes from the spaghetti dinner

the \$12 tickets sold St Mary's is given \$10! However, it did take the hard work of our ever co-ordinating hostess, Lynn Fallan to make sure the young assistants and kitchen help knew their way around! Thanks, Lynn.

On Halloween night, Ken Pedlow, Roy Pullan, Bob Quicke and Derek Osman picked up on a comment by Pastor Rob, and chose a clever way to provide security to the grounds of St Mary's. They stood on the street and handed out candy to the trick and treaters! No tricks or costumes needed. What an innovative community outreach! Well done, gentlemen. I'm sure this idea will take off for future October 31st nights.

Judy Cable, a long time St. Mary's parishioner, Choir and Guild member, and the church's best dressed nonagenarian, passed away on November 10th at the age of 102.

Travellers:

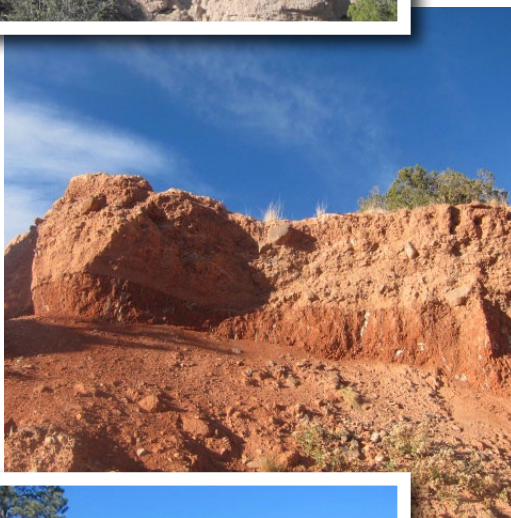
St Stephens: The Scarths enjoyed a visit to the U.K. to visit with old friends; then David returned home and Sandra took a journey down the Amalfi Coast in Italy with a friend. Lynda Clifford took a trip to Ottawa in October. The Westgates visited their family in Edmonton, Jane Hughes visited her family in the U.K. And Gary and Tracy Stubbs are off to Mexico this month for some sun and relaxation.

St Mary's: Sue Rumball visited London in September and then went by train with a friend to Italy. Audrey Quakenbush enjoyed a cruise which included the Maritimes and Boston where she met up with long-time friends. She said the fall colours were magnificent. Carol and Dennis Watkins have recently returned from a 4 week cruise in the Baltic. And Betty and Derek Osman left on September 13 and were gone 4 weeks, flying to Hawaii first and then taking a cruise to Australia with friends.

From the Editors

Thanks again to all our contributors, particularly Margery Lord who joins Nancy Choat for "Around the Parish" – it's a lot of work, but well worth it. Brett's "Canes Corner" is to become a regular feature, along with Ruth Hickling's Music Review. And thank you, Joy Hunter for your piece about the Monastery. After some juggling, we were unable to include a recipe – we will try to make up by having two in the next issue. Enjoy your Christmas!

*The Editors,
John Smith and Sandra Scarth*



Five years ago in February Nick and I were invited to spend an evening at a Greek Orthodox monastery in Canones, near Abiquiu (where Georgia O Keefe lived, painted and worked), about 1-½ hour's drive North West of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Why we were invited is another story! We intended to drive to our next destination the following day but when we woke up, we found our car was almost completely covered in snow! We plan and God laughs!

The snow remained for six more days and so we stayed right where we were! We became friends with the three monks who lived there at the time. We watched them making candles, their main source of income, explored the canyon on foot and celebrated Nick's birthday with a decadent, dense, dark chocolate cake, made by one of the brothers and their own home brewed beer! Each evening they chose extracts from their favorite books and we read to them. It was a very memorable and rich week. We kept in touch over the years and fast forward to November 7th 2016, when we returned to New Mexico to see our friends. This time we didn't rent a car – one of the monks met us at Santa Fe and drove us to Canones. We arrived at 11pm and the temperature was well below zero, but when we woke the next morning, the sky was clear blue and the sun was shining. Now, there were six monks, most in their 20s and 30s with one elder in his 70s. We enjoyed the rhythm of our days – a leisurely morning when two of the monks we'd met on our first visit would drop in for a chat, which they named 'tea with the Hunters'! Lunch with the community – always beans and rice, but cooked in such interesting and tasty ways accompanied by a big salad and followed by apples and hunks of dark chocolate. Most of their food is home grown or given by local farmers. In the afternoon we walked on different trails and were overawed by the landscape – the red earth, the sandstone sculptures, all completely natural with minaret towers, the golden cottonwood trees, the multi colored, many faceted stones and the river running through. We attended a service at 4.30 pm for an hour and though we didn't participate, we were uplifted by the glorious singing. Then back to our adobe guest house – Nick lit a fire and I put on the kettle and the brothers arrived one by one and gathered round for an evening of dramatic readings.

It was a magical time of warm hospitality and an opportunity to bask in God's love and be filled to the brim. We hope that we may be able to return there again.

Anglican Parish of Central Saanich Directory

Pastor: The Reverend Robert Szo 778-679-8074 robszo@telus.net

Parish Council: Ex Officio

Rob Szo

robszo@telus.net

Rector's Wardens: St. Mary's
St. Stephen's

Nancy Choat, nchoat2@telus.net
Don Wilson, dwwilson@shaw.ca

People's Wardens: St. Mary's
St. Stephen's

Derek Osman, derek.osman@shaw.ca
Lynda Clifford, lgcliff@shaw.ca

Treasurers: St. Mary's
St. Stephen's

David Cooper, drecooper@shaw.ca
Jen Buscall, jenbuscall@shaw.ca

Members: St. Mary's
St. Stephen's

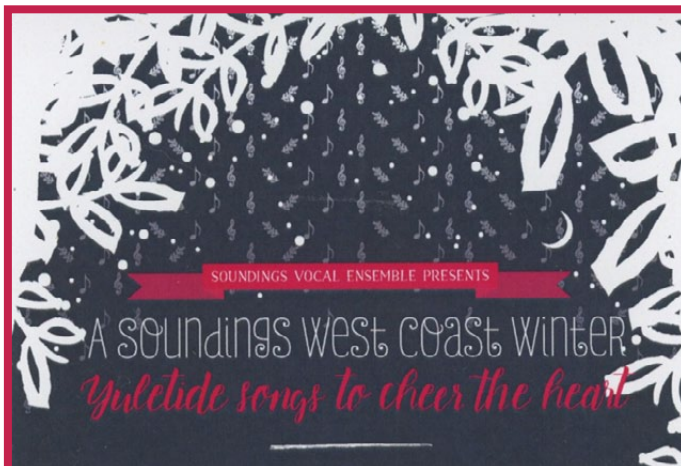
Karen McColm, Ken Pedlow, Susan Pullan
Margaret Bedard, Allan Carlson, Greg Robinson

Synod Delegates: St. Mary's
St. Stephen's

Nancy Choat, Ken Pedlow
Don Wilson

Leslie Pedlow is at the St. Mary's office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 12:30

Tracy Stubbs is at the St. Stephen's office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 to 1:00



St. Mary's Church
Sunday, December 11
2:30 pm

Tickets \$20

Seniors & Students \$15

Tickets available online at
soundings.eventbrite.ca