

News and Views

OF THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH OF

St. Philip by the Sea

Thanksgiving Issue 2017

Volume 7 issue 3

Events for Autumn

Autumn Garage Sale

Sept 29th & 30th

Blessing of Animals.

Oct -1st ~4pm

Harvest thanksgiving

Oct -8th

Remembrance Day

Nov 5th



When people have asked me how the summer has gone, my instant response is to say that it has been rather quiet. And this is true, in a way. Yet when I stop to reflect, it has been a summer filled with all sorts of incident.

Looking at the past few months just from a church perspective, we have had the sad experience of seeing three much loved members of the church die in quick succession; Gwen Anders, Ken May and Margaret Foggett. All three have been members at St Philip's for many years and each, in their own way, have played very significant parts in how the church has developed over the years. They will all be deeply missed.

Announcing a death on a Sunday morning is something all ministers hate to do. To have to do this on three Sundays in a row was incredibly hard.

Over the same period, we have also seen a couple of significant changes in our church "equipment". First of all, we have seen our old printer and copier replaced with a shiny new one. The old copier was increasingly unreliable and so it was wonderful to find that leasing a new copier would actually save us money and enable us to print the weekly bulletins ourselves, with a minimum of bother. Whilst we are very appreciative of the service provided to us over the past few years by Print 3, it makes life a lot easier to be in total control of all our printing.

Secondly, we have upgraded our sound system, thanks to a generous donation from Jill Stedman in memory of her husband John. Parts of the old system (especially the microphones) were beginning to become unreliable and so it has made life a lot easier to have new mikes and a new mixer. The quality of the sound is much better and operating the sound system remains extremely simple. We chose to use the services of a company, based in Victoria, who have done a lot of work in churches all over the island and who came with great recommendations. I hope that you will hear the difference in the sound quality on Sundays. I am certainly glad that I can have much more confidence that the microphones will actually work!

Another part of the donation from Jill Stedman covered the cost of purchasing new candles for the altar and a new lectern Bible. Both of these, in their own ways, have enhanced the worship in St Philip's and so I am particularly grateful to Jill for her generosity and enthusiasm for these purchases.

Looking beyond the church, this summer has been eventful in other ways. There have been the terrible wildfires on the mainland, which have caused so much devastation. For a couple of weeks, we found that the smoke in the air turned the sky a strange colour and made the sun very hazy. I think that we were all relieved when it finally rained a little and the air was cleared. It was nice to be able to see the mountains on the mainland again.

Whilst the precise causes of these fires is still being investigated, a contributory factor is undoubtedly the phenomenon we call "climate change". Our weather patterns are changing and this is having an impact in all sorts of areas. Just as I write this, I am reading about Hurricane Harvey in Texas and about how the rising sea-levels have meant that this storm has had a far greater impact than it would have 10 years ago. Almost every day, it is possible to find a new item in the news that reflects some aspect of the changes happening to our weather systems and environment. It is a sobering reminder of the impact that humanity has had upon the world and that we need to change our ways quickly. As Christians, we believe that God is the Creator of everything and so all that exists reflects the nature of the one who made it. We cannot be negligent in our care for this beautiful world that is our home.

So – has it been a quiet summer? Perhaps not so quiet after all.

Kindness is such a strange thing-



so often it's the little things that we do that make such a difference to people. Sometimes it's something we do that we take totally for granted, and don't even think about, but it can change someone's day if it's not something they are used to, or expecting. Smiling at a stranger, who might either think you are slightly mad, or might be feeling lonely, and invisible and be given a boost just by the fact that someone noticed they were there and smiled at them. Remarking to someone that you love their hair/shoes/ coat- how many times have you felt worried and lacking in confidence about your appearance, only to have a random compliment from a woman you've never met, someone who doesn't HAVE to tell you that you are looking good, make your day and give you a shot of confidence?

The best thing about kindness is that it takes almost nothing from us to be kind, and gives so much more back to us. Kind gestures are rarely grand or important, they are small and often seemingly insignificant, but to someone, they may be life

changing. Or they might just make someone smile, but doing something kind, however small, and however little a difference it might seem to make to someone else, will inevitably make you feel better too, happier, and nicer, and like you have made the world a better place, even if only by an infinitesimal amount, for a fraction of a second. And kindness breeds kindness- when someone is kind to you, don't you feel more inclined to pass that kindness on, and do something nice for someone else?

And the other, wonderful, marvellous thing about kindness is that you never know where it might lead. You might never find out where your gesture led, and maybe it might do nothing but brighten someone's day, but all our actions in this life have consequences of one sort or another, and sometimes one person's small actions can have knock on effects that lead to amazing things. At the very least, no one ever said "You know what's wrong with this world? Too much kindness, that's the problem. Too many people being nice and thinking of each other and doing thoughtful things. We need less of that!"

So, with all that in mind, I am thrilled to be supporting 52Lives and HarperCollins #KindnessMatters campaign, to encourage everyone to do something kind for someone else, and so I donated extra food at my supermarket foodbank drop-off today.

If you'd like to take part in the campaign too, and help spread a little kindness around, just do something kind, and post what you did on Facebook, or Twitter or Instagram, using the #kindnessmatters hashtag and the branded graphic below, and encourage your friends to take part too, and keep the kindness growing! You can download the graphic here: www.kindness-matters.co.uk/#BOK

Many thanks to <http://peterandjaneblog.blogspot.co.uk/> for allowing me to share this story
Yvonne



PWRDF is a member of
actalliance

Many of you will have heard me say that PWRDF does not "parachute" people into an area but rather sends support to those who are already on the ground. PWRDF has pledged a rapid response grant of \$25,000 to ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) to be given to Lutheran World Federation, Nepal Program, in the wake of devastating floods in that country. The Lutheran World Federation has been working in that area since 1984 and can assess the needs and respond to the disaster from that perspective.

Similarly, to address the famine in South Sudan, PWRDF has made a \$20,000 contribution to ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) Canada who were already working in the area through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. By donating through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank the Government of Canada matches our donation 4:1. This is really "value added" making our donation \$100,000. These partnerships make the money that you donate to PWRDF do even more good!

On October 22nd at Brechin United Church in Nanaimo Ron Klusmeier is holding a concert "Common Vision, Singing to End Hunger" on behalf of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Please consider attending this fun concert and to learn more about PWRDF go to PWRDF.org.

Maureen

The farmers pause for a photo after the harvest (Canadian Foodgrains Bank)



A few local farmers got together last week to harvest 110 acres of wheat, before donating all the money to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

"The Chip-In project was started three years ago," said Chip-In Glenlea farmer Will Bergmann. Chip-In stands for Creating Hope in People in Need.

It was started when the University of Manitoba decided to rent out some of the farm land they had. Someone at the University

said they should make some of the land designated as a Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) project.

"We said absolutely and got together with five other farms," Bergmann said.

Every year, the farmers plant a crop and donate the money made from it directly to CFGB. The only money that comes off the cheque is to pay off the land. The farms alternate different tasks such as planting, spraying and fertilizing, and in fall, all farms come together and harvest.

They have also joined with Glenlea and the surrounding community to make it happen.

"It's been a really cool opportunity to not only provide food for those who are in need but it also brings the community together," Bergmann said.

In fact, the community has worked so closely with the Chip-In project that the farmers haven't had to pay for anything except their equipment and their time.

"We are going out into the community and talking about it," Bergmann said. "Everything was donated by different local businesses [because of that]."

Even when there is nothing left to donate, businesses in the area are still finding ways to help.

"We took it directly to G3 elevator and they gave us a premium on the grain that came in," Bergmann said. "It was like their donation."

And it was a huge donation this year because the harvest was good this year. Very good.

"I've never seen a wheat harvest that high in my life," Bergmann exclaimed.

He says the group finished with 87.5 bushels of wheat per acre. For those who don't farm, Bergmann said if you get 60, you're doing good.

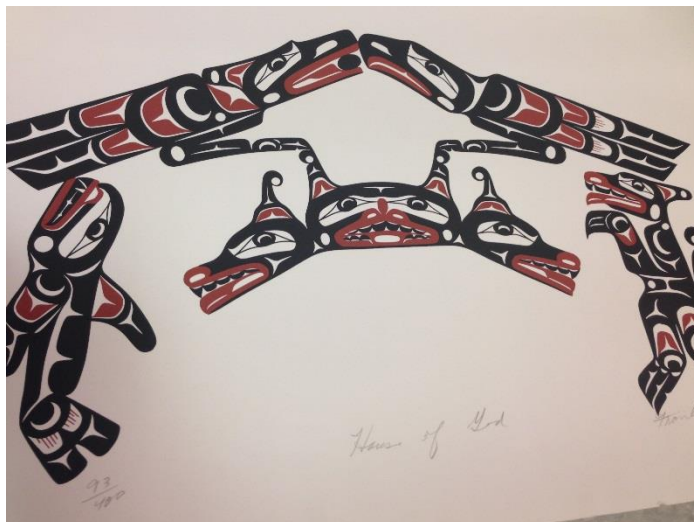
The group just signed a three-year contract to continue growing on the land and donating the money to the CFGB. Bergmann doesn't seem eager to stop donating his own time and money to this.

"I love feeding people, I feel very fulfilled in my calling to feed people," Bergmann said. "Everyone needs to eat, everyone has the right to eat, and we just want to be a part of that."

After an almost perfect harvest, Bergmann is looking forward to continuing his work with the other farms and with the CFGB.



This beautiful piece of native art was given to Tony Davis in thanks for his participation as a presenter at the 2017 We Together Diocesan Conference



**Happy Anniversary
to Barb and Joe Samarin**



'Here is the pix of Joe and me on our wedding day 60 years ago. My dress was designed and made by Lottie. Vollmers a Nanaimo seamstress well known for the bridal gowns she made for local brides.' The dress has been donated to the Nanaimo Museum. Barbara and Joe enjoyed a cruise to Alaska with members of their family in August to celebrate the event



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Sunday 1st October

4:00pm



Journeying together in God's love

FALL GARAGE SALE

Friday Sept 29th 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Saturday Sept 30th 9:00 am to 11:30am



Open For Donations

Wed 27th 9:30 am - 7:00 pm

Thurs 28th 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

We are very sorry but we are unable to accept:

**Mattresses, Bed Pillows, TV's,
Suitcases or Computers.**

We do accept gently used clothing and bedding.

We have a truck to help with pickup of donations.

All help is greatly appreciated. If you could spare 1 or 2 hrs. Just come in and we'll put you to work. Sorting, folding, hanging cloths, and we could use a couple of men to help price tools etc.

Email Catherine at donaldcembella@yahoo.ca or call 250 390-4942. for more info and read below....

Garage Sale Set Up

Wed morning 9:00 am various tasks, as in removing chairs, setting up table etc.

Wed & Thurs...9:30 help to sort sale items. We can use any help you are able to give. Bring a can of soup, and stay a little longer !!

We will accept items for sale from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm. and Thurs 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

We will need extra help around 11:00 am on Saturday to pack up left over items and set up the church hall.

As you can see we will have a very busy 4 day. This is a very big fundraiser for our church with money going to help our Outreach program.

The Ladies Group are organizing this project but without all our Parishioners we will not be able to make this all happen. Any help on any of the days is appreciated. If you have any questions. Please e-mail Catherine at donaldcembella@yahoo.ca or call 250-390-4942 to let her know

I want to express my thanks to everyone for their faithful prayers before, during and after my surgery. I depended on them daily, especially the day of my surgery. They helped allay my fears and brought a sense of peace.



Your prayers were so important in helping me stay positive and work towards a full recovery. The surgery went very well and I received excellent care at the hospital.

I appreciate the thoughtful cards, calls, visits, delicious food and all the wishes that came my way. I am grateful for all the folks who encouraged and cheered me on. The love and support meant the world to me. It is what being in community is all about.

Along the way I learned some lessons about patience, how to ask for help, and most importantly I learned empathy for people with physical challenges. Valuable lessons indeed to take into my elder years.

I am enjoying my renewed energy and ability to walk, swim, and move around with very little, or no discomfort. The miracles of modern medicine are quite remarkable.

We should never doubt that the power of prayer is miraculous and life giving. Thank you all!

Blessings *Gillian*

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH AND BAKE SALE



Date: December 2nd

Time: 10am–2pm

This year we are trying something a bit different and will be having a brunch rather than a tea. We will need volunteers for setting up and preparing the food on Friday 1st at 10am plus help on the day from 9.30am. There will be a sign-up sheet in the hall or email Jude at jude.chillman@shaw.ca (cell: 250-713-7024).

We will need donations of: baked goodies, candy or any other treats you can make, plus Christmas-related items in good condition or gifts. Please drop them off on the Friday.

If you need to hand them over earlier than this please get in touch with Jude



SWEET MEMORIES OF A VERY DEAR FRIEND



FAVOURITE HYMNS



A short while ago we were asked to select our favourite hymns which would then be incorporated into a Sunday Service. A lovely idea and a shame that we couldn't sing for an hour as there were too many to use! I have so many choices but hadn't put one forward (probably as it passed me by) but also, I felt that the one which had inspired me most had been spoilt by over use and commercialism, and no longer felt like a hymn. I even

wondered if it was a case of familiarity breeding contempt.

I am referring to the stirring show Lord of the Dance, which was brought to the public by Michael Flatley's iconic stage production. Yes, it was wonderful, yes it has worldwide acclaim, yes it brought this wonderful piece of music to the masses but suddenly it was something to dance to and not sing joyously to our Lord of the Dance- Jesus

Sidney Carter wrote the lyrics in 1963 He later stated, *"I did not think the churches would like it at all. I thought many people would find it pretty far flown, probably heretical and anyway dubiously Christian. But in fact, people did sing it and, unknown to me, it touched a chord ... Anyway, it's the sort of Christianity I believe in..... I see Christ as the incarnation of the piper who is calling us. He dances that shape and pattern which is at the heart of our reality. By Christ I mean not only Jesus; in other times and places, other planets, there may be other Lords of the Dance. But Jesus is the one I know of first and best. I sing of the dancing pattern in the life and words of Jesus"*

In 1967, when I was 14, I went with a youth group from our Church to join hundreds of others for an inspirational day at our beautiful Norwich Cathedral.

The event took place in the grassed cloister garth and the sun shone all day. I don't remember much except this was the first time I heard Lord of the Dance. It was introduced and taught to us and to hear all my contemporaries belt out this rousing song was a totally moving experience.



It was nothing like the C of E hymns I had grown up with and so I never expected it to appear in any Church Service. I have been so thrilled to see it in our hymn books now as I join the congregation in the singing.

However, no rendition has ever inspired me as much as on that delightful, sunny day at Norwich Cathedral.

Julie Baldock

Footnote: I have long since forgiven Mr. Flatley for using "my" song

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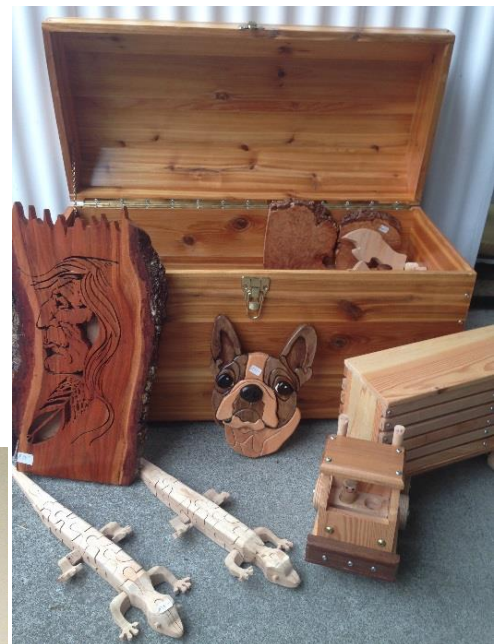
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250-619-2257 or



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