



From Your Wardens

Greetings St. Hilda's!

To Zoom or not to Zoom, that is the question. If last Sunday is an indication, the answer is Yes! We experienced a Zoom bonus! Always a delight to have our Rotarian friends Terry and Jan Umbach join us, and on top of that, what a memorable occasion, being joined after the service 'live' from Kenya, by James Musyoka, Executive Director of Kenya Connect. A great partner connection for Ndandini's Kyaithani schools. Please see the related report in the Communique, and keep our Ndandini friends in your prayers that they may remain safe from the spread of Covid-19.

We are pleased the Zoom services are so well-received, especially with the opportunity for parishioners to 'see' and engage with each other. However, we know others among you are concerned about news reports of Zoom gatherings being vulnerable to unwanted intrusions. We wish to reassure you that we feel our risk is low. Our Zoom gatherings are private, with a different Zoom link each Sunday, provided only to those on the St. Hilda's email list, and we always have a host for the screen-share feature. We hope you will feel safe to join the service, but understand if it's not for everyone.

On the parish business front...the Wardens and Ayoob met last week with members of the Finance Advisory Committee. We had a good discussion looking at options for addressing our revised budget shortfall for 2020, currently estimated at approximately \$40,000. We have viable avenues to pursue, and will update you as steps are taken.

In the meantime, we appreciate every effort you are making to maintain your givings. In this time of church closure, the bills still come in. Please look at the options listed in the Communique, including a new cash option involving envelope pick-up. Thanks to Maggie Scott for coordinating this.

In other news, the Search Committee is making good progress preparing a draft Parish Profile, and there will be an opportunity for your review when the process is further along, hopefully later in May.

And now we wish you every blessing... keep smiling, keep safe, and keep connected. There are those happy to help, so please let us know if you need some emotional or practical support from the parish.

Your Wardens,

Carol Eades, Mike Starr and Jill Halliwell

Message from Fr. Ayoob

for the 4th Sunday of Easter Psalm 23 John 10:1-10

In this Psalm 23, David used the metaphor of the darkest valley to describe the trying and troubling times of his life. Scripture tells us of the hardship and hurt that he faced along the way to greatness. David hadn't faced the pandemic, but he knew all about the darkest valley. David knew how it felt to be overwhelmed, frightened, anxious, lonely and powerless.

David tells the secret of how he faced all those dark valleys. It wasn't because of his physical strength or his big bank account. It wasn't his popularity or his quick wits. David could walk even the darkest valley because he knew that God was with him, like the best shepherd who provides lush green grass, sparkling waters and right paths for the flock; like the most gracious host who saved him a place at the table, anointed his head like an honored guest and poured out the wine of celebration to

overflowing. Giants, enemies, wilderness, rivals, rebellion, sin – David could face it all because God was with him.

In Jesus, God showed us what it looks like to be the best shepherd and the most generous host, calling us by our names to enter his sheepfold. In Jesus, God chose to live among us, walking this world with compassion and love. In Jesus, God healed the sick, welcomed the outsider, taught women, spoke truth to power and forgave sins. In this Easter season, we remember that Jesus walks the darkest valley with us and for us. That valley that Jesus walked took him to a lonely hilltop, where in the ultimate act of love, He is risen in glory.

We will overcome this crisis because God walks with us. We have a good shepherd and generous host who restores our souls and supplies our need always.

Musical Musings

April 30 is International Jazz Day. Named by UNESCO, this special day aims to celebrate jazz music's influence in promoting peace and intercultural dialogue. Jazz musician and UNESCO Ambassador for Intercultural Dialogue, Herbie Hancock, also talked about the values of jazz being freedom of expression, dialogue with others and respect. I think these values are excellent for our time. We are being asked to improvise, adapt and work with other people. This looks like respecting the limits on purchasing at the stores, observing provincial guidelines on social distancing and on the national scale, working with our international partners to share scientific information.

We have also been stretched to learn and adapt to new technologies. Like music technique, they are the means to communicate, share, learn and work.

I would like to invite you to explore some music streaming sites where you can listen and enjoy the wide variety of jazz music this week.

Let me know what you find!

Blessings,
Katherine

<https://jazzday.com/>

<https://onlineradiobox.com/us/jazzvespers/?cs=us.jazzvespers>

<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/cbc-music-playlists>

Helpful Tip for Zoom Audio

For those of you who are comfortable with Zoom and would like to further enhance audio quality, go to the Settings and Enable Original Sound. This will deactivate the background noise suppression and minimize distortion during music playback. - *Katherine*

Leif & Allegra wished to share this bit of humour!

from Reddit and can be found online at:

<https://images.app.goo.gl/A1xwksnEkYMpPCnKA>



Kenya Virtual Visit

April 26, 2020 was the date that St Hilda's was meant to be hosting 11 Kenyan teachers on the return portion of a Rotary exchange led by Sechelt Rotary Club. That of course had to be cancelled due to COVID19. Not to be thwarted, that didn't stop us from connecting with the community of Ndandini that we have been supporting jointly with Sechelt Rotary Club for well over 10 years.

Last Sunday after the service with Terry and Jan Umbach's help, we were very excited to be joined 'live' on Zoom by James Musyoka, the Executive Director of Kenya Connect, in Wamunyu, a town near Ndandini. James gave a presentation on the work that they do in the schools — this includes a library, vision checks, hand washing stations, making and distribution of reusable sanitary pads (now redirected to the making/distributing of masks), solar lights, and computer training plus more things that are constantly being added.

We heard about the teacher training exchange that saw some BC teachers spending time in Wamunyu in April 2019, and also heard about the effect of the Covid virus in their area. Thanks to James, we saw slides from Kenya and had time for discussion. This further connected us to the project that we are so passionate about supporting each year, currently through a scholarship fund for Secondary School students. Please find the following link below to a slide show that looks at the history of Sechelt Rotary's connection, now linked to Kenya Connect, with Ndandini. St. Hilda's has been proud to support this connection from the beginning. Since 2007, St. Hilda's Parishioners have contributed approximately \$39,000, thereby helping support first, a well for potable water, next greenhouses and now scholarships for high school students!

It can be said that last Sunday's connection was a positive result of learning to use Zoom during Covid 19! We hope we may be able to have more 'virtual visits' with the people of Ndandini and Wamunyu in the future! Thank you James Musyoka!

<https://youtu.be/NOFvtqvkmfQ>

Announcements

Zoom Morning Prayer & Coffee

Tuesday May 5 from 9-10 am

We invite you to join a virtual Morning Prayer with BAS followed by a virtual coffee time to foster the fellowship among parishioners. Parishioners can chat and be in touch with the priest and every one else. The Zoom ID information is included in the body of the email.

Ladies Coffee Time: Friday May 8 from 10-11 am

Come and join your St Hilda's friends for coffee not in the Mall, but in your own home via zoom! You provide your own coffee! Find the zoom number in the separate zoom numbers email.

Bottle Fundraising: Amazing how all those bottles and cans add up...over \$3,000 so far, and counting! Many thanks for the efforts of Janet McConnell and her team! Please continue to collect your bottles and cans. However, with the church closure, we are unable to receive your bottles and cans right now, so...if you are able, please take care of your own returns, and donate the proceeds, marking your offering envelope 'Bottles'. The Sechelt Bottle Depot is open Tues-Sat, 11 am-3 pm. If you are unable to make returns, please call Margy Grant 604-885-7157 when you have an accumulation.

ATTENTION all rakes, hoes, clippers, weed eaters!!

Saturday May 16, 10 am Come to church. Bring your owners. We need to do some sprucing up!

Potted Plants: Win Wright is looking after the pots around the church building and courtyard until Bonnie Garden can return to it.

Crafty People: Just a reminder that now's a good time to craft away and make things for our ACW November Craft Sale!

VST Morning Prayer: For anyone interested, there is a group of VST students that meet Monday to Friday at 8:15 am for Morning Prayer via Zoom. Please contact Kevin Rolston if you are interested and he will email you the Zoom link.

Need help zooming?

Kevin Rolston has already helped several parishioners and is happy to assist you in learning how to connect. Call Kevin at 604-243-8166 to see how easy it is to Zoom. We'd love to 'see' you on Sunday!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plants for Sharing... a project in conjunction with the Sunshine Coast Food Banks. This project encourages gardeners to grow a few extra seedlings of their favorite veggies, herbs & flowers -- to share with local food bank recipients. It helps provide our neighbours with plants to start growing their own fresh produce. You can also volunteer to help set up & assist with the distribution of the seedlings at one of the four Food Bank locations. Donations will be accepted until July 1. Specific dates & times will be announced for each location.

For more details, email plantsforsharing@gmail.com

2006 Blessing Ceremony for Jill Halliwell & Janet Tufnall



Memories from the Archives: This week Jill and Janet are celebrating the anniversary of their Blessing Ceremony at St. Hilda's in 2006. Usually they provide sanctuary flowers, but since that's not possible, they wanted to share this photo memory in thanksgiving for St. Hilda's. Mark Lemon gave the homily, Cathie Hall returned to perform the Blessing, Linda Varin and Bruce (who was on leave at the time) did the readings, Tom Kellough provided the music, and A Cappella Strait surprised us with a beautiful choral rendition. Both our families were there, and the joy and love in the whole church was palpable to us.

More Related Archives from olden times predating the website... St. Hilda's used to publish a newsletter several times a year, 'The Herald'. Attached to the e-Communique email is the Herald article Jill submitted at that time 'Blessing Journey'.

Offering Options

Doors are closed, bills still come in.

Your continued givings are most appreciated. For those who are able, here are 4 options:

- 1) If at all possible, we encourage you to start using PAD, the pre-authorized giving option. You may download the PAD application form, available on the St Hilda's website <http://www.sthilda.ca/pages/giving>, or ask Karen to email you the application form. Then it is very simple to complete and mail to Diocesan office.
- 2) If you prefer donating by cheque, please place the completed cheque in your numbered donation envelope, and either mail it to St Hilda's at Box 302, Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A0, **OR**, drop it through the mail slot outside the church office door. For security reasons, absolutely **NO CASH** can be accepted in this way.
- 3) If you would like to give online, go to Giving (<http://www.sthilda.ca/pages/giving>) on St. Hilda's website and click on the "Donate Online" button. It will redirect you to a secure page where you can make your donation through Canada Helps. Note that Canada Helps takes 3.75% of one-time donations / 3.5% of monthly donations for their administration fee.
- 4) If none of the above work for you, or you need a cash option, please contact the Envelope Secretary, Maggie Scott, 604-885-3312, to arrange for your envelope to be picked up once a month. Please note envelopes containing cash must have the amounts clearly written on the envelope.

May you be blessed in your giving. Please know, we understand if you are unable to maintain your financial support at this time.

St. Hilda's Website & Facebook:

For great information and links to areas of interest for parishioners, please go to www.sthilda.ca or www.facebook.com/st.hilda

Check out our new **Virtual Votive Candle Lighting**
<http://www.sthilda.ca/news/light-a-virtual-candle>

or Facebook

https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fgratefulness.org%2Fflight-a-candle%2F&h=AT1zb7whEzVPFFz3ASBveM_v7vnW5g84qlzmPXi-aljecU6zU0eB2OhUv-lkdgvuM6-mLsm7DKP5BGL5k9bhEp-puLJw4dS0sh53GMhUGQoA_hpxhOTTzuGMfaY9PV191H5Zx7Q&s=1

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