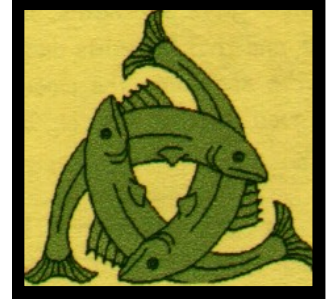


THE TRINITY NEWS



HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH SOOKE, BC

People, caring for people, in the light of Christian love.

Vol. 2 No. 1

Our Clergy's Thoughts and Reflections

On the first Sunday after Christmas, many churches celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. How appropriate, that a few days after the birth of Jesus, we remember the Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus. As each family, including yours and ours, has both common and unique characteristics, so too did the Holy Family. "Family" names a singular combination of elements which are both common and unique.

Common biological characteristics, our surname and blood relationships, all refer to that which we share with a few other persons. Parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts/uncles, cousins are the obvious examples. Then there are also legal relationships through marriage and adoption.

The basis for that which makes each of us uniquely who we are is our DNA. Not only are we unrepeatable biologically but also relationally – while we may be the child of the same man and woman, our birth order is unique. When/where/under which circumstances we were born can have happened only once. (Even "identical" twins are not "identical!")

Our names denote a blending of our commonality (surname) and uniqueness (given name). We are a combination of what we receive biologically and who we become through our efforts.

The Holy Family was far from the norm of a typical

"family." Luke tells us that Mary was his mother but not in our understanding. The Bible assumes that the whole new person is contained in the male seed. The mother contributed nothing to the new person; she was similar to the fertile

ground which receives the seed which will germinate there. We now know that the mother contributes biologically 50% to the new person. Matthew tells us that Joseph was not the biological father of Jesus. Gabriel announced to Mary that "the power of the Most High will cast a shadow over you ... and the child will be called the Son of God."

The influence of God upon Mary and Joseph and their acceptance of

that grace made their relationship holy and it created a family. Respectful, sincere, genuine relationships between persons seems to be of the essence in our relationships today. In Canada being born from a regal or noble lineage is no longer as important as it once was. Today acceptance, nurture and encouragement trump biological considerations.

Our parish family, built exclusively on faith relationships, seeks to affirm all families. Come often in the new year to receive and give the love, service and contribution that only your family can make.



Above carving a gift to Holy Trinity Anglican Church from the Drs. Roy and Mary Brown

The story of the wise men

.. may be found in Matthew 2:1-16. Their visit is commemorated on the feast of the Epiphany (Twelfth Night or January 6). On January 6th, four great events in the life of Christ are celebrated - the visit of the Magi (Epiphany); Jesus' baptism in the river Jordan by John (Theophany); the miracle at the Wedding Feast where Jesus changed water into wine (Bethany); and the feeding of the 5,000 men along with their wives and children with five loaves of bread (Phagiphany).

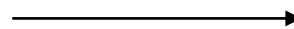
The Greek word interpreted as "wise men" is "Magoi." It has several possible meanings. One is "deceiver." They were magoi because they deceived Herod by returning to their homes by a different route rather than betraying the Child to him. Another meaning for Magoi is magicians or sorcerers. The "science" of the Medes, Persians, and other Gentile nations of that time included astrology, divination, and enchantment. Chrysostom speculates that Jesus chose to reveal His birth to such men in order to give future sinners the hope of divine welcome and forgiveness. Astrology, sorcery, and divination are forbidden in the Bible. The LORD warns that unavoidable and unpredictable disasters will fall upon those who rely on such practices (Deut 18:12-15; 18:18; Is 47:11-24). "Magoi" can also refer to those who interpret dreams and offer wise counsel. Daniel was called the chief of Nebuchadnezzar's magicians because he interpreted the dream messages God sent to this king (Dan 2: 4).

By the 6th century, in the popular imagination the wise men were referred to as kings. This assumption is linked to such prophecies as: "The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising" (Is 60:3); "Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship.." (Is 49:7); and "The kings of Tarshish and of the isles will bring presents; the kings of Sheba and Seba will offer gifts" (Ps 72:10). The number of kings varied - usually being two, four, or twelve. Eventually, the number three was settled upon because of the three gifts they bore and the twelve wise men became known as

the "Three Kings of the Orient" (Mt. 2:11). They are usually referred to as Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. Furthermore, some people believe each of the wise men came from one of the three continents that were known of at the time of Jesus' birth.

Caspar (a.k.a. Gaspar) is alternatively portrayed as the oldest and the youngest of the wise men. He is believed to have come from Europe or Tarsus bearing the gift of myrrh. Myrrh is the fragrant gum of certain plants which grew in Arabia and India. It was imported by the Israelites for use in expensive perfumes and incense (Ps 45:8; Prov. 7:17; Esth 2:12; Ex 30:23). It also had medicinal uses. Because it was believed to strengthen a child and get rid of worms, the gift of myrrh signifies Christ's mortality, and His roles of the Suffering Savior and the Great Physician. It both a Christmas and a Passion symbol. At Golgotha, before He was crucified, Jesus was offered "wine mingled with myrrh to drink, but He did not take it" (Mk 15:23). This drink was believed to lessen the pains of crucifixion. Myrrh was also used in the burial practices of the Jews. Nicodemus supplied a mixture of myrrh and aloes to wrap Christ's body when it was placed in the tomb (Jn 19:39-40; Mk 15:23). The wise men are said to have received the gifts of truth and humility in exchange for their myrrh.

Melchior (a.k.a. "the white one") came from Asia or Arabia. He is usually portrayed as an old man. His gift of gold is believed to have financed the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. It represents the immortality, purity, divinity, and kingship of Jesus Christ and His titles of the Light of the World, the Morning Star, and the Dayspring. Gold was used in both the temple worship (Ex 25:11; 28:2-30;



Wise men continued...

1 Ki 6:14-35) and in the worship of idols (Ex 32:2-4; 1 Ki 12-28). The wise men received spiritual wealth and the gift of Charity for their gold.

Balthasar came from Ethiopia or Saba. He is often portrayed as a black man of about forty years of age. He brought the gift of frankincense. Frankincense is the dried resin of Boswellia trees which, at the time of Christ, grew in Arabia, India, and Ethiopia. It was used in perfumes (Song 3:6; 4:6) and incense for the temple worship (Ex 30:9, 34-38; Lev 2:1-12; 6:14-28; 24:7). Because incense represents the prayers of the faithful rising towards Heaven, the gift of frankincense symbolizes sacrifice, Christ's divine nature, and His titles of High Priest and Son of God. The wise men were given the gift of Faith for their frankincense.

THEN, this was the heading in a London newspaper in February 2004!

The Three Wise Men who followed the star to Bethlehem bearing gifts for the baby Jesus may not have been all that wise -- or even men.

Read the article here:

“The traditional infant nativity play scene could be in for a drastic rewrite after the Church of England indulged in some academic gender-swapping over the three Magi at its General Synod in London this week.

A committee revising the latest prayer book said the term "Magi" was a transliteration of the name used by officials at the Persian court, and that they could well have been women. "Magi is a word which discloses nothing about numbers, wisdom or gender embodied in the term," a Synod spokesman said on Tuesday after the revision was agreed by the Church of England's parliament which meets twice a year.

In the authorized 17th century King James bible used by up to 70 million worshippers in Anglican churches around the world, the gift-bearing visitors are referred to as "The Three Wise Men."

Now they are to be called just "Magi" and no longer gender-specific in the Anglican prayer book.

"Changing 'Wise Men' to 'Magi' seems to be an entirely sensible move," the Synod spokesman said.

The revision committee said: "While it seems very unlikely that these Persian court officials were female, the possibility that one or more of the Magi were female cannot be excluded completely."

There is no theological dispute about the gifts they brought -- gold, frankincense and myrrh -- but the prayer has been changed to use the word Magi on the grounds that "the visitors were not necessarily wise and not necessarily men."

Now, on January 6th 2009 as we celebrate Epiphany, when the Wise Men came to visit Jesus, whom do we find are the wise men and women in our life? To whom do we listen? To whom do we refer to or read about? How can their example inspire us? Equally important, how is our living inspiring others? All this is important for us to

ponder as we begin anew and venture forth into the New Year.



WE BEGIN AGAIN... Once again we find ourselves starting

over. It seems we are always beginning again as something within us or around us changes; again we find it is time to move on.

Rarely do we find that **CHANGE** is easy. We read in scripture that God makes all things new -that the former things have passed away. How true. Be it a favorite place to visit, a long time friendship or a lifestyle we thought we'd always have, these things either change or slip away altogether. Let us prepare ourselves for this new year by asking God to be with us all in our moments of change—our turning points. May we accept them with patience and a heart filled with peace ~

Nancy+

SPECIAL 2009 CALENDAR DEPICTS RESULTS OF CHURCH FIRE AND THE REBUILD



Thanks to Connie Isherwood's inspiration a wonderful calendar memento has been created! This was a joint effort which brought together wonderful photographs depicting the original Holy Trinity Anglican Church as it looked when it was first built, through the devastating fire and then the rebuild. Involved in this team effort were Deborah Prior, whose photos of the new constructions gives great documentation of the construction progress. Then Bill Kerruish researched the photo archives at the Sooke Mirror and discovered the photos of the fire as it was being fought by the Sooke Fire Department. Nancy+ retrieved the photos from the computer and processed them for Charles Isherwood who then copied them in color for the calendar. Charles also took the congregation and church building photo to complete the project. Connie brought all of this together in its final form and these calendars are now available for purchase.

PARISH BREAKFAST!

On the 18th of this month Martin and Suzanne Smith will cook and serve breakfast from 9 am—9: 45 am! This will consist of French Toast with bacon, sausage, coffee and tea. Requested donation: \$4.00 and half of this will go to benefit Vital Vittles.

FINANCES AND UPDATES!



➔

Treasurer Elizabeth Tanner and Ian Seidel, Envelope Secretary, count the Sunday offerings after each service

At the November 2008 meeting, your Parish Council came to a decision on financing the build out of the basement of the rectory.

We will neither exceed our line of credit with the diocese nor apply for a bank loan. We will not ask you for a gift nor for a grant.

Instead, we want to borrow \$15,000 at 5 % per annum to be repaid within 18 months. We anticipate a monthly rental income of about \$1,000 a month. If you would like to participate, please contact any council member or our treasurer: Elizabeth Tanner at 250 642 7086.

2009 BEGINS...

Let us pray that it be a *New Year* for peace and happiness. A *New Year* for understanding and renewed relationships. A *New Year* for living *Life in Abundance* that Jesus wished for each of us! This is a *New Year* ...with new opportunities so make each day count!

BETHLEHEM WALK at Baptist Church...Three wonderful evenings and Holy Trinity had the best Bakers, Hawkers and Potter in all of Bethlehem!



That's Fr. Alex? Really?



Shirley Sutherland and Terri Muir

Joan Titus

ST. NICHOLAS, BISHOP OF MYRA, VISITS HOLY TRINITY!

On December 7th, Art Beaumont came as St. Nicholas in a surprise visit to Holy Trinity. As you can see the adults had as much fun as the children. Art and Dolly Beaumont's daughter and family came for the occasion. Thank you, Art!



LESSONS AND CAROLS: The Christmas Story in Word and Song.



Even with a wintery day, snow and all a wonderful evening of Lessons and Carols were presented on the Third Sunday of Advent. Many thanks to all our participants: Musicians, especially the singing delight of Grace~Notes, our youngest and newest piano player, Jocelyn Gauthier our Narrators, David Gauthier and Mary Brown along with nine readers.

We all enjoyed a wonderful reception thanks to the Mothers' Union of Holy Trinity.

Our worship space has reflected the Season of Advent in a most beautiful way this year. Many thanks to Mary Holland, Art and Environment Chair and all others who made that possible.

~ Nancy+

As Christmas approaches...

Vital Vittles Team greets John Horgan, MLA at the Christmas dinner; serving over 100 guests!



The Special Needs children enjoy choosing warm and practical gifts!



Tables were set with a holiday flair.



On the Last Sunday of Advent...children add "Cloth to the Cradle" Eighteen people had a prayer service while many others including Alex+ and Nancy+ were snowed in and couldn't get there. Alex+ did send his "homily" in via email!



Santa Leo offers gift to a Dad and child.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JANUARY

2 Sat 2 pm Memorial Service for Allan Chamberlain
(Memorial for Dick Barwis TBA)

18 Sunday 9—9:45 am Parish Breakfast

Every Monday: Friends in the Garden—9:30-11:30am

Every Friday: Vital Vittles — 11:30-1:00pm



Snow comes to Sooke before 2009!

NOTE: Annual Parish Meeting - after the 10 am Service, Feb. 22

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CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

3 Janice Knutson

19 Connie Isherwood

24 Alex Nagy

26 Beth Van Ek

