

CONNECTION

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Anglican Parish of Central Saanich

Number 25



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

Second Sunday

7:00 pm Evening Prayer in the style of Taizé
(January - 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

Tuesdays

7:00 pm Bible Study
(September - June)

Tuesdays

11:00 am Prayer Group

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



November 2017

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Pastor: Canon Peter Parker,
Interim Priest-in-Charge

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 four months. PLEASE NOTE that details of Christmas Services and the Valentine's Dance were not available at the time of printing- check with our website and Service Bulletins for particulars.

- Bible Study continues at **St. Stephen's** at 7 pm **Tuesdays** and at **St. Mary's** on **Wednesdays** at 11 am.
- The annual **Great Gargantuan Garlic Gala Dinner** takes place on **Saturday November 4** at St. Stephen's Hall, starting at 6 pm. For details, contact Don Wilson.
- The **Saanichton Village Association's Saanichton Spaghetti Supper** is in St. Mary's Hall on **Wednesday November 8**, starting at 6 pm. See the advertisement in this Issue.
- The **St. Mary's Holly Fair** takes place on **Saturday November 25**, from 9:30 am until 2:00 pm. For details, contact Leslie Pedlow and/or Sue Smith
- The **Saanichton Village Association's Community Christmas and Christmas Tree Trail** is on **Saturday December 2**, starting with a Pancake Breakfast and Santa in St. Mary's Hall at 9:00 am.
- A Sunday Serenade Concert featuring **Sweet Scarlet** will take place at St. Mary's **Sunday December 3** at 2:30 pm.
- **Soundings Vocal Ensemble** will present its Christmas concert at St. Mary's on **Sunday December 10** at 2:30 pm.
- **A Child's Christmas in Wales** will be presented twice by Vox Humana at St. Mary's on **Saturday December 23**, the first at 2:30 pm for families, and the second at 7:30 pm.
- Please note that **January 19** is the date by which Leslie needs to receive reports to go in the Parish Annual Report.
- A **Thrift Sale** will take place in St. Mary's Hall on Saturday, **January 27** from 9:30 am to noon.
- A Sunday Serenade concert featuring the **Victoria 'Cello Quartet** will take place on **Sunday February 4** at 2:30 pm.
- **Ash Wednesday** services on **February 7** will be at 10:00 am at St. Mary's and at 7:00 pm at St. Stephen's.
- On **Sunday February 18** there will be a combined service at St. Mary's at 10:00 am followed by a pot luck "finger food" lunch and the **Parish Annual General (Vestry) Meeting**.



October 29, 2017

Pacific Edge Chorus

December 3, 2017

Sweet Scarlet Vocal Ensemble

February 4, 2018

Victoria Cello Quartet

April 22, 2018

Knacker's Yard Celtic Traditional Folk Band

Sundays at 2:30 p.m.
St. Mary's Church, Saanichton

Sponsor Tickets

(Entire Series plus a \$40 income tax receipt): **\$100**

Series Tickets

(4 concerts for the price of 3): **\$60**

Tickets for individual concerts: \$20

Available at Tanner's Books and at the door

To reserve contact us at 250-652-1611 or

stmarys.saanichton@shaw.ca



“I have met so many people in three weeks, and your welcome has been so warm and supportive.”

As I write this, my head is swirling with a thousand details and a maelstrom of first impressions about the parish of Central Saanich. My vocation to pastoral ministry, the calling in me, longs for the kind of opportunities and relationships that we could share were I with you on a full-time basis. Unfortunately that is not what my body says, nor what my wife says!

I have met so many people in three weeks, and your welcome has been so warm and supportive. Thank you! I will carry on the struggle with remembering names, because I feel it is part of basic Christian hospitality to honour brothers or sisters with their own name, reflecting a space in my heart and in my mind for each one. So please be patient with me and keep reminding me of your name, until the day I can smile and say “Good morning, Joan, Good morning, Larry” without prompting.

We find ourselves in transition from one season to the next. The gardener in the fall knows there are some precious opportunities to clear out dying stalks, pull up weeds, and lay down a good mulch. There is a colder time coming when little new growth will be possible, and we will just have to wait until the return of longer daylight and warmth re-awakens the soil and the seeds. Thank heavens the Parish is not completely the same as a garden! Our wintertime (if one can think of a wintertime in a Church) is warmed by the continuous presence of the love of God, the Spirit of Christ within and among us. So growth can always happen! But there are always weeds, always some dead stalks to pluck out and throw away. And the rich garden that is this spiritual community always needs that constant layer of life-giving mulch, which we call prayer. During the time I am with you, while your Bishop's Consultation Committee does its work behind the scenes, we need to be “mulching our garden” with daily prayer, praying especially for the committee members, the Bishop, and any prospective candidates who may be discerning a call to come here. Here is a prayer you might use:

Loving Jesus, Son of God, Saviour, pour your Spirit of Wisdom upon those who are involved in discerning who will be the next full-time pastor for this parish. Help them, and Logan our Bishop, in their consultations, to hear your voice. Guide the priests who become aware of our need, that they may respond with faith and trust to your call. By the gift of hospitality help us all to welcome and affirm one another, priest and people, when your will is known and an appointment is announced. We ask these things in your name, O Christ. Amen.

You will see on the website Events page a schedule which I hope to keep, Tuesdays primarily at St. Mary's and Fridays primarily at St. Stephen's. As time goes on and the office and Sunday preparation routines become more familiar, I hope to deal with those things in the mornings and get out to visit in the afternoons.

There is one more thing I want to ask of you. Please read the covenant that is published in these pages, especially the “Interim Tasks” that are in my

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From the Pastor's Pen

intentions for our time together. Specifically, I am asking to hear your stories of this parish, as many of the stories as you can tell me. I will not be taking notes, or passing anything on, or basing any decisions on what I hear. All I am doing is offering you a witness, someone from outside your experiences of our two Churches, who can hear the tales of joy, disappointment, satisfaction, pain, frustration, hope – anything that is still near the surface of your heart and your memories. Some might say, “but why do we have to dredge up all that stuff?” Just ask any harbour pilot why the bottom of the channel must be dredged. That debris builds up silently, out of sight, until the day ships begin to get stuck. During this interim time, with this Interim Priest-in-Charge, you have a unique opportunity to get rid of the debris, to name those things that still lie on the murky bottom, and clear the channel. Please think about this prayerfully, and talk with me individually about a time when we can have those sacred conversations.

As always our thanks and congratulations go to John Smith and John Beresford for pulling together a fine and early edition of the parish magazine.

Your priest and friend,

Peter

Interim Ministry Covenant

COVENANT FOR INTERIM MINISTRY

Between

The Parish of Central Saanich (St. Mary's Saanichton & St. Stephen's South Saanich)

And

The Reverend Canon Peter J. Parker, Interim Priest-in-Charge

This covenant is entered into by priest and congregation under the authority of the Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia.

General Goals for the Interim Priest-in-Charge

- Spiritual Leadership of the Parish through the Interim Time
- Ongoing development of healthy congregational life
- Leadership of specific processes for renewal in this interim time, also referred to as “Interim Tasks”, including:
 - Coming to terms with history: helping the congregation understand the effects of its history on its identity and corporate awareness
 - Discovering the congregation's unique identity and vision for the future
 - Dealing with shifts in leadership roles and decision-making processes
 - Reflecting on the congregation's relationship with the Diocese and the wider Church
 - Developing a commitment to the anticipated leadership of a new incumbent, and the ministry plan for the future
 - Saying farewell to the Interim Priest-in-Charge

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Interim Ministry Covenant *continued*

Specific Responsibilities of the Interim Priest-in-Charge

- On behalf of the Bishop, and in consultation with the wardens and honorary assistant, spiritual leadership and guidance of all areas of congregational life
- Primary leadership of worship, in regular and occasional services, in collaboration with the honorary assistant, organist, lay assistants, sidespersons, children's ministry, and chancel guild
- Pastoral ministry, along with laity, for those who are sick, shut-in, or in crisis
- Participation in meetings of Parish Council
- Collaborative support for ongoing programs, organizations, and activities in the parish
- Administrative leadership of staff, in consultation with the Wardens
- Oversight of Training for Lay Leadership and Ministry
- Oversight of Christian Formation programs (e.g. Bible Study, Baptismal Preparation, New Believers' Education)
- Facilitation of the parish's participation in Diocesan activities
- Modeling of a healthy balance of congregational service and self-care

Responsibilities of Wardens, Parish Council, and Lay Leadership of the Congregation

- Continuing in regular worship and attendance at congregational meetings
- Continued disciplined giving and support for the mission and ministries of the parish
- Exercise of authority as laid out in the Canons and Regulations of the Diocese
- Collaboration in the leadership of efforts to meet the goals of this covenant, especially the Interim Tasks
- Recruitment and encouragement of lay participation in the ministries of the congregation
- Appropriate Financial Compensation of the Interim Priest-in-Charge, in consultation with the Diocese
- Through the wardens' regular meetings with the Interim Priest In Charge, the provision of support and advice with special regard for progress on the Interim Tasks

Compensation:

\$300 per day, 2 days per week	\$600
Sunday, one half day: \$150	\$150
Weekly total	\$750
In addition: A Flex ½ day per week, as needed	\$150

The Diocesan office will administer the compensation, making appropriate deductions at source. The compensation for the extra flex time will be added by the Diocesan office, after reporting of the actual time used each month.

Restrictions:

The Interim Priest-in-Charge will not meet or consult with the Bishop's Consultation Committee in the process of calling or interviewing a new incumbent, and under no circumstance will apply for or be considered as a candidate for the position of incumbent.

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Interim Ministry Covenant *continued*

This covenant is entered upon on this _____ day of _____ 2017

The Rev. Canon Peter J. Parker, Interim Priest-in-Charge

Greg Robinson, Bishop's Warden

Lynda Clifford, Warden, St. Stephen's

Derek Osman, Warden St. Mary's

Music Review

by Ruth Lorette Hickling

Sing We Christmas Chanticleer



Upon hearing the first strands of Chanticleer, Sing We Christmas, I felt I was walking into the Midnight Mass service at Christ Church Cathedral. The night I saw as black and sparkling with ice. I entered the Holy glow, to a sudden rush of warmth and soft flicker of candles. Listening in wonder, it sounded as if angels from the stained glass windows had taken on life and joined in the singing. This is a solemn, sacred and utterly beautiful CD.

Chanticleer is a full time classical vocal ensemble. An a capella men's group, it was founded in San Francisco in 1978. Their sound is pure and seamless. The selections include Es ist ein Ros entsprungen, a beloved hymn believed to have originated in Germany around 1500. O Magnum Mysterium with its serenely weaving polyphony was composed by Tomas Luis de Victoria of Ávila, Spain around the same time. Although there is a wide selection of music from the Middle Ages, Glory to the Newborn King is sung in the outstanding rhythm of pure deep tenor gospel. Some additional gospel/spiritual arrangements extend the wide range of music. There are also a number of more modern 19th Century pieces. The final piece, traditional cradle song Stille Nacht is a perfect ending for this wonderful compilation of Christmas Music.

I know that this CD will be a part of my core Christmas collection from now on. It is well worth the price on Amazon of \$17.22.

Rob's Farewell: Sunday, September 24

*“He is probably
the most skilled
small-talker
I know.”*

What kind of a rector is Rob? What kind of a boss? What kind of a child of God?

While perhaps none of us can say directly, there are some things we see in him that give us a hint. Perhaps the most obvious is that he will be missed. He is the sort of person you want to be around, the sort of person whose attention is warm and whose presence is calming. He is probably the most skilled small-talker I know. How does he remember so many people, so many stories, and so many details? He has the kind of magic memory that can make anyone feel at ease.

Rob is also the sort of person who works behind the scenes, offering the spotlight to others when he can so that they might grow in their respective talents and ways of contributing to the church. I recall this personally during the many last-minute preparations for children's songs each Sunday morning. While the rest of the building would be whirling with bulletins, handshakes, and brewing coffee just before the service, Rob

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Rob's Farewell *continued*



Dear friends at St Mary's and St Stephen's,

Thank you for the very generous gift you gave me on my last Sunday and for the warm fellowship during the lunch. Christine and I felt very blessed to be part of it; your kind words were appreciated. I wish you every blessing as you continue to walk with Christ and as you continue to serve him in the world.

Rev. Rob Szo

PS. Once we find the piece of art we love, we'll send a picture along to you!

would be strumming through music with me as though he'd practised for hours the week before.

Now what I am describing here are traits we all know and have experienced. We know Rob to be kind, unassuming, supportive, and endearing. But what is it about him that lets him be all this and more? What is it about him that seems to be so enduring and constant?

Well I can tell you it is more than his radio voice... no matter how smooth that may be. Truly, Rob has a way about him that amounts to something more like a call. We know this because we also know a little about Rob's story of coming to faith upon reading Mark 8. It is in this chapter that Jesus asks the perilous question of Peter, "Who do you say that I am?" And it is in this chapter that Peter answers, "You are the Messiah."

In a way, Rob seems to have been responding to this question too throughout his ministry and throughout his time with the Parish of Central Saanich. When he has elected to learn our stories, and when he has chosen to support our gifts, he has been acting in the same way as Peter, the rock of the Church, by pointing to Christ. When he has ministered to us in these ways, he has really been answering the call to witness to Jesus.

So what kind of a person does this make Rob, this call to preaching the good news? I think it makes him a constant one, something like an anchor that keeps us moored near the shore. In a world that ever seems to be tossing and turning, Rob reminds us to look once more to Christ and to dwell on Jesus' saving grace in our midst. And it is for this witness, for this constancy and love, that I thank Rob, as a former employee and a friend.

Thank you, Rob.

Tribute by Chris McDonald



Photos by
Len Fallon



Peter age 6, with brothers Bob and Bill, at the family home on Glen Lake

If you thought Peter might be a caretaker while we muddle through to choosing our next parish priest, forget it, and get ready for an exciting ride. Peter sees his position as our interim Priest-in-Charge as a vocation where he helps to guide us while we go through the process to find the best fit for our needs.

A born and bred Vancouver Islander, Peter has spent the whole of his priestly career in our Diocese. He can only think of two other living Vancouver Island priests who have not, at some point taken positions outside the Diocese. He once asked Bishop Barry Jenks whether he should worry about this. Bishop Barry said the Diocese spent a lot of money sending priests elsewhere, and reassured him that it was not so much where you had been that mattered, but whether you were awake to the wider world. So Peter stayed on the Island.

Several reasons have kept Peter and his wife Marion on the Island. Their parents were Vancouver Island people, and by the time Peter was ordained they already had two children, so “although I did look at other places, I wasn’t all that portable”.

A cradle Anglican, born in 1947 and growing up by, (and in!), Glen Lake in Langford (Peter became a competitive swimmer at the provincial level), the family attended St. John’s Colwood (the predecessor to the present Church of the Advent), though Peter used to have Sunday morning stomach aches to skip church. Peter’s two brothers, one born in 1932 and the other in 1939, were so much older than him that it was almost as if he were an only child. His father was born in South Africa, his mother in England, and the family had a somewhat colonial outlook. For example, Peter had absolutely no knowledge of the residential schools issue until adulthood. “I am a colonial product”, says Peter. His swimming ability got Peter a lifeguard job at Camp Columbia, and it so happened that, when they were both 17, a girl called Marion Lonsdale was also a lifeguard there.

Having married at the start of their final year at UVic, Peter and Marion worked for a couple of years, Marion as a kindergarten teacher and Peter in a Child Care facility. In 1971 they moved to Vancouver, where Peter was part of the “first thoroughbred class” at the newly formed Vancouver School of Theology (’71-’74), while Marion helped the family finances by cleaning houses, though part of her pay was in cast-off clothing. In his first year he told Professor Blewett that he and Marion were expecting their first child, to which the professor, brought up in the days when those attending seminary were exclusively single young men, disapprovingly told Peter that “in my day you

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Peter and Marion

Parishioner Profile *continued*



Returning from a week as Chaplain at Camp Homewood, on Quadra Island (in the background)



On the Steps of Heneage House, Camp Columbia, with Gill Clarke, Camp Director 1963-67; Marion, lifeguard 1963; Sybil Parker, volunteer for many years; Peter, lifeguard 62-64, volunteer and chaplain till the year Camp Columbia closed

had to get permission to date". They eventually had one son and four daughters. Peter was ordained a Priest in 1974 while serving as a Curate in the Parish of North Saanich (then comprised of St. Andrew's Sidney and Holy Trinity Pat Bay).

Discussing the tension between parenthood and priesthood, Peter regrets the invasions his ministry made into parenting times, but maintains that ministry involves the whole human being- you take me as you find me. Kids of priests are called "PKs" and often turn out to be unsympathetic to a life of ministry. He recalls how he had to leave the birthday party of one of his children because a parishioner had just died, and how that child later said that "a dead person is more important than me". "Ministry is a demanding mistress", muses Peter.

From North Saanich Peter moved to become the Minister in Charge at St. Peter's and St. Paul's Ecumenical Church in Gold River, which was a combined Anglican and United Church appointment. Then in 1981 he became the rector of the Parish of Parksville a five point (!) parish consisting of St. Edmund's Parksville, St. Anne's French Creek, St. Mary's Errington, the Church of the Good Shepherd Lasqueti Island and a new venture in Nanoose Bay where the Errington church was to be moved. That was all underway when Peter accepted the Rectorship of St. Peter's Campbell River in the summer of 1989 – a post he remained in for 15 years. Again this ministry included two other churches – the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cortes Bay and St. James Whaletown on Cortes Island, though the latter was used only for occasional services.

It was in Campbell River that Peter started using a bike to get around the parish. His old beater second car quit, and his son challenged him to use his bike instead of buying another car. Since then, when he can – "only snow and ice and winds over 80 kph will stop me" – Peter bikes to work; he has already worked out that he can get from St. Mary's to St. Stephen's in eleven minutes – "It's mostly downhill", he says with a grin. Biking is, for Peter, not just an environmental statement – it's also therapeutic, a stress reliever, and provides "thinking time".

Peter returned to the Victoria area in 2005 when he became the Rector of St. Luke's Cedar Hill, a position he retained until his "retirement" in 2012 at the tender age of 65. Well, of course it wasn't really retirement. Knowing that he would be called on to fill interim positions, he attended a course on "Intentional Interim Training" in Winnipeg, where he learned that interim "Priest-in-charge" positions should not be "just baby-sitting and burying the dead". He sees the position as a worthy vocation

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Parishioner Profile *continued*

wherein he is called to help guide a parish through its discovery process leading to the choice of the right Priest for that Parish. The right, or at least the more informed, choice is made after the Parish has determined where we are, how we got here, who we are, and who we want to be.



Parish Picnic Eucharist, St. Luke's church

Peter put what he learned on that course to work when in 2012 he was appointed as Interim Priest in Charge at St. Matthias, Fairfield – a position he held for eleven months – and then at Trinity Church in Port Alberni – an Anglican and Lutheran church – during 2014 – 2015. On this appointment he drove a Diocesan vehicle to and from Port Alberni, with his trusty bike in the back for town use. Peter spent three days a week “embedded” in Port Alberni, returning to his home in Gordon Head for the rest of the week. Now he is with us, and his wife Marion will remain a parishioner at St. George's Cadboro Bay where she is deeply involved with several ministries. Having been a Priest in this Diocese for over 40 years, you will not be surprised to find Peter knows quite a lot about us!

Somewhere along the way, Bishop Cowan appointed Peter as a Cathedral Canon, which these days is an honorary title in recognition of faithful service with, says Peter, “no additional authority, responsibility or remuneration”.

Peter will, in all likelihood, have a particular interest in the Parish's relationship with the First Nations in the area. He grieves the historical effects that colonialization and assimilation policies have had and still have on our First Nations people, and strongly supports Bishop Logan's journey of reconciliation. He says we have a long way to go, but at least the journey has started.

Music has played its part in Peter's life; he composes, plays the piano and has a good baritone voice, having started singing in the Belmont High School Glee Club (he also played the clarinet there). He sang in the UVic Chorus and the St. Mary's Oak Bay Choir, and has been singing with the Linden Singers for several years. During his time in Gold River he played the organ for the Roman Catholic church while also singing in the Anglican/United Church choir (quite how he managed this is a mystery).

So we welcome Peter and look forward to the ride – maybe we will all need spiritual bicycles to keep up with him!



At a fundraiser for the South Island Centre for Counselling and Training, with parishioners from our parish



On Friday October 13th over 50 members of the Parish of Central Saanich attended the Transition Evening organized by the Bishop's Consultation Team. This event was an opportunity for parishioners to offer input to the team tasked with the search for a new Minister. The facilitators of the event were Bishop Logan McMenamie and Archdeacon Penelope Kingham.

After a time of fellowship and food, the proceedings began at 5:30 and lasted three hours. Greg Robinson opened the meeting by thanking the facilitators for giving of their time on their days off to assist us with this process. The Bishop's opening remarks provided an overview of the Diocese and explained the symbolism of the new Diocesan dragonfly logo which represents change to coastal First Nations. Input from the evening will help in the preparation of the Parish Profile and the preparation of a Parish 'Why' statement.

After an opening prayer from the Archdeacon, the Bishop outlined the six steps in the clergy selection process:

- 1) Termination: An exit interview; Interim Priest appointment.
- 2) Direction Finding: Consultation Team, dealing with emotions generated by change, importance of process confidentiality
- 3) Self Study: Transition Evening, Parish Profile completion, developing a parish vision
- 4) Search: Worldwide advertising, applications received by the Bishop
- 5) Decision/Negotiation: Selected candidates will preach and lead a bible study with the Bishop's Consultation Team.
- 6) Installation

The next portion of the event focused on the celebration of the Parish's history. A couple of brief activities included video clips from the Lion King movie on the importance of our heritage and the challenge of change. One notable quote was "you can run from or learn from the past".

There was a discussion exercise where each table identified key elements of the parish's history under the categories Proclamation, Service, Worship and Fellowship. Another exercise asked each table to identify the most important needs of the local community.

The Bishop then took time to review the elements of the new Diocesan Vision under the three main headings: Faith in Foundation, Faith in Action and Faith in Formation. The details of the vision are available on the Diocesan website. The importance to the Diocese of reconciliation with the First Nations was discussed, as was briefly the issue of same sex marriage. The Bishop indicated that he would

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*“The
favourite
was:
Faith,
Friendship,
Family.”*

let each parish determine its own approach to this issue and those attending indicated support for a facilitated parish discussion on the issue. The Bishop briefly summarized some key elements in a healthy response to disputes.

Another discussion exercise had each table developing a ‘Why’ statement for the Parish. This is different from what we do and how we do it, and focuses us on our core values. The ‘Why’ statements were presented and the best were chosen. The favourite was: “Faith, Friendship, Family”.

The final exercise was for all attendees to choose the top three needs in our community. They were:

- 1) Isolated people of all ages and family structures
- 2) Educational Forums and Christian Education Programs
- 3) Community Needs (poverty, food banks, shut-ins)

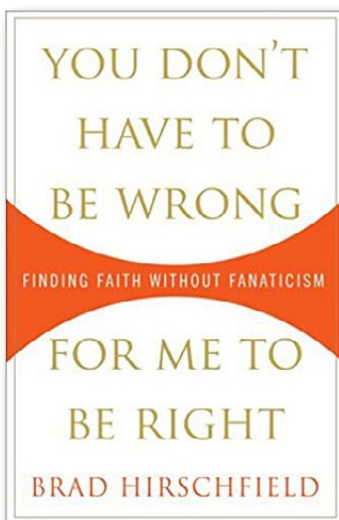
Materials from the table discussions and the Powerpoint presentation for the evening will be provided in a report to the Consultation Team for use in developing the Parish Profile.

Book Review

by the Venerable Bob Baillie

You Don't Have To Be Wrong For Me To Be Right (Finding Faith Without Fanaticism)

By Rabbi Brad Hirschfield



I grew up in a world where being right was a matter of extreme importance. Those strings are still attached so I found the title drawing me for a closer look.

The cover leaflet states, “Hirschfield has renounced all such rigid delineations of people into categories of totally right and totally wrong, entirely good and entirely evil. He seeks to build bridges among people of different faiths – and those with no faith at all.”

I was drawn into a very persuasive and personal call to consider how I respond to people with different views and/or faiths than my own. The scripture that kept coming to me was Isaiah 54:2 - “Enlarge the site of your tent...”

I would like to include two quotes from his book:

Page 234: “Imagine how we would treat every child in the world if we believed each one to be the Messiah. Would we let children live in unspeakable poverty?”

Page 248: “In what ways was I the person I most longed to be today? What helped me to get there? In what ways did I fall short? What do I need in my life in order to do better?”

I have two copies of the book if anyone is interested.

Reflections of a Lawn Mower by Diana Abbott *(as told to Cathy Quicke)*



For most people, cutting the grass is a chore that has to be done from time to time. Not so for the resident lawn mower at St. Stephen's. Recently, Diana Abbott shared with me some of the insights that she has had while cutting the grass on the church's large property.

Lady Di began cutting the grass in 1970 when the field was two horse paddocks. It was a long way from her home to the church to push a walk-behind mower. Always resourceful, she loaded the mower into a wheelbarrow and walked it over there. For a time, Mount Newton Road was called Nob Hill. She still has a vivid picture in her mind of the "weird lady from Nob Hill wearing big boots and pushing a lawn mower in a wheelbarrow down the road". Nowadays, a riding mower is stored at the church.

Over the years, there have been special moments of watching wildlife; a mama raccoon leading her kits over the field, a doe running very fast, and swallows swooping near the mower and rider to catch the flies that had been stirred up. However, the most exciting of these sightings happened one day when Diana noticed a number of turkey vultures circling. She thought to be extra careful as there was likely something ahead that she would want to avoid with the mower. Eventually, they all landed on the fence and looked up where she couldn't see what they were looking at. By this time, she had stopped the mower to watch. All of a sudden, a bald eagle came flying ten feet off the ground carrying a great big rabbit in its talons. It flew off across the valley, hotly pursued by the turkey vultures. At the back of the crowd, frantically trying to keep up and get a piece of the action was a tiny Cooper's Hawk. "It was absolutely amazing," says Diana.

There was once a very close encounter with a plum tree branch which involved a visit to Saanich Peninsula Hospital and 13 stitches to the top of Diana's head. "Eva Townsend offered to give me a clean shirt as I was a bit battered, but I said 'No, the bloodier the better' and was seen to immediately in Emergency!" The offending branch was immediately logged by Rick Townsend.

"One day while riding the mower," says Diana, "I thought, this is something like life. When you're making straight lines, you want to be as perfect as you can be in everything that you do. In mowing, if you make a wobble, you can straighten it immediately. In life you can't do that. You have to think of something else to straighten out the crooked lines."

What is it about mowing that brings such beauty and life metaphors into Diana's mind?

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Reflections of a Lawn Mower *continued*



“You can’t think about anything that’s bothering you; you’re concentrating on doing a good job.” With ear protection on, the only sound to be heard is the mower. It is a monotonous sound that filters out the noises inside and outside one’s head and creates a space for peace. “It’s a good way to flush out things you don’t want to keep in your mind.” Having to concentrate on the work of mowing and watching for dangers, one is alert to what is important.

Being so focused enhances Diana’s appreciation of the beauty around her: sunsets, cloud formations, storms coming over, magnificent cumulus clouds, the big trees “that have been there forever,” cyclamen in hidden places, snowdrops and bluebells;- pink, white and blue ones.

Who could have imagined that the tedious task of being a lawn mower could be so peaceful, full of beauty, therapeutic and bringing fresh insights into life? Perhaps we should each take another look at the mundane tasks that we do, opening our imaginations as we work.

Recipe Page

Plain Buttermilk Scones

Courtesy of Lynda Clifford and Nancy Choat

The ingredients and recipe for these scones were part of a basket made up for the Silent Auction at The Wine Fest, 2017. This recipe makes 12 two inch scones.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups plain flour
- pinch of salt
- 1/2 tsp sodium bicarbonate
- 1 tsp cream of tartar
- 2 tbsps cold salted butter
- 1 cup of butter milk

Combine all dry ingredients with a whisk. Break up cold butter into small cubes and incorporate the butter into the dry mixture until it looks like corn meal. Add the butter milk and stir until combined. DO NOT OVER MIX! Dump mixture onto a lightly floured surface and knead 12 times. Roll out gently into a circle. The circle should be about 3/4 inch thick. Using a 2 to 2-1/2 inch circle (the top of a drinking glass works!) cut out the rounds of scones and place on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Left over dough can be gently reworked into more scones. You should have 12 scones. You may brush each scone with milk but it is not necessary.

Bake in a 425°F oven for 10 to 15 minutes until slightly brown on top. Let cool for 10 minutes. Serve with butter and your favourite jam or jelly. I bet you can’t stop at eating just one or two!



Dear friends,

I would like to use this edition of “Cane’s Corner” as an opportunity to invite you (and any interested friends from outside the parish) to attend our special three-week series on Genesis 1-3.

The opening three chapters of the book of Genesis (= “Beginnings”), are the most wonderful and comprehensive descriptions of the meaning of life we could possibly find. It is in these chapters that we will find the right basis and perspective from which to begin all our investigations into the nature of God, the world around us, and ourselves. It is here that we can rediscover the majesty of God and His plan for us and the world, how we have strayed, and how we can be restored. I look forward to an exciting journey together.

Yours in His service,

Brett



November 2017
Bible Study Series

“Genesis 1-3: The Story of Beginnings”



The Rev. Dr. Brett Cane

Tuesdays at St. Stephen's - 7:00 pm

Wednesdays at St. Mary's - 11:00 am

Week-by-week Summary

November 7/8: #1: “The Creation”

Genesis 1 gives us a different way of looking at reality from either the pre-scientific or scientific perspective as it helps us address both the “why” and the “how” questions of origins. It also gives us the truth about God, about the world and about humanity. Genesis 1 begins with light to see God’s grace to us in creation and ends with rest to enjoy it.

November 14/15: #2: “The Garden”

Genesis 2 reveals that truth is often conveyed in different ways. This truth is about humanity and what it means to be in the image of God. It involves both dominion and relationship which has implications for our vocation, our sexuality and our relationship with God.

November 21/22: #3: “The Fall”

Genesis 3 gives us the opportunity to examine the interaction between love, free will and obedience. We will look at the heart of all temptation and sin and discover the tragic results of disobedience in terms of breakdowns in relationships - with God, within ourselves, with others and with nature. However, in the midst of tragedy, we will see that there is hope.

News from the Parish

“Bob sure knows how to scramble eggs!”

Summer on the Peninsula was so lovely with lots of sun and heat that it's hard to think of fall with rain and cooler temperatures. As we say goodbye to summer, we also said goodbye to two long time and well known parishioners who faithfully served the Parish. **Shirley Rainey** passed away in August and a tribute to her was in the last ConneXion. In September **Marjorie Denroche** passed away at home following a short illness. Services for these well-known and well-loved parishioners were held at St Mary's in September. **Rob Szo** officiated at the service for Shirley (she actually had written her service herself!) and the **Venerable Penelope Kingham** officiated at Marjorie's. The church was filled for both services, with receptions following in the hall. Marjorie and Shirley will be missed in so many ways as their devotion to the Parish was felt in the many ministries they each served. I guess if we want to get in touch with either of them, we will now have to “use a different area code” to quote Marjorie's daughter, Joan!

On Saturday September 16, another (the second!) successful Men's Breakfast was held in St Stephen's Hall, twenty-one attending. These gatherings offer a chance to meet, enjoy some good food (Bob sure knows how to scramble eggs!) and conversation. **Mark Perkins** was the guest speaker, who gave a personal insight into aboriginal relationships, culture and stewardship. His candid talk, expanded by insightful questions and discussions, provided an opportunity to recognize the complex inter-relationship between aboriginal accounts of historical and present-day interactions with the colonizing mentality many of us have.

Gil and Cheryl Shoesmith have made the move into Victoria to accommodate Cheryl's physical limitations. Let's hope they'll visit us from time to time. We wish them well and hope that Gil will finally be able to have his long awaited hip replacement.

The Parish welcomes **Canon Peter Parker** as our Interim Priest in Charge. In addition to bringing us his experience and wisdom, Peter also revealed his musical talent by playing the piano for the final hymn at his first service at each church. And he's riding his bicycle from his home in Saanich, to and from St Mary's! It's nice that there's Ron Smith's bike rack where he can lock up his bike while he's driven to St Stephen's for the 11 am service.

Weekly Bible Studies started up again in September at both churches, on Tuesdays at 7 pm at St. Stephen's and on Wednesdays at 11:00 am at St. Mary's. Until **Brett Cane** returns **Jackie Kolson** will lead the St. Stephen's group and **Cathy Quicke** will lead the St. Mary's group. We are fortunate to have so many great leaders in our Parish. See “Cane's Corner” on page 16 for Brett Cane's description of his series entitled “Genesis 3: The Story of Beginnings”.

On Friday, October 13, at St. Stephen's Hall, over 50 parishioners (equal numbers from each church!) participated in a “Transition Evening” led by **Bishop Logan** with assistance from **Archdeacon Penelope**. Participants enjoyed refreshments from 5 pm. This first meeting where parishioners had input into the process of choosing a new priest for the Parish of Central Saanich, was, it was felt, both informative and successful. Be sure to read Ken Pedlow's write up on pages 12-13 on this important meeting.

continued on page 18

News from St. Mary's



Another successful Thrift Sale held at St Mary's on Saturday September 30 raised a total of \$1925.00, ten percent of which goes to Outreach. A huge amount of work is involved in the setting up and displaying of goods, not to mention the packing up, folding up and removal of unsold goods to a variety of local thrift stores. A big thank you to all who helped make this sale the success it was. As a bonus, there were so many high end clothes given for this particular sale that **Lynn Fallan** and **Karen McCole** have decided to set up a "special" boutique for the January Sale in the Board Room.

John Smith and **Brooke**, the Smith's Newfoundland dog, had a "full blown collision" in early September at the off-leash park, damaging the John's right knee. (Brooke was fine.) John wore a brace while Sue walked Brooke and drove the car. At the time of writing he is recovering well.

Joy and **Nick Hunter** are going through a very rough time. Joy's fractured wrist is giving her a lot of pain, and Nick is battling bronchitis. We hold them both in our prayers.

A great effort by a dedicated group of volunteers on Thanksgiving weekend resulted in having both the inside and outside of the church spruced up and decorated to welcome parishioners to the Thanksgiving service on Sunday. Many thanks go to: **Ken Pedlow** and **Derek Osman** for power washing the driveways, parking lot, windows and cleaning the gutters; **John Beresford**, **Roy Pullan**, **Len Fallan**, **David Stewart**, **Sue Atha** and **Carl Schwazer** for trimming the hedges, cleaning up the gardens and picking up the debris from the cleaned gutters(!); and those who decorated the interior of the church, making it so welcoming for our parishioners Sunday morning. The food and flowers at the altar were arranged by **Heather Geddes**, the church windows were decorated by **Catherine Wing**, **Susan Pullan** and **Susan Alexander**, **Ruth Hickling**, **Len Fallan**, **Carol Watkins**, **Nancy Choat**, **Nancy Jackson** and **Irene Feir**, and **Lindsay Pedlow**; **Erica Harrison** decorated the table in the Narthex and **Sue Smith** arranged displays of dogwood and hydrangeas (thanks **Jenny Jenner**!) by the pillars; **Sue Rumball** arranged the magnificent arrangement outside at the door. To each and every one we are indeed very blessed and thankful for your contributions.



Travels

Carol and **Dennis Watkins** have gone cruising again, this time from Barcelona. We will check in with them on their return in to know where they went this time! And **Alison** and **David Stewart** have flown to New Zealand, and again we will await their return for more details.

We welcome **Judi Clark**, who has joined us at St Mary's. It is nice to see her already participating in several parish activities. Welcome!

Are you new to St Mary's? If you are, we invite you to make yourself known to us by completing a blue form located at the back of the church and on the table in the Narthex. We would like to include you in our list of parishioners, so please consider making yourself known to us.

News from St. Stephen's



In the afternoon of Sunday September 17, parishioner **Brad Watson** and **Kim Campbell** were married by Pastor Rob at St. Stephen's church. The wedding was attended by representatives of both families and some close friends. Afterwards a family reception was held at the home of **Sue** and **John Smith**.

A warm welcome to **Sandra Frederico**, who has joined St Stephen's. Sandra has managed to make herself available to help with Soup's On. Now, THAT's the way to get involved and to get to know parishioners!

Soup's On restarted in September and has averaged 40 plus guests each Friday. This popular lunchtime event at St Stephen's is up and running again, led by our stalwart makers of Soup, **Elsie** and **Diana** with their always tasty offerings, along with helpers, **Mike Dyer**, who sets up the tables and the ladies who provide such delicious desserts: **Eva**, **Josie**, **Jackie** and **Gerry**. And we can't forget **Valerie** who bakes that delicious bread. Bouquets to each of you! It's good to see old friends and welcome new ones.

Travels

Margaret Pollard went east to visit family in Quebec. And **Sandra Scarth** (despite a dog-induced fall just before she left – what is it with these dogs?) visited family and friends in Toronto.

Ted Apps had some heart surgery but states that he is now as good as new. It was great to see him, **Joyce** and **Jackie** at Soup's On. We continue to hold **Don** and **Jean Farmer** in our prayers. **Jane Hughes** has had hip surgery, and is recovering well.

Garden News



As **Gary Stubbs** continues to assist in the care of the gardens and pots around the Hall, **Bob** and **Charlotte** will soon be removing the dahlias for the winter. They certainly provided a great bloomin' show this year! The veggie garden has produced good stuff for Soup's On. And it looks like there is a bumper crop of garlic for the up and coming garlic dinner (nick-named The G Eight) on November 4. You'll have to ask **Don Wilson** what the G Eight stands for! He's been promoting and selling various kinds of garlic after the Sunday services at both churches, and can provide details of this popular evening. And, finally, sadly, Lady Di (**Diana Abbott**) has parked the ride-a-mower, having finished mowing for the season.

Canon Peter Parker plans to be at St. Mary's on Tuesdays and at St. Stephen's on Fridays (and of course at both places on Sundays!)



Anglican Parish of Central Saanich Directory

Pastor: Canon Peter Parker, Interim Priest-in-Charge 250-888-5302 canonp@shaw.ca

Parish Council: Ex Officio

Canon Peter Parker

Bishop's Warden:

Greg Robinson gregoryrobinson@shaw.ca

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

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

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

Karen McColm, Ken Pedlow
Jen Buscall, Allan Carlson

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

Nancy Choat
Greg Robinson, Don Wilson

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

Bob Quicke is at the St. Stephen's office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 to 1:00 and on Fridays from 9:00 to 2:00