

CONNECTION

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Anglican Parish of Central Saanich

Number 22



St. Mary's Church

1973 Cultra Avenue,
Saanichton, BC V8M 1L7

Worship Services

Sundays

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

Third Sunday

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

Wednesdays

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

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



St. Stephen's Church

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

Worship Services

Sundays

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

Mondays

7:00 pm Bible Study
(September - June)

Tuesdays

11:00 am Prayer Group

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



March 2017

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Pastor: The Reverend Robert Szo

Assistant: The Rev. Dr. Brett Cane



www.ParishCS.ca

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

Dates to Note

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

- **Brett Cane's Bible Study Series for Lent** – “The Psalms: Tools for Being and Becoming” will be held on six successive Tuesdays at St. Stephen's at 7 pm and Wednesdays at St. Mary's at 11 am., starting on Feb. 28 and March 1.

- On **Ash Wednesday**, March 1, there will be Eucharists at St. Mary's at 10 am and at St. Stephen's at 7 pm.

- Evening services in the style of **Taizé** will be held at St. Mary's at 7 pm on Sundays March 19, April 9 and May 21.

- For the **Parish Weekend** we will once again welcome the Rt. Rev. Bill Hockin. It starts on Friday March 31 at St. Stephen's Hall at 7 pm, continues on Saturday April 1 at 10 am at St. Stephen's Hall, and will end on Sunday, April 2 with services at the normal times of 9 am at St. Mary's and 11am at St. Stephen's.

- There will be a **Maundy Thursday Eucharist** at 7 pm at St. Mary's on April 13.

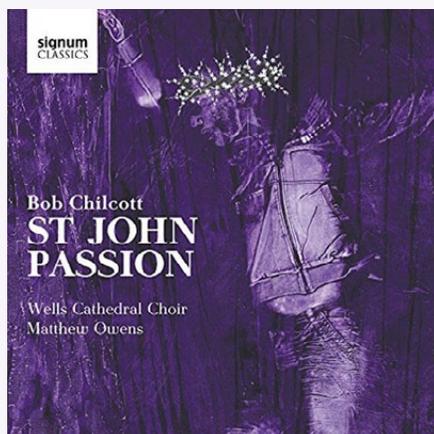
- On **Good Friday, April 14**, there will be a walk from St. Mary's to St. Stephen's, starting at 9 am, with Stations of the Cross and Meditations from St. Stephen's Hall to the church starting at 10:30 am.

- On **Easter Sunday, April 16**, the services at St. Mary's and St. Stephen's will be at the normal times of 9 am and 11 am.

- The **Sunday Serenade concert** with Fairwater Brass, a Naden Band group, will be at St. Mary's on Sunday April 23 at 2:30 pm.

- The **Spring Fling Thrift Sale** will be in St. Mary's Hall on Saturday May 13 starting at 9:30am.

- On Sunday, May 28 at 2:30 pm **Soundings Vocal Ensemble** will present a concert at St. Mary's.



As an addendum to the Music Review on page 9, you might also be interested in a wonderful new composition, “St. John Passion” by Bob Chilcott. Chilcott was a chorister at King's College, Cambridge, and a long-time member of the King's Singers, who sang the role of the Evangelist in the great Passions by Bach, and now is a successful composer of large scale choral works. His St. John includes six well-known Lent and Easter hymns, the words of which are well known, for which he has written new and superb music. St. Mary's choir will be singing some of them during this Passiontide. The CD is a performance by Wells Cathedral Choir and is on Signum Classics.

John Smith



“A minister is not to be merely a public preacher, but to be known as a counselor for their souls, as the physician is for their bodies, and the lawyer for their estates.”

One of the most encouraging stories of church growth I've found is the story of the Rev. Richard Baxter in 17th century England. When Baxter took charge of St. Mary's and All Saints church in Kidderminster, the state of Christian living in the village was in poor shape. According to one account, “the town contained about 800 homes and 2000 people.” When Baxter began his work at the church in 1647, he could hardly find a believing family; by the time his ministry finished in 1661 he could hardly find a family that wasn't firmly committed to Christ. The growth was partly attributable to the one-on-one spiritual conversations, or spiritual interviews Baxter had in the parish. In his classic book *The Reformed Pastor*, Baxter explains these methods to parish clergy (the book is the record of Baxter's address to the Worcestershire clergy association in 1656). His hope is that they will find both encouragement and practical help for their own ministries.

The 'spiritual interview' was conducted using questions. Baxter's questions went something like this:

1. When did you become a Christian?
2. How is your Christian life going—encouraged? Discouraged? Questions or problems holding you back?
3. What are you doing to serve the Lord in the church family and the world? What are your gifts and can we help you find and use them?

In his book, Baxter issues a challenge to his fellow clergy: “A minister is not to be merely a public preacher, but to be known as a counselor for their souls, as the physician is for their bodies, and the lawyer for their estates.”

I find Baxter's questions extremely helpful in my own life, as I follow Christ and seek to serve Him. Would you also find it helpful? I will make myself available by appointment over the next several months, on Tuesdays and Fridays. Call or email me to book an interview. The interview will be informal and relaxed. I won't be judging you and your life in Christ, but only offering guidance, as Baxter and others have guided me.

All to the glory of God!

Rev. Rob Szo

The Twelve Days of Christmas As seen in the windows of St. Mary's

*On the 1st day of Christmas
my true love sent to me ...
A Partridge in a Pear Tree*



*The partridge in a pear tree is
Jesus Christ, the Son of God*

*On the 2nd day of Christmas
my true love sent to me ...
Two Turtle Doves*



The Old and New Testaments

*On the 3rd day of Christmas
my true love sent to me ...
Three French Hens*



*The Three Theological Virtues:
Faith, Hope and Love*

*On the 5th day of Christmas
my true love sent to me...
Five Gold Rings*

*On the 4th day of Christmas
my true love sent to me...
Four Calling Birds*



*The Four Gospels: Matthew,
Mark, Luke and John*



*The first Five Books of the Old Testament,
known as the Torah or the Pentateuch*

*On the 6th day of Christmas
my true love sent to me ...
Six Geese A-laying*



The six days of creation

The Twelve Days of Christmas *continued*

*On the 7th day of Christmas
my true love sent to me ...
Seven Swans A-swimming*



The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit

*On the 9th day of Christmas
my true love sent to me ...
Nine Ladies Dancing*



The nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit

*On the 11th day of Christmas
my true love sent to me ...
Eleven Pipers Piping*



The eleven Faithful Apostles

*On the 8th day of Christmas
my true love sent to me...
Eight Maids A-milking*



The eight Beatitudes

*On the 10th day of Christmas
my true love sent to me ...
Ten Lords A-leaping*



The Ten Commandments

*On the 12th day of Christmas
my true love sent to me...
Twelve Drummers Drumming*



The twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed



Don and Susie Wilson are a couple blessed by divine guidance (sometimes even divine intervention!) as they chart their way through life. Although the way forward has sometimes been obscure, they have a knack for finding the right road, which, Don asserts, is God working.

Don, a well-respected veterinarian in our community, grew up in Kelowna. In 1977 he graduated from Ontario Veterinary College, a leading veterinary institution in North America. While there he was briefly married, and is the father of Christine. He planned to go to the University of California Davis School of Veterinary Medicine for training in equine medicine and surgery, but somehow got sidetracked into taking a job in Chilliwack. While there, Terry Huberts, a Socred MLA and veterinarian (an interesting combination!) asked him to come to work at his Brentwood Bay Veterinary Clinic. Don agreed to go for one year, which morphed into two years and then to acquiring the Clinic, as Huberts decided to become a full-time politician. As things turned out, Don owned and ran that clinic for 18 years!

So Don, a proud business owner, set out, with the Bank's support, to expand the Brentwood Bay Clinic (he doubled its size), and to establish himself in the community. He, together with Bruce Parker (son of Flo Parker of St. Stephen's) floated around from house to house, including one on Alec Road. Then Don met Dana Carson, a St. Stephen's lay reader, Irish wolfhound owner and collector of strays (both animal and human) at Island View Beach. When Dana took Don home (also a house on Alec Road, built by Mike Abbott) for supper, her mother Maxine recognised Don as a Wilson family boy, which resulted Don becoming pretty well one of the Carson family.

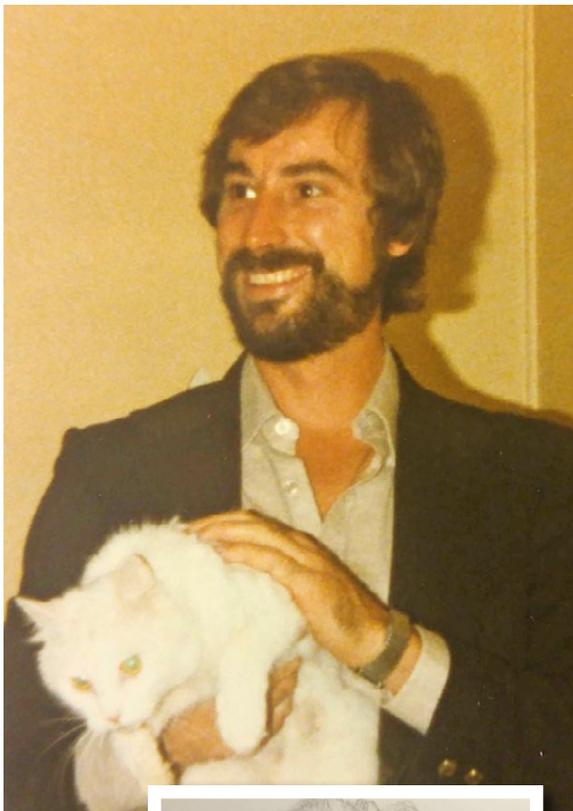
But that isn't all that was serendipitous in Brentwood Bay. Don went for pizza one day for lunch, and met a couple of hairdressers from Kapteyn Hair, one of whom he already knew, the other being Susie. It so happened that it was Susie's birthday. So Don arranged to have his hair permed (yes, he had hair then!) by his friend that evening, payment for which was a garage door! Susie "just happened" to be still hanging around the store. The rest is, as they say, history. They were married in 1982, and have two sons, Chris, who is in the theatre and comedy business in Toronto (he writes for CBC's "Irrelevant Show") and Eric, who has a Mechanical Engineering degree and is working for a Masters in Civil Engineering.

Susie is from Ontario, where her family had a large farm. After a year at University, Susie came West. When her father suggested she train to be a hairdresser, she responded, "No, that's for losers!" But she did do the training, and so became a hairdresser par excellence, spending an unprecedented 35 years at the same hair salon in



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Parishioner Profile *continued*



Brentwood Bay, spanning four owners, and building a reputation for not only dependability and loyalty but also for her good advice to her clientele. When she moved 2 ½ years ago with Angela and Rebecca to establish Piccadilly Salon, her clientele followed her, and “my business didn’t miss a beat!”

Don and Susie wanted a house of their own rather than renting, but Don was in up to his neck with the Bank because of the Clinic expansion, and that was the era of 23% interest rates. By a series of complex manoeuvres that would choke a horse, Don made a down payment to buy a lot in Sooke, found a buyer, and somehow parlayed that into enough cash for a down payment and a mortgage to buy a property on Central Saanich Road, where they built their family home, staying in another house (again on Alec Road) while theirs was being built. They lived there for 16 years.

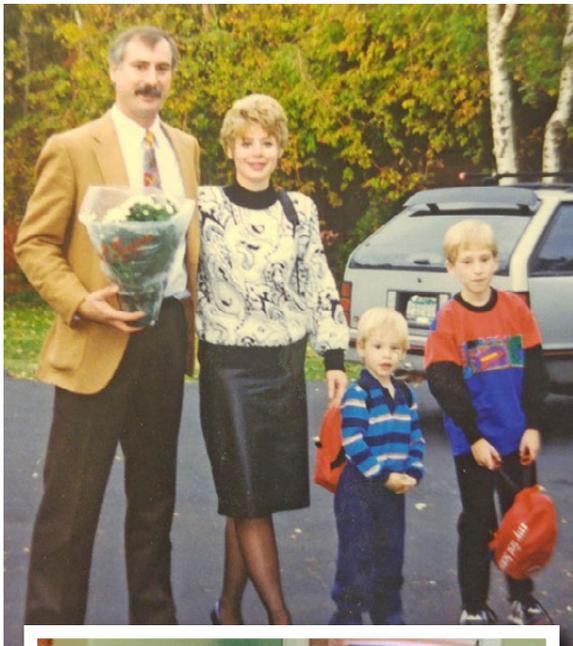
Through the Carsons, Don and Susie began attending St. Stephen’s. Ivan Futter was the rector, and Don became a member of Parish Council. When Chris was born, 9:00 am church services became a challenge when combined with a colicky baby, and by the time Eric was born they realised they had been churchless for four years. They began to look for a church, wanting to have Eric baptised. Brentwood Chapel was very attractive for a young family. Rev. Alistair Petrie was a charismatic leader, with a congregation of over 200 and a Sunday School of over 40. “The only trouble was the parking!” So the Wilsons joined Brentwood Chapel and were still there when it closed, 21 years later.

Running the Brentwood Bay clinic for 18 years took its toll on Don. Working as a veterinarian is a joy for Don, but the business side of the Clinic was burning him out. When Don and son Chris were at the Oak Bay Rec Centre for Chris’ 9th birthday, Don saw his boy running by and realised he hardly knew him. “It was an epiphany”, says Don. In a brave move, Don sold the Clinic and took a year off. He took the kids to school and back, went on school trips, overnights with the kids at Goldstream Park and generally got to know his family. “I can’t remember some of those years, but I remember the year I took off.”

Then Don cautiously started to do locums, starting with Parksville, with the understanding that the kids came first- if they weren’t in school, Don was at home. Gradually the locums built up over two years, with a day in Port Alberni, then one in Campbell River, then Nanaimo, then the Okanagan. Then Don parked his 5th wheel in Coombs and travelled from there to the various clinics. When he did get home, “I felt like a guest in my own home”, and the kids were upset when he left again. The next epiphany was a call from Susie to Don in Campbell River – “You’ve got to do something different than

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Parishioner Profile *continued*



this.” And the answer was right there and then, as Don was offered a job at a clinic in Victoria. Susie told him later that his son Eric changed from praying “Please God find Daddy a job near home” to “Please God don’t let him get fired!” Don says Eric had more confidence in God than in Dad to get it right!

Since then, the business side of Don’s life has worked well. He has owned and run the Shelbourne Pet Clinic for 15 years. It is a Member Clinic of Central Victoria Veterinary Hospital, so that much of the stressful part of running the business is off Don’s shoulders. He says, “It’s difficult to get ten vets to agree on anything”, so Central is owned and run by a Management Company leaving Don free to do what he loves – looking after his clients, who happen to be dogs, cats and occasional rodents.

The breakup of their church family at Brentwood Chapel was extremely stressful. When the leadership of the Chapel left, taking with them a large portion of the congregation, Bishop James Cowan, in order to establish canonical leadership for the remnant congregation, made Don and Tim Hackett Wardens and the Chapel’s Synod delegates for the 2010 Synod, due to meet a week later. Don says that from the love and support at that Synod he realised that the remainder of the congregation, which he called “St. Augustine’s in Exile”, was not an isolated little community, but a part of the Anglican community. Rather than collapsing in disarray, the group charted a course towards organised closure, and when that happened, a solid group of faithful worshippers joined the St. Stephen’s congregation. Susie says it was a time of great grief, with close friendships broken, but she also points out that the experience engendered a strengthening of the bonds of friendship and the forging of strong new relationships, for which she and Don are so grateful.

For the last 14 years, the Wilsons have lived in a lovely home on Tanner Ridge. Susie found the house, but they nearly didn’t get to buy it because Don asked a lady for directions to go to look at the house, and the lady said “You can’t buy that – I want it.” And she nearly did!

Don loves to turn his full attention to projects. (He gets obsessed”, mutters Susie.) Most parishioners know about Susie and Don’s annual Gargantuan Garlic fundraiser, and his fascination with astronomy (the Star Party in the St. Stephen’s field). And Don and Susie are always there to help with parish events. But did you know about his love of medieval historical fiction, the Koi Pond in the garden, his efforts at learning Chinese and (the latest one) repairing clarinets and learning to play the clarinet classic, “Stranger on the Shore”? And we can’t properly cover his commitment to several levels of church governance. Suffice it to say that he has occupied the positions of Warden, Parish Council

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Parishioner Profile *continued*



member, Parish Synod Rep, member of General Synod (the National body), member of the all-powerful COGS – the Council of General Synod - and of a number of working groups and committees, including now the Diocesan Working Group, “Relationships Matter.”

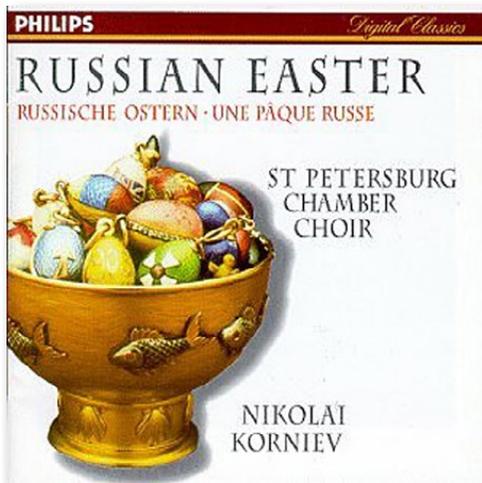
Reading this, one would think the story of the Wilsons is all about Don. But the truth of the matter is that Don couldn't have pursued his career, built the Brentwood Bay hospital, taken a year off, spent two years doing locums (often away from home), had loving family homes to return to, and become engaged so deeply in church governance and administration, were it not for Susie's loyalty, steadfastness, devotion to family and, above all, patience. She epitomises the saying: “Behind every successful man, there is a long-suffering wife pointing out the right direction!” They are a blessing to each other and our Parish family is blessed by their presence among us.

Music Review

by Ruth Lorette Hickling

Russian Easter

St. Petersburg
Chamber Choir



The Feast of Pascha - The Resurrection of Christ - is celebrated in Orthodox churches as the start of their whole year cycle. Everything else follows from it; the Twelve Great Feasts and all the Sundays in their order.

The music on this CD is sung by the St. Petersburg Chamber Choir and directed by Nikolai Korniev. Sorrowful and lamenting, it was composed by Alexander Grechaninov, Dmitri Bortnyansk and other masters of Russian Church music, from the 18th Century to present. It is superb plainchant. The beautiful voices are soaring and celestial and range from crystalline soprano to bass of incredible depth. One can imagine the stunning setting and acoustics of the Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul in St. Petersburg, Russia where it was recorded. I found it best enjoyed at night, with only candles and this gorgeous music filling the dark and silence.

My favourite piece, and first on the CD, is “Alleluia, Behold the Bridegroom”. It is haunting and worthy of goose bumps as it rises slowly to a soft crescendo. I also love the second cut, an ancient hymn of light, “Gentle Light”. In the Orthodox Church this is sung at Great Vespers, as the Priest enters the church preceded by a lighted lamp.

The only little disappointment I have is that although some of the music is meant to be joyful, I still felt the undertones mostly mournful. I wish they had expressed a wider range of mood. As the truly joyful part of Easter – the glory, hope and promise in the Resurrection – is what I cherish most, it felt lacking to me on that level, but that is only my very personal opinion.

Although sung in Russian, the insert translates in English, French and German. I ordered it from Amazon, but it came through the post from Germany, which for some reason, always feels quite special to me.

The Rev Wm. Gregory Family at St. Stephen's: 1884-1890

Rev. William Henry Gregory was the vicar at St. Stephen's Church from 1884 to 1890. He was born in England and was a solicitor there prior to his 1884 appointment as a lay preacher in the Parish of North and South Saanich. He studied for Holy Orders and in September, 1885 was ordained as a deacon by the Lord Bishop of Columbia, Rt. Rev. George Hills.

William Gregory and his wife Florie had one child; William Henry, or Willie as he was called as a youngster, was born in 1881 and lived in the parsonage at St. Stephen's with his parents from the age of 3 to 9. Rev. William Gregory and his wife served our parish well, but by 1889 his eyesight had failed and in 1890 they returned to England. Eight-year-old Willie was not sad to leave as the prospect of a long journey excited him. Rev. Gregory died in England in 1912; his wife Florie also died there in 1932. Willie went to school in England, went to sea in sailing ships and for years was with the British Admiralty in London. Capt. William Henry Gregory returned to Victoria in 1947 with fond memories of his early years at St. Stephen's in the 1880s.

The magazine section of the November 7, 1954 Colonist newspaper in Victoria included a feature story by James K. Nesbitt entitled "Rev. Wm. Gregory's Son Quit Sea to Live Here". Nesbitt's article is based on an interview

he had with Capt. Gregory on his return to Victoria following his naval career. He recalled that his father had kept a diary while the vicar at St. Stephen's and the entries shown here gives us a glimpse of parish life in the 1880's. It was much like our Pastor Rob Szo's daily routine, with one minor exception; we have yet to ask him to dig a well.

July 2, 1885: "Florie (his wife) preserving raspberries and currants."

April 1, 1886: "Easter Sunday —Very large congregation at North and East Saanich."

"Easter Monday—The Thomson's, Reynard's and ourselves ascended Mount Newton — and had tea on the summit. I commenced digging a well today."

May 3, 1886—"Dear Willie to school for the first time in his life, to the West Road (Saanich) public school. (George Sluggett was the teacher.) Went fishing in the creek, but caught nothing. Mrs. Thomson to tea."

May 4—"Went by stage to Victoria to attend the Synod."

May 11—"Bishop's visitation. His Lordship and Archdeacon dined with us. Roast turkey. Mission meeting at North Saanich Church. We all had tea at Mr. Mills."

May 12—"Florrie, Willie, Mrs. Reynard and Mrs. Pagden out all day in our buggy. I batched it at home, and don't like it."

May 30—"We all went in an Indian canoe from Saanich camp to Goldstream and had a most enjoyable day. Willie was on his best behaviour. Dear Florie brought home lots of wild maidenhair fern."

Nesbitt's article mentions that Rev. Gregory was one of the founders of Holy Trinity Church built in 1885 at Union Bay, now called Pat Bay,

on land donated by George Mills, a local farmer and hops grower. The architect was John Teague of Victoria and the contractor T.B. Shaw of Cowichan. Thomas Shaw was also the contractor and builder for St. Stephen's in 1862.

For years, the old-timers of South Saanich talked of the day in 1887 when Roderick L. Fraser, a young school teacher, later a medical doctor, and Miss Elizabeth Thomson, one of the daughters of Bannockburn, were married. Rev. Gregory was the clergyman. The Colonist noted:

"Mr. R. L. Fraser and Miss Lizzie Thomson, a daughter of one of Saanich's most respected pioneer families, Mr. and Mrs. William Thomson, were united in the holy bonds of matrimony, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. W. H. Gregory in his usual impressive manner. The church was decorated by Mrs. Gregory, Mrs. Pagden and Miss Butler with flowers generously donated by Mr. G. A. McTavish. The party danced until the sun was showing his beaming countenance over the eastern hills."

Capt. Gregory, the small Willie Gregory of that day, remembers the Fraser-Thomson wedding. His mother made the wedding cake in the parsonage kitchen. It was an enormous cake.

Mrs. Thomson sent her sons Jack and Ed over the parsonage to fetch it, Capt. Gregory recalls. But how to carry such a huge cake was the problem. So they looked about and found the stretcher business on which coffins were carried into the church. They loaded the cake onto it and off they marched the half mile to Bannockburn."

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Stories From St. Stephen's Cemetery *continued*

The photo shown here was taken in 1888, showing young Willie and his parents at St. Stephen's cemetery. Willie is standing in front of the recently installed white marble monument for William Batchelor, aka Fred Reynolds and has what appears to be a pet bird with him. The parsonage where Rev. Gregory's wife Florie baked the wedding cake is in the background beyond the picket fence and to the right of the gate. Across from the parsonage was the new stable for both the vicar's horse and those of the church wardens. A fourth stall was reserved for the Sexton... he rode a donkey.

Willie's pet was named Chip and when he took him to his father's Sunday morning service in the church it was made clear to him that no one is allowed to worship at St. Stephen's with a chip on his shoulder.

This article is dedicated to Sandy Ormiston, St. Stephen's historian and cemetery tour guide for many years.

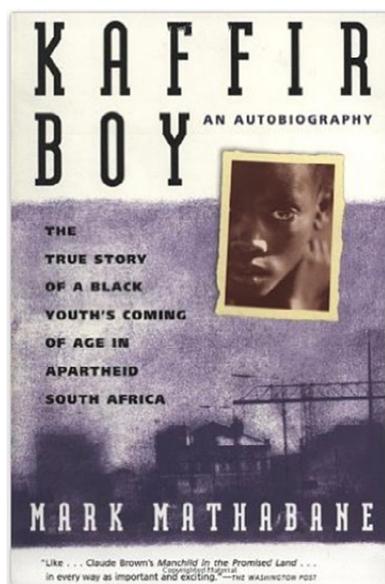


Book Review

by Carol Watkins

Kaffir Boy

by Mark Mathabane



"The true story of a black's coming of age in Apartheid South Africa."

Kaffir Boy is the autobiography of Mark Mathabane. It takes us from his childhood, in some of the most appalling ghettos in South Africa, to the realisation of his dream of obtaining a scholarship and attending an American University. Growing up black in the 1960s and 1970s South Africa was one of devastating poverty and unspeakable degradation, yet Mark raises himself up from the squalor and humiliation to realise his dream.

Life in the Alexandra ghettos was lived under constant police terror and threat of deportation to impoverished tribal reserves under government control. There was a daily battle for survival and never enough money for rent, food and education. Heaven forbid that anyone should require medical help because doctors and treatments also cost money.

Against all odds Mark obtains an education and excels at school, usually coming top of his class. He also discovers that he has an aptitude for tennis and is passionate about playing. It is through the game that he meets many tennis celebrities of all colours and realises that not all whites are racist; a few actually help him achieve his dream at risk to themselves.

If, like me, you have a limited knowledge of South Africa and apartheid this story will horrify, amaze and impress you. It shows that against heartbreaking poverty and cruelty, with determination, a resilient spirit and faith in yourself you can achieve your dreams.

Reflections on my Trip to Thailand

Bangkok - most visited city on Earth



The Bridge on the River Kwai



Crowds entering Temple of the Emerald Buddha in Grand Palace

Dear friends,

My previous two articles were focussed on my travels last summer, and this one will be reflections on my recent nine day trip to Thailand at the beginning of February. It was purely a holiday time, to see the sights and life of this most interesting Asian country. I signed up with Gate 1 (great agency!) and travelled with a group of 35 (five Canadians!), very capably led by our guide, Uza. We began with three nights in Bangkok (highlights were Wat Pho Monastery, the Grand Palace and boat trip on the Chao Phraya River), followed by two nights at a jungle resort near the border with Burma (highlights were visits to a “Floating Market” and “Bridge on the River Kwai”-related locations including train trip), then a night in the ancient capital of Ayutthaya just north of Bangkok (highlight was visit to Summer Palace of Bang Pa-In) and a final night in Bangkok. Here are some observations and reflections.



Bangkok is the most visited city on earth

The major traffic jams and throngs of tourists (especially Chinese) are evidence of this. Caucasians are definitely in a minority and it is good to recognize there are other people groups on earth! Even though I have never been in such crowds before, I did not feel anxious and everyone was relatively polite!

Thailand is an agglomeration of cultures

The second thing you notice is that the country draws heavily on traditions from China and India and other neighbouring countries. This includes food and architecture and especially spiritual life.

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Memorial to King Bhumibol



Thai people are very friendly and considerate

Although Thai appear shy and withdrawn, when given a simple smile they will flash a big one back! Our guide and her associates were genuine and knowledgeable, natural in their manner and creative in their presentations - plus really entertaining!

Thai people love their King

Although King Bhumibol died last October, the signs of mourning are very prominent. Every shop, industry and institution has pictures of him and there are memorials at every turn. Black and white bunting is everywhere and people dress appropriately. He is genuinely appreciated for the tremendous good he did for the nation in terms of scientific research and education, development and meeting the needs of the poor. He seems to have operated in parallel to the government, researching, planning and paying for countless projects throughout his long reign out of his own resources. When our guide spoke of him, she was moved to tears. The devotion is almost god-like.

Thai people are very spiritual

Speaking of devotion, religious observance is very much a daily occurrence. Temples are everywhere and each home or institution (including the Holiday Inn where we stayed one night!) has little shrines with offerings - one for a god, another for local spirits and, sometimes, a third for ancestors. Buddhism is the main religion of Thailand and although it is at heart a path of morality (and doing what is right is very important to Thai people) it has incorporated



Thais waiting patiently to pay respects to late king lying in state in Grand Palace

Shrine in Holiday Inn



considerable elements from Hinduism and Chinese religion and indigenous practices, resulting in a vast array of gods and goddesses to be served and used, and demons and spirits to be manipulated and placated. Would the Buddha be pleased? He is treated as a god and getting the gods' favour is a major preoccupation. As I saw the intensity of their commitment, I felt it put much Christian devotion to shame. I did wonder, though, how much the grace of Christ would liberate them from the continual need to curry favour and approval and how the indwelling of the Holy Spirit would enable them to fulfill their desire to do what is right.



Shrine at Floating Market

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Cane's Corner *continued*



Temple and Shrines in the Grand Palace

As I toured the temples and shrines, I felt how relevant was St. Paul's experience in Athens, along with his response: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: 'to an unknown god.' So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship – and this is what I am going to proclaim to you" (Acts 17:22-23).

I have created a slide show of my trip and would be glad to give a presentation if requested (not quite as many as for Ethiopia!).

The trip was a 70th birthday present to myself and I want to thank all of you from both congregations for the amazing receptions you held on the Sunday before the day (Jan. 31st) which was when I actually left on my trip!

Yours in His service,

Brett

Recipe Page

Rhubarb Custard Bars (makes 18 large bars)

Crust:

- 1-¼ cup all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup whole wheat flour (or whole wheat cake and pastry flour)
- ½ cup cool butter
- ½ cup sugar
- ¼ tsp salt



Preheat oven to 375 F. Butter the bottom and sides of a 9" x13" metal or glass pan. Combine all ingredients in a bowl. Mix with your fingers until mixture resembles fine crumbs, with butter completely incorporated. Use a food processor if you like. Press crumbs (not too firmly, but firm enough) into the bottom of and up the sides of the prepared pan. Place pan on lower-centre rack of pre-heated oven. Bake for 20-30 minutes until golden. Remove from oven. Reduce oven heat to 350 F.

Topping:

- 1-½ cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 5 tb all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp vanilla
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¼ cup whipping cream
- 4 to 5 cups diced fresh rhubarb diced small

While the crust is baking, mix the first 6 ingredients together in a bowl, whisking well to eliminate lumps. Stir in the rhubarb. Pour the topping over the crust while it is still warm. Return to the oven and bake for 30 – 40 minutes until custard no longer jiggles, and inserted toothpick comes out clean. Let cool. Cut into bars.

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

The fall activities and festive events of December made for some great Parish news. Despite a quieter January, as Margery and Nancy were preparing to meet the February deadline for this issue, newsworthy items were again being reported. So we are pleased to inform you of News Around the Parish for December, January and into February.

Scenes from St. Stephen's Christmas Pageant



December was busy with various concerts, the church services of lessons and carols, and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services held in celebration of the birth of Our Lord. A joyous time indeed.

CPR, (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation in case you didn't know!) was again offered to parishioners and the community on February 18th. Free of charge and put on by the Fire Department of Central Saanich, this valuable course provided hands on practice in performing CPR and how to use the AED (Automatic External Defibrillator). Both St. Mary's and St. Stephen's have AEDs installed. Two sessions took place at St. Stephen's Hall, coordinated by **Lynda Clifford**.

Following the Alpha course completed in November, **Dave Shield** offered his home to the group to continue meeting. Dave had assisted Rob during the course. **Joy and Nick Hunter** offered to facilitate these weekly meetings. An eight week teaching course entitled Discipleship Explored will be the focus. With up to eight people attending, this home bible study is encouraging spreading the Word. Weekly Bible Study sessions are also held on Tuesdays at the home of Tracy and Gary Stubbs and on Wednesdays at St. Mary's at 11 am. As part of these sessions, **The Rev. Brett Cane** will lead a Lenten Program, beginning Feb 28th/March 1st. entitled "The Psalms: Tools for Being and Becoming". Our world traveller Brett went to Thailand in February – see his article in this issue. Maybe we will be privileged to have another evening travel talk?

News from St. Mary's



The annual Holly Fair brought in a record breaking \$9,700. Many volunteers are needed for this event and members from both churches lent a helping hand from setting up to attending the various stalls to dismantling all the tables in the afternoon. Planning starts early in the fall and, in fact, the Craft Group which meets on Mondays during the year had been busy since the last Holly Fair making items. Serving a light lunch continues to be popular as are the silent auction and mystery bottles. We never did find out who was the lucky winner of the bottle of Scotch donated by the Bishop! All in all a successful event, well attended by the community.

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Around the Parish *continued*



CapriCCio Vocal Ensemble

This was closely followed by Santa's Breakfast on December 3, always a popular event, which again drew a large number of community people, many bringing their children to have their picture taken with Santa, thanks to photographer, **Len Fallan**. The Central Saanich Lions Club was busy cooking pancakes and sausages for the hungry visitors, with donations totaling \$1,200. This successful community event is held in conjunction with the Saanichton Village Association's Christmas Tree Trail, including the opportunity to enjoy a horse drawn carriage ride through Saanichton Village. Weather can be a deterrent but the rain held off this year, resulting in many members of the community, young and old enjoying a carriage ride. Proceeds from this event went to the Sidney Food Bank.

The CapriCCio Vocal Ensemble along with the Victoria Brass serenaded a full house at the Cathedral December 23rd. Several St. Mary's parishioners were in the audience, including: **David Cooper, Geri Hinton, Nancy Choat, Catherine Wing, Susan Alexander, Lynn Fallan** and of course **Sue Smith**, a member of CapriCCio. By the time you read this, you will have had an opportunity to hear CapriCCio at St. Mary's on Feb. 26 as part of the Sunday Serenade concert series.



Thrift Sale

On December 27th, **Irene** and **Keith Feir** hosted refreshments following the 9 am St. Mary's service. True to their Scottish heritage, they celebrated St. Andrews' Day by offering parishioners a taste of haggis along with Scottish shortbread. Although the haggis was purchased, the shortbread was home made! It's always amazing how many people actually enjoy Haggis! And don't ask how it's made!

Ruth Hickling's mother Doreen Kuhn passed away following a lengthy illness before Christmas. A memorial service, followed by a reception in Cooper Hall was held on February 11th. And, on January 2 we lost **Rita Lott**, a long time parishioner, mentor and friend of St. Mary's. Rita was one of the originators of St. Mary's Flower Guild. She requested not to have a Memorial Service, preferring instead a family remembrance.

Another successful Thrift Sale was held on Saturday January 29th, resulting in over \$1,800. A great effort on the part of many people, including those from the community who made purchases.

Bishop Logan visited St. Mary's on Wednesday, January 4th for a Town Hall meeting, having held a Town Hall meeting

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Bishop Logan visits St. Mary's





Altar Set by Pat Sparks



*“And here’s
another heart-
warming story
related to those
wind storms”*

at St. Stephen’s before Christmas. About 35 people socialized and enjoyed refreshments prior to the meeting. The Bishop answered a variety of questions and shared information on the Diocesan Vision and the Year of Reconciliation which, he said, need to be celebrated in our homes, churches and communities.

Assisted by funding from the Women’s Guild, **Pat Sparks** has gifted to St. Mary’s a stunning Altar Set consisting of an Altar Frontal, Burse, Veil and Lectern Hanging, designed and made by her. The theme of wheat and grapes reflects the place of our church in Saanichton’s rural community. What a wonderful gift from Pat! The Set was dedicated and used for the first time on February 19th.

Good Samaritans

Remember those awful wind storms we had in December and early January? They left a trail of branches, greenery, pine cones and needles everywhere, scattered on the grass, streets, sidewalks and parking lot. Enter three parishioners, **John Beresford, Carl Schwazer** and **Roy Pullan**. They cleaned up the grounds of St. Mary’s, resulting in a cleaner, safer place that looked so much better. What a team. What an effort. Thanks, guys! Your volunteer effort is very much appreciated.

And here’s another heart-warming story related to those wind storms: the people who live in the house with the white picket fence across the street from the church, emailed St. Mary’s with this:

“Good Morning; I am the neighbour that is located in the big old white house and white fence on the corner of Cultra. We noticed last night during the wind storm that there was loud crashing coming from your property during the night and it lasted for many hours. It looked like it was a section of the soffit on the steeple that had come loose and was crashing around in the storm. This morning there was no wind when I went to work so there was no sound coming from the property. By the time someone arrived at the office you may not have known that there was some damage/potential issues to the building from the storm.

Just wanted to let you know,

Cheers, Andrea and Jeff”

Talk about Neighbourhood Watch! The damage has been looked into and repairs are forthcoming.

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Around the Parish *continued*



Derek and Betty at a community dinner in Fort Nelson (top) and at Lotus Pond, Kaohsiung, Taiwan (above)

Travelers

Betty and Derek Osman have managed two trips to visit family, each at opposite ends of the globe! Before Christmas they assisted in their daughter's family move to Fort Nelson and spent the holidays with them. Then, in January, they flew to Taiwan to visit their other daughter and grandchildren! Wow! They sure get around. Let's hope that Derek recovers from jet leg in time for the AGM. And speaking of crossing the Globe, **Susan Alexander** spent her vacation in Australia and New Zealand. And **Nancy Choat** has managed to fly south to visit a long-time friend in Tucson, Arizona. Nice to have friends in warm places. Nancy and her friend have known each other for 75 years! They grew up together, living beside each other and graduating as nurses from the the Hospital for Sick Children.

Cathy and Bob Quicke spent a weekend in Vancouver in January, attending MissionFest. This annual conference draws hundreds of ministries from across the country and is designed to help people find out more about mission work in Canada and overseas. Bob was presented with an Award for twenty years of volunteer service to the event. Congratulations, Bob!

New Parishioners

A very warm welcome to new parishioners who have joined St. Mary's congregation: **Madeline Wilkerson, Geri Hinton, Alison** and **David Stewart**. And David's joined the choir, singing tenor! Welcome to each and every one of you!

Birthday Celebrations: **Lynn Fallan**, St. Mary's foodie/thrift sale coordinator recently qualified for the Canada Pension and **Brett Cane** has entered the seventh decade—two reasons to celebrate after the January 28th service. Congratulations to both of you! Then, Brett went over to St. Stephen's where the celebrations continued with not only a cake (or was it two cakes?) but also lunch! What a lucky guy!

News from St. Stephen's



A Community Valentines Dance was held on February 11th at St. Stephen's Church Hall. This no charge event featured our very own live Band, 12 O'clock Rock, led by **Greg Robinson**, which played great dance music from the 50s. Desserts and beverages were provided for the parishioners, their friends and neighbours who attended this event. Prior to this event, Greg and his fellow players had performed at St. Elizabeth's church for a social Philippine event.

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Around the Parish *continued*

Parishioners said goodbye to **Tracy Stubbs** as church administrator, in January. We wish her well.

Sharon Butler lost her mother. Our sincere condolences to Sharon and her family.

Brad Watson and **Kim Campbell** have announced their engagement, much to the delight of everyone in the Parish. Plans are for a July wedding to be held at St. Stephen's. Congratulations to you both!



How many parishioners know about **Eva Townsend's** community involvement? We all know about her famous muffins which parishioners enjoy at various functions. But how many know about her contribution to a local school's breakfast program for those who come to school without having had breakfast? A couple of years ago, Rob took a tray of Eva's muffins to Bayside Middle School and suggested to the Principal they be shared by students participating in the school's breakfast program. If you can believe it, Rob would pick up the muffins from Eva and drop them off each week. Now, the school has arranged to have someone pick up a tray of muffins from Eva's home every Tuesday! How great is that? Kudos to Eva and to Rob for starting and continuing with this wonderful donation/outreach to the community.

STOP PRESS!

The February 18 Times Colonist had our very own hero, **Mark Perkins**, on the front page, receiving an award from the RCMP's Sidney/North Saanich Detachment for pulling a man from a burning car. These old firefighters never really retire!

From the Editors

Pictures! As you see, this issue has all sorts of pictures. So a special thank you to all those who contributed photos. Special thanks to John Beresford for not only the twelve days of Christmas display and, together with Nancy and Len, photos for Around the Parish, but also tracking down suitable images for the book and music reviews and things like muffins. Thanks to Don Wilson for his Christmas Pageant pictures and also photos of him and Susie for the Parishioner Profile. What a good looking couple! Thanks also to David Scarth and Brett Cane who provided photos to accompany their articles. It all adds to the tone of the Newsletter.

*The Editors,
John Smith and Sandra Scarth*

Anglican Parish of Central Saanich Directory

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

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People's Wardens: St. Mary's
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Derek Osman, derek.osman@shaw.ca
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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
