Anglican Church Women
Diocese of New Westminster

News 'n' Views

Patroness: Archbishop Melissa Skelton

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN NEEDED:

Younger, imaginative, tech savvy women
to update and run the ACW.
To take care of the outreach
which is possible by careful tending
of our 1.6 million dollar investment fund.

We are tired and need to take it easier.
We will still be here to help where we can
and support whatever endeavors
the new management deems worthy.

We will retain our memberships
and attend the AGMs.

Will anyone step forward?

Our AGM is April 25th at
St. Michael's Multicultural Parish,
Registration 9:00 am

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry at Everybody about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody accused Anybody.

And nothing got done.

On March 4th, the Board welcomed Rob Dickson to ACW Place where he had been asked to lead a discussion on "Where we go from here". With the difficulty in getting new Board members, and a large investment to protect, it is important that we make plans for the future.

Rob led us to the discussion that, successful as we have been in the past, we need to change. We reviewed the mission of the ACW as shown in our constitution, and realized that we need to refine it and narrow the focus if we wish our funds to have an impact to honour those past (and present!) members who have given us this foundation. Our constitution is open to supporting ALL in need, but in some ways this scatters our impact.

Our membership is ageing and is not sustainable unless we change. This will be an ongoing process of discussion and we are just at the beginning. We encourage all members to offer their input, and are grateful to Rob for leading us in this discernment.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

March 2020

We are in the season of Lent and the great gift of Easter is hope. Wishing everyone that gift.

Next Tuesday, March 10 we will be holding the North East Area meeting at Christ Church, Hope. Lunch will be provided by their ACW and we have guests coming from St. Cuthbert Anglican/United Church in Princeton. If you would like to attend and haven't already replied through your branch, please let me know so I can let our hosts know.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at St. Michael's Multicultural Church on Saturday, April 25th, starting at 9:00 am with registration, coffee and fellowship. The Theme is "Use Your Gifts to Serve" from 1 Peter 4: 10-11. Business meeting will start at 9:30 AM and our speakers will start at 11 am. Lunch will be served at 12:15 am and Eucharist at 1 pm. The registration form has been sent to all branches. The Archbishop will be able to join us for a short time during the morning.

We have the positions of President, Vice President and Secretary to be filled at this meeting. Please prayerfully consider putting your name forward so that we can share the load to get the work done. Consideration is being given to holding less physical meetings in a year with conference calls as needed. Your support is needed!

Branch reports need to be sent to me by April 1 for inclusion in the AGM Booklet.

We have met as a Board to discuss the results of the survey you were sent and appreciate the feed back that 11 groups replied. Guiding Principles will be worked on over the next year as to how to honour those who came before us, those who are working now and those who will be involved in the future and what our legacy will be and how we can continue with our regular commitments, ie Bales to the North, monetary support to specific areas. Please see the article on page 1.

Bale making will be complete next week and the bales will be shipped at the end of March. We are pleased to let you know that two new groups will be receiving bales-Women's Contact Society in Williams Lake and St. Mary Magdalene in Fort Nelson, BC. It is a wonderful service to be helping people in need.

Blessings to all during Lent

Gail Revitt,
President

THE EASTER STORY

Blue, and beautiful, and lonely
it soars in endless flight
like a ship without a port
in the silent empty night.

The little specs are people
and from the moment of their birth
dream as only gods dare dream
then crumple lifeless in the earth.

HE could have come in power
to free against their will,
but HE chose to let the drama
unfold upon a hill.

HE could have come in majesty
amidst triumphant cries,
but HE chose to come, a lowly man,
His glory in disguise.

And so it is at Easter
there's a very special tree -
when he knows THE ONE who hung there,
the little spec is free!

MODERN SLAVERY
HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Photo: Alberta Rudolf

This forum sponsored by ACW was held February 29th, 2020 at St. Dunstan's Anglican Church in Aldergrove, starting at 1:30 pm and open to all parishes in the Diocese of New Westminster. The moderator was anti human trafficking speaker, educator, advocate Cathy Peters, a retired school teacher whose Mission Statement is " A modern equal society does not buy and sell women and children".

There were 50 in attendance, Including Langley/ Aldergrove MP Tako Van Popta

Photo: front to back and left to right:

Lynne Kent, co-chair for VCASE
(Vancouver Collective Against Sexual Exploitation)
Cathy Peters.
BC anti human trafficking educator, speaker, advocate
Tara Teng,
BC director of the Joy Smith Foundation
Paige Letendre,
REED (Resist Exploitation, Embrace Dignity)
Sandra Harrison,
Shared Hope International
Jenny Shantz,
Inner Hope (works with vulnerable youth in particular Indigenous youth)
Dr, Nigel Brigman,
Servants Anonymous (a dentist who fixes teeth of women & children exiting the sex industry)
Matt Ryper,
Men's leader addressing pornography
Simon Bodlack,
Concerned citizen and father of four.

This was an especially inspiring presentation including enlightenment about the pornography industry which is working in tandem with the sex industry targeting 11 year old boys and young girls.

It is important for citizens to please contact their MP's and make them aware of the growing sexual exploitation of youth and children in our communities. BC is the best place in Canada to buy women and children for sex because the Law, “the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act” is not being enforced in this Province. There is also very little “sexual exploitation prevention education” in BC.

Cathy Peters writes:

The current Law called "The Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act" decriminalizes the seller of sex. It is the BUYER OF SEX, trafficker, facilitator who is now criminalized. That is a radical change in the Law. The seller of sex is recognized as a victim because they are the one who is being exploited. Therefore the seller of sex is NOT criminalized.

The power and strength of this LAW is that the root cause of the problem of sexual exploitation is now addressed because the buyer is charged and criminalized. If there are no buyers of commercially paid sex, there is no sex industry.

The problem today is that the sex industry wants ALL of prostitution decriminalized including buyers, traffickers, pimps, facilitators, which would be a green light for the sex trade to grow and flourish.

What folks need to do is alert their MP's to STRENGTHEN AND ENFORCE the law “The Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act” consistently across Canada, accompanied with a robust National awareness education campaign.

Alberta Rudolf / Cathy Peters

A friend said to me, “Sometimes I feel like asking God why he allows so many evils in the world.”

“Why don’t you?” I asked.

“Because,” said my friend, “I’m afraid He will ask me the same question!”

OUTREACH

In the picture on page 1, behind Gail and Rob, you can see the stack of bales ready to be shipped to the parishes in the North. These bales go to churches in the Diocese of Yukon and some to Whitehorse in the Territory of the People. We have been shipping these "bales" for over 70 years. It seems all of our members know about "bales to the north" and offer support by collecting the clothing and supporting the shipping costs. But they may not realize the full impact these bales have in those northern parishes. So do they still need our used clothing and household goods? Judging by the letters we receive at ACW Place, the answer is "Absolutely!"

Many of the parishes run thrift stores, and these offer more than one benefit.

Firstly, they offer a supply of clothing and household goods in areas where the nearest major shopping is several hours away, over winter roads. They are a supply of things like bedding for seasonal workers in the area. There are layettes for new babies - and these items often are returned as the babies grow, and can be a resource for other new moms.

Secondly, they raise needed funds to support churches where population is scattered. Items offered at a low still bring in needed revenue to support the mission of the churches in small communities.

And thirdly, where social services are sparse or unknown, the coffee pot is on, and there is somebody to listen to the lonely or the stressed. Somebody to offer a comfortable and safe space to talk.

That's a lot of benefit from some clothing and linens!

Thrift Store (left) and chapel in Dawson City, YT

Atlin, BC Thrift Store

Inside the Atlin thrift store

The churches we support are:

Whitehorse, Yukon
Teslin, Yukon
Old Crow, Yukon
Mayo, Yukon
Dawson City, Yukon
Watson Lake, Yukon
Fort Nelson, BC
Atlin, BC

And we also send to:

Punky Lake Wilderness Society
near Williams Lake, BC

The Women's Connect Society,
Williams Lake, BC

Each bale is wrapped and sewed into a blanket for stability before being enclosed in waterproof bags so keep those blankets coming in! And we always need new baby items for the layettes.

In addition, good used womens, mens, girls and boys clothing and household linens are needed not only for the bales, but also to supply needs locally. Thank you to all who continue to collect them for this outreach.

ACW New Year's Resolution

Marni Crossley is the co-organizer with Leslie Worden, of the diocesan ACW. She wrote the following letter which was published in their Diocesan newspaper.

We are often asked about the aging of the ACW. What happens to groups as we get older? What would happen if we no longer had a president? Or a treasurer? Would we have to disband? What should we do when we disband? Where should we spend our money?

Originally, in 1966, ACW meant Anglican Church Women. Today, take a look at the ways that our women's groups make a positive impact in our churches, in our communities and in the wider community. In fact, the ACW could stand for All Church Women, since we usually invite friends and neighbours to our endeavours. It could stand for All Church Workers, when the husbands and handy men pitch in to help out. ACW was formed to be a welcoming place for all the church women's groups of the day - the Family Life groups, the Guilds, the Women's Fellowship groups. All are welcome and all are included. We should perhaps rebrand to AIW - All Interested Women.

No matter how you use the initials, church groups are often in trouble these days because members are getting older. Fewer people drive at night, and everybody's been president or treasurer at least once before. So now what?

My first message is, you don't have to fundraise to keep your group going, and you don't have to have a President. You can meet in the afternoon instead of at night, and just enjoy each other's friendship after all these years. You could also have an Elders' Fair on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon, where you could share / teach your knitting skills, your quilting expertise, or your talent with jam making. Younger women or church neighbours might love to learn those skills, and you'd be getting to know each other at the same time.

ACW are in it for the friends, not just the funds!

Meanwhile, come to everything that interests you, whether your group has a president or not.

The Mind-Body connection

At an evening class at Stanford University, the last lecture was on the mind-body connection - the relationship between stress and disease. The speaker (head of psychiatry at Stanford) said, among other things, that one of the best things that a man could do for his health is to be married to a woman; whereas for a woman, one of the best things she could do for her health was to nurture her relationships with her girlfriends.

At first everyone laughed, but he was serious. Women connect with each other differently and provide support systems that help each other to deal with stress and difficult life experiences. Physically this quality "girlfriend time" helps us to create more serotonin - a neurotransmitter that helps combat depression and can create a general feeling of well being. Women share feelings whereas men often form relationships around activities. We share from our souls with our sisters/mothers, and evidently that is VERY GOOD for our health. He said that spending time with a friend is just as important to our general health as jogging or working out at a gym.

There's a tendency to think that when we are "exercising" we are doing something good for our bodies; but when we are hanging out with friends, we are wasting our time and should be more productively engaged? Not true. In fact, he said that failure to create and maintain quality personal relationships with other humans is as dangerous to our physical health as smoking! So every time you hang out to talk intimately with a gal pal, just pat yourself on the back and congratulate yourself for doing something good for your health!

We are indeed very, very blessed!

So let's toast to our friendship with our girlfriends, including grandmas, sisters, mothers, nieces, cousins, aunties... Evidently it's very good for our health.

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN
DIOCESE OF NEW WESTMINSTER
Annual General Meeting

Saturday
April 25th 2020

ST MICHAEL MULTICULTURAL ANGLICAN CHURCH

409 E Broadway, Vancouver
(604) 876-8191

9:00 am Registration and morning coffee

9:30 am AGM

11:00 am Guest Speaker

Programme:

The Feather Dance

12:15 pm Lunch

1:00 pm Eucharist

REGISTRATION FEE $5.00 **LUNCH (by pre-order only) $10.00**

Please cut below and return lower portion
with your registration fee by April 15th 2020
to ACW Place, 7012B Merritt Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5J 4R6

Please register early

# of Branch members attending____Cheque #______ for _$_______ sent ___________

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Anglican Church Women,
Diocese of New Westminster

Annual General Meeting
Saturday April 25th 2020

Registration Form
(Registration receipt and lunch tickets will be at the door)

Branch Name:			
Address:			
Number of Members attending ($5.00/person)		Lunches required (additional $10.00/person)	
Cheque enclosed	$		

ACW Place, 7012B Merritt Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5J 4R6
e-mail ACW@vancouver.anglican.ca

Please return by April 15th 2020