

The

Contract

Saint Paul's

Nanaimo, B.C.

*Keeping your home
in contact with your parish*

February 2019

Rector: The Venerable Clara Plamondon

Clara's+ Corner ...

Friends,

We are just a few weeks away from our Annual Vestry Meeting on February 24th, and we are hard at work preparing the various annual reports that will reflect on the many and diverse activities of our parish this past year. The annual report including our financials and proposed 2019 budget will be coming out within the next week. I encourage you to take the time that is needed to review all that is included in that report.

Annual meetings are often seen as a business practice and formality that needs to be "done". I would argue that our annual reporting and decision making process is an important opportunity for us to celebrate and give thanks for what we have accomplished in the name of Christ this past year. It is also an opportunity for us to look forward to the coming year as we consider how we will continue to be faithful to the mission and ministry that we are a part of.

As I reflect on this past year I am brought to my knees in wonder and amazement as I consider all that you have accomplished. You have spent the last several years faithfully and sacrificially giving of your talents, time and treasure so that we could build the dream of a place of gathering, worship and learning, a place of rest and renewal for our parish community and for the entire community of Nanaimo. While we are now experiencing the fruit

of our labours and the realization of our dreams, I also know that this past year has been challenging as we have tried to continue to fundraise and reduce our remaining deficit as quickly as possible. I can assure you that this has not gone unnoticed! Every effort and event has helped tremendously. I am told that the commitments and pledges that were made as a part of our capital campaign to retire the debt have continued to faithfully come in. What a blessing and a testament to each and every one of you! I am also aware of the incredible amount of volunteer hours that many of you contribute on a regular basis.

I want to take this opportunity to personally thank each and every one of you for the faithfulness and generosity that you continue to offer to our parish of St. Paul's. The ministry and work of our parish would quite simply not happen if it were not for your generosity. I know that many of you faithfully and regularly make offerings at our Sunday services and some of you have chosen to do this through our electronic collection plate. I also know that many of you quietly and thoughtfully offer your gifts, skills and even material goods, not to mention countless volunteer hours in order for us to carry out God's mission in this community of Nanaimo.

It is because of your generosity we are able to do things like (just to name a few!):

- Provide quality worship space and experiences not only on Sundays and Feast days, but also for important events such as baptisms, confirmations, weddings and funerals.

THE WARDEN'S CORNER

- Provide a quality space in our parish hall, commercial kitchen and ministry centre for a wide variety of activities and events for various groups and organizations in our community of Nanaimo. By making our space available for user groups we are able to engage with the larger community, building relationships and opportunities to serve with them. There are often times several groups are meeting at the same time on any given day of the week. Rarely is there a day when our church or ministry centre is not in use in some way.
- Provide educational and spiritual formation opportunities that enhance our faith and life together in community.
- Provide a sacred space that is open and welcoming to the people who live in our community where together we can strengthen our relationships and share the Good News and love of Christ to those around us.
- Provide regular opportunities for support of those in our community who are most vulnerable. This has included our monthly community lunches and outreach efforts, and our third Tuesday of the month gift card initiatives.

None of this could happen if it were not for YOU! And so I thank you from the bottom of my heart and give thanks to God for the blessing that you are to our life together in community.

As we continue this journey together, I offer these words of St. Paul from the letter to the Galatians (Gal 6:9-10): “So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at the harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.”

Know that you are continually in my prayers.

Rev. Clara+

First and foremost I would like to thank the parishioners of St. Paul for the privilege of serving as People's Warden for the past two years. I have learned a great deal in this position, both about 'church' and about the people who animate it. My appreciation and respect for both has deepened. While I look forward to returning to some of the more contemplative parts of 'church', I recognize the significance of maintaining a cool eye upon the finances of the institution to its final conclusion. My heartfelt 'thank you' to all those I leaned upon for support and information.

In looking forward to this spring season, I want to take a moment to remind everyone about the up-coming Photo Directory. In February, you will receive notices and a phone call invitation to set up an appointment to have your picture taken for the new St. Paul photo directory. The directory will be free to each participant. However, we need to have a minimum number of participants to go ahead with it. Our previous photo directory was taken fourteen years ago!! It is definitely time to update our images. Sue McDonald, Sandra Leigh and I will be spear-heading this effort.

Please look for us at sign-up tables before and after each service in February. We encourage you to make an appointment early to get the best choice. We will only have the photographer for a certain number of days, so please fill up all of the slots as quickly as possible. Please listen for more information on this subject in the days to come.

The next item I would like to raise with you is that of the fast approaching Annual Vestry Meeting on February 24th. There are positions open on Council and on committees that need to be filled. The Nominating Committee: Boyd Shaw, Bill Walsh and Lee Grimmer would be pleased to hear from you. Please do not leave this up to 'someone else' whom you think may be more qualified to serve. We each have a variety of gifts to offer, so do not pre-judge your abilities.

You will find yourself among others who are striving to make the world a better place – starting

here in Nanaimo. I encourage you to respond with a positive spirit if the nomination committee knocks on your door. Or, if you feel the spirit move you, or that it may be your turn to serve, don't be shy about inquiring into some of the possibilities.

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to serve as People's Warden.

Janice Valecourt,
People's Warden

Lent Book Study

Lent Book Study – *Grounded* by Diana Butler Bass

Join the Rev. Clara for a Lenten Book Study on Tuesday evenings at 7pm at the church. We will begin on March 12th for six weeks ending the Tuesday of Holy Week. Diana Butler Bass, leading commentator on religion, politics, and culture, follows up her acclaimed book *Christianity After Religion* by arguing that what appears to be a decline actually signals a major transformation in how people understand and experience God.

Grounded explores this cultural turn as Bass unpacks how people are finding new spiritual ground by discovering and embracing God everywhere in the world around us—in the soil, the water, the sky, in our homes and neighborhoods, and in the global commons. Faith is no longer a matter of mountaintop experience or institutional practice; instead, people are connecting with God through the environment in which we live.

To register and secure a copy of the book, please contact the parish office.

PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORY

The photography sessions for the new Photo Directory will take place in the Parish Hall from Friday, March 8th to Friday, March 15th.

There will be a sign-up table after both Sunday morning services commencing February 10th and follow up phone calls by Office volunteers starting the week after.

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER



The last Financial Statement available is to the end of December 2018.

Total Income for 12 months	\$ 277,728.49
Total Outgo for 12 months	<u>289,070.13</u>
	\$ (11,341.64)
Balance fwd. Jan. 1/18	<u>(24,761.97)</u>
Balance (deficit)	<u>\$ (36,103.61)</u>

Our Open & Envelope offerings for the year were under the budget we passed for 2018 by \$14,708. Some will look at our final figure and go “*Woe is me!*” However, we have much to celebrate! At the height of our “summer slump”, our deficit was about \$57,000. We ended with a deficit of just over \$36,000. That means we recovered \$21,000 by the end of the year. We received \$9,5000 in Christmas offerings; we surpassed our hall use budget by over \$1,000; and our fund raising reached our budget figure. I say, “*Well done everyone!*” We will have to carry that \$36,000 deficit into 2019, but remember that is a 3 year accumulated total. We shall overcome!! We must continue to be vigilant about our expenses and encourage everyone to keep their offerings up to date. It would help such a great deal if we could get more people to sign up for Direct Deposit.

Full copies of the Financial Statements may be found on the bulletin boards in the Narthex and hall. If you have any questions, I will do my best to answer them. I can be reached by email at sue_gue@telus.net, or by phone at 250-758-6674.

It has been decided not to print the budget and budget notes in this issue of the Contact. Instead, both will be printed in the Annual Reports, which will be available by the middle of February.

Sue Gueulette, Treasurer

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

The ACW started off the new year organizing a trip to the movies on Monday Jan. 14th to see “*Mary Poppins Returns*”. It was such a pleasure to see a PG film and enjoy the music and popcorn with church friends!

On Feb. 5th, a special presentation has been organized by the Diocesan ACW.

Here are the details:

Precious Jewels Ministry: St. John the Baptist Duncan (486 Jubilee Street) invite you to lunch and a presentation on PJM by co-founder Yoke Bergink. Lunch @ noon; Presentation @ 1 pm. There will be a free will offering taken to support the work of Precious Jewels Ministry. Deadline – Sunday February 3. Contact: b52coleman@shaw.ca ; 250-748-9830. All are welcome.

We continue to welcome new members to our group and our next gathering will be on Wed. Feb. 6th at 12:30. Please bring your own bag lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided. The actual meeting will commence at 1pm.

This month we will also help celebrate the 100th birthday of Lakeside Manor resident and long time ACW member, Barbara Bowles.

This special event will take place on Saturday Feb. 16th from 2-4pm. in the Main Hall of St. Paul’s. Her son Bill hopes everyone that knows his Mom will join in this milestone celebration. Volunteers from the ACW will provide the tea and coffee and help serve the family and friends of Barbara.

Important dates:

1. Precious Jewels Ministry Tuesday, February 5th at St. John the Baptist Duncan at noon.
2. Annual Women’s Gathering at St. Mark’s, Qualicum, March 31st - April 2nd.
3. Annual ACW Tea - Saturday, April 28th at 2pm

For any further information regarding the ACW please contact Marilyn Browning at: 250 585-6857 or tonymarilynbrowning@gmail.com

Marilyn Browning,
ACW President

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14

On behalf of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, I would like to share with you a thank-you letter sent to the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

The fires affected this person in the Summer of 2017.

“Dear ‘Prayer Shawl’ Knitters and Crocheters, Thank you all so much for your prayers in the comfort of your shawls. I got one for a friend of mine who had the most horrific year. She was thrilled and she told me she wore it to bed! They had to leave the area as her husband only has 20% lung capacity and the smoke was bad here. Just before Christmas last year, her mother passed away. Her brother looks after the parents but needed a break so my friend drove from Hundred Mile House to Williams Lake twice a week to help.

When Williams Lake was evacuated, her Dad had a small stroke, while visiting in the Okanagan. My friend was in Vancouver with her husband and of course no job. I think your prayers have helped us as they now have moved to Williams Lake to help Dad and she got a job better than she ever had here!

Thank you so much for your hard work and I am sorry this took so long to be written.

Best wishes to you all for Christmas and 2018.”

Even if you have never knitted or crocheted before and would like to learn, here is your opportunity. Teaching to knit or crochet is available. Once you have learned to make a shawl, you can then work on your shawl at your leisure.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets to pray, share, knit or crochet on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at one to three o'clock in St Matthew’s room. All are welcome.

If you have any questions, please contact Yvonne Oliver at 250-754-8614

Yvonne Oliver
Prayer Shawl Ministry

PWRDF REPORT

In response to the severe food shortages in Yemen, the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund has contributed \$50,000 of its Canadian Foodgrains Bank equity to a food relief project.

"We are devastated at the news coming out of Yemen. The people of Yemen are enduring atrocities that no human being should have to live through," says Foodgrains Bank Executive Director Jim Cornelius.

"Supporting the people of Yemen is important at such a time when there is near-famine in the country. PWRDF is glad to support this important project and to do so with Foodgrains Bank and other colleague church development agencies," says Will Postma, Executive Director of PWRDF.

Janice Valecourt,
PWRDF Representative

COMMUNITY NEIGHBOURS LUNCH

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who help with the Community Lunch. I would like to explain a little bit about what we do and where we get our food supplies for the lunches.

Please note: The community lunch does not cost St. Paul's any money.

Most of the supplies come from Loaves & Fishes Community Food Bank. We also use Country Grocer gift cards for supplies that we are not able to get at the food bank. For each \$2,500 we collect in County Grocer receipts we receive a \$25 gift card in return. Likewise for each \$1,000 we collect in receipts we receive a \$10 gift card which is used to provide assistance to individuals in our community who are in need, and these cards help to supplement the Smile cards that are given out once a month.

Most people know that Loaves & Fishes provides assistance for individuals and families who need a little bit of extra help with food through the Depot on Farquhar Street and the various satellite locations

around Nanaimo. Loaves & Fishes also supplies schools, churches, the Boys & Girls Club and other non-profit organizations who help feed the community, which is what we do at the monthly community lunch by providing a free, healthy meal.

The food is not out of date and has been donated to the food bank by various supermarkets and bread stores. We have agreed that we will not charge anything for these donated supplies, as they are for non-profit organizations. We fall into that category.

If anyone would like any more information please contact either Diane Scott 250-758-8155 or Deanna Miller and we can explain in more detail.

Diane Scott,
Reaching Out Committee

Everyone is invited to attend the Reaching Out committee's



**SHROVE TUESDAY
PANCAKE SUPPER
ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN
CHURCH HALL
MARCH 5TH 5:30PM-6:30PM**

Tickets are \$10 each & children under 12 years of age are free.

Tickets are available at the church office or from committee members during coffee hour.

All proceeds go to support the Tumaini Children's Education Fund.

Parish Happenings

Newcomers

Sandy Brown
Archbishop Andrew Hutchison
Lois Hutchison
Robert Moore
Bernice Moore
Marlaine Suddaby

Looking Back, Moving Forward: A journey toward reconciliation



NOTES OF THANKS

On January 25th and 26th, I attended an event called “Looking Back, Moving Forward: A journey toward reconciliation” at Hope Lutheran Church.

We started Friday night with a KAIROS Blanket Exercise. I had no idea what to expect, but it soon became clear that we were engaged in a re-enactment of the indigenous experience in Canada from the time of the initial European incursions until the present.

The blanket exercise was a visceral experience for all of us. Asked afterward how I felt, I could say only “Sad. Angry. Sad.”

On Saturday, four speakers – Barney Williams, Ray Aldred, Harley Eagle and Jillian Harris, talked about their personal experiences either as students or as the descendants of those who had been taken from their families and sent away to residential schools. Their stories were harrowing.

Of all that I heard, what affected me most was Barney’s story. He was taken from his family and sent to residential school at five. He was raped at six. He became, in time, an alcoholic, but he rebuilt his life for the sake of his children.

Now, at eighty, he doesn’t hold out much hope for real reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous people during his lifetime, but he is doing what he can, offering his story to anyone who will listen, reconciliation to anyone who is ready.

This conference was, all told, a wonderful experience.

For more information about the event and its sponsors, please go to www.mypeopleinternational.com

Submitted by
Sandra Leigh

To my St. Paul’s Family,

Thank you so much for all the beautiful cards, phone calls, flowers and gifts received for my January birthday. I feel thoroughly spoiled! Having such a caring extended family is a real blessing!

Blessings to all of you.

*Sincerely,
Sue Gueulette*

To the members of St. Paul’s Church,

Thank you for the beautiful bouquet of flowers that were presented to me on my last Wednesday service as Liturgical Assistant.

It has been a great honour to serve the Lord in this capacity for the last 12 years.

*Yours in Christ,
Alison Walsh*

Tony's footnotes ...

Busy, busy, busy!! Time flies, doesn’t it? I can’t believe another year is over & done.

It’s a busy time for us in the office as we prepare to produce the Annual Reports.

The Annual Vestry Meeting is coming up on Sunday February 24th starting at 12:30pm - bring a bag lunch.

Onto business ..

The Worship Schedule for February to May is now available. If you can’t be here on your designated Sunday, please trade with someone else in your ministry and let us know of the change so that we can ensure the bulletin is correct.

Until next time ...