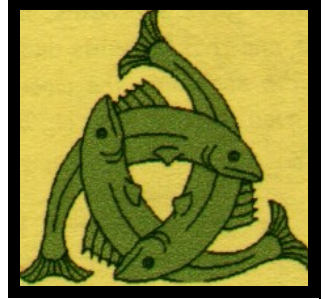


THE TRINITY NEWS



HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH SOOKE, BC

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

Vol. 2 No. 10

Our Clergy's Thoughts and Reflections

MOMENT TO MOMENT...AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

In his homily a few weeks ago at Holy Trinity, The Rev. Dr. Gary Nicolosi presented Stewardship as an ever present attitude that should impact every aspect of our lives rather than an annual moment which affects my check book only. (See the summary of his workshop on page 3.) This conviction stems from my relationship with God and the response which this elicits from me. God has blessed me with life, talents, opportunities and how I live, how I care for, protect and develop all that I have shows what I actually believe. It's not what I say, it's what I do – motivated by love.

Similarly, what would happen if we were to gradually make out of Thanksgiving DAY a moment to moment attitude of gratitude which would include every day? We would become unrecognizable! Think of it: people who would begin not with the material but with the spiritual; not with what they don't yet have but with realizing all the different ways we are truly blessed. After all, isn't the essence of life really about relationships? If we have a relationship with God, with a soul mate, with others who can count on us as we can count on them, aren't we truly blessed? Granted, Sooke and the Island on which we live, are truly spectacularly beautiful: the air, the water, sunrises and sunsets: clean, pristine and

beautiful: beautiful enough to take our breath away. But is there more than my health, my work, my hobbies, my friends? Yes, each of these are reasons for being grateful, but is there more? Yes, there is the ability to dream, to remember, to plan, to read, to organize, to empathize, to volunteer.

Through the rethinking of stewardship and thanksgiving, how am I making a difference in my family, in my neighborhood, in my parish? How closely do my actions mirror my beliefs?

Sincerely, Alex+/Nancy+



Sooke Basin

Deacon Wally

Continuing with Iona experience:

Service

I started with a question “what is different about Christian service?” On the road to an answer – a covenant relationship with people and the rest of creation – I discovered that the question itself is dangerously sinful. Are you interested why?

First the answer to the question. A covenant is a relationship that is promised ‘for better or worse, for richer or poorer’ and kept. Christian service is action that honours my covenant with other people and creation. When I reach out to another person’s needs, isolating my own needs from that encounter, I honour Christ in that person. When I ensure the webs of plants and animals are healthy into the future, I honour the immense complexity of God’s creation, and my inability to fully understand and ‘manage’ it.

Second, the sin of the question. Seeking unique aspects of thought and action for Christians presumably tries to put Christians in a winning competition with other people. If Christians and non-Christians walk and share on the same road, let’s celebrate that God has brought us together on this journey. We should honour our partners’ reasons and actions, and not rank their motivation against ours. The construction of the Tower of Babel stopped when the language of the builders went from one to many. The sin is pride, and maybe a few others!

We build with God, and with what we share with all our brothers and sisters.

Finally, why answer a sinful question? We build with God, and with what we share with all our brothers and sisters. That is our light to the world, and our covenant honoured. The covenant changes the question from ‘what is different about Christian service’ to ‘how can I (imperfectly) model Christ and serve?’

About that letter...

Our letter on Stewardship Sunday from Cy, Charles, and Elizabeth defined stewardship as “management of resources and talents to protect what we have and ensure it lasts into the future”. Is stewardship of the environment different in principle than stewardship of our church?

Stewardship takes personal responsibility for taking care of the property or affairs of other people. Stewardship is inclusive because it teaches us to take the same care for all things that we take for our own things. When we live in community (and who lives as a hermit?), stewardship enriches our relationships.

God, not we, created our wonderful world. We can destroy but do not own the birds, animals, and plants. Stewardship is perhaps even more powerful a concept with the environment as with our church. We could perhaps start a new church if the old one is destroyed. Who among us could recreate this world and the fantastic diversity of life? Who among us could recreate even a single life form, like the sea otters that are beginning to live again along our coastline, if we kill it off, as we almost did the sea otters for the value of their fur.

Stewardship of the environment demands our thoughtful care, not our money or our time. How easy to say! Hard to do! Necessary!!

~ Wally



YES, SHE IS!

Recently it was brought to this editor’s attention that Chris Cadman’s picture was not included with those of the other Parish Councils’ photos on the Church Bulletin Board! Well, that has been remedied! She is a member of Parish Council and her picture is now there!

~Nancy+

STEWARDSHIP: A STATE OF MIND...A LIFESTYLE



Recently at Holy Trinity, the Rev. Dr. Gary Nicolosi gave us some memorable things to consider about Stewardship. The following are a collection of those thoughts.

Stewardship boils down to this question: “How does what I believe harmonize with how I act?” In other words, if I say I believe in the teachings of Jesus, and believe that God is present in this world, how do I make visible that vision I have of God? The vision and knowledge I carry within? Because everything...EVERYTHING...I do after I say I believe either exemplifies that or denies that.

So the way we manage our “discipleship in Jesus,” both personal and parish resources, brings about or hinders God’s presence here on earth. Those resources are found in the time, talent, energy, money and relationships I hold and how I use them. Therefore, Stewardship has to do with more than the church, more than a percentage, more than money. Money, on the other hand, can and often is a source of conflict and tension; it can become an evil presence that controls us even while we think we are in control.

As a Church we exist for the sake of God’s presence here on earth. It is our mission to restore all of God’s people to unity with God and with one another in Christ. We do this by engaging all members of the church in the ministry of reconciliation. This is usually done outside the church; at home, work or wherever we find ourselves. We are constantly motivating ourselves and other members to use all their gifts for the sake of making God’s presence visible on earth.

WHAT IS OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE AS CHURCH ?

Since Stewardship grows out of our relationship with God, then the following is true: If I know in whom I believe then I must ask myself, “how should I live?” Because everything I do after I say “I believe” and all that I do with what God has entrusted to me - using the gifts God has given me to do the work I am called to be doing - equals nothing less than Stewardship. **God is the giver and we are the stewards!**

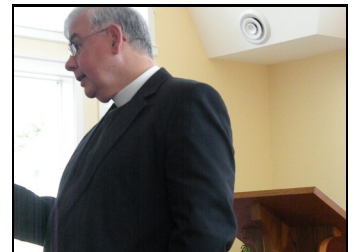
Did you know that Jesus talked more about money and possessions than any other topic, except bringing about the presence of God on earth? So when the question of money comes up the real question isn’t “how much can I spare” but “how much can I share?”

IT’S ALL ABOUT LOVE.

Love always wants to give more. That is the nature of Love and the nature of God. So don’t think: “What need is there that I should give to,” but rather, “I need to give, in order to respond to God’s love!”

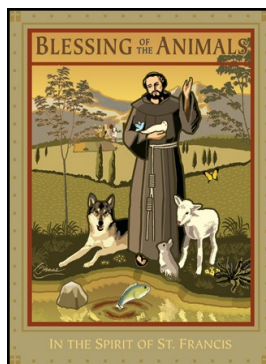
Bottom line:

My view of God informs my stewardship.



Some Helpful Distinctions

- **Stewardship** is our need to give; **fund-raising** is giving to a need.
- **Sacramental giving** is using our time, talent and treasure as symbols of our self-offering to God for the purpose of ministry. **Institutional giving** is paying our dues to the church for the purpose of membership.
- **Tithing** is intentional, disciplined giving of a specific percentage of our income to God and God's church. **Pledging** is giving an amount to meet an obligation
- **Proportionate** giving is percentage giving. To think in terms of percentage of income rather than **amount** is to be intentional, conscientious and deliberate about our giving.
- **Excellence** is giving God our best in everything we do; **mediocrity** is just getting by, going through the motions, doing what we need to do, but no more.
- **Hope** sees an opportunity in every challenge. **Despair** only sees obstacles and roadblocks. Hope has a positive attitude about the future. **Despair** faces the future with dread.



As autumn arrives, people around the world may notice a procession of animals, everything from dogs and cats to hamsters and even horses, are led to churches for a special ceremony called the Blessing of Animals. This custom is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for

all creatures.

Francis, whose feast day is October 4th, loved the larks flying about his hilltop town. He and his early brothers, staying in a small hovel, allowed themselves to be displaced by a donkey.

Francis wrote a Canticle of the Creatures, an ode to God's living things. "All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures." And there was testimony in the cause for St. Clare of Assisi's canonization that referred to her little cat! For single householders, a pet can be a true companion. Many people arrive home from work to find a furry friend overjoyed at their return. Many a senior has a lap filled with a purring fellow creature.

The bond between person and pet is like no other relationship, because the communication between fellow creatures is at its most basic. Eye-to-eye, a man and his dog, or a woman and her cat, are two creatures of love. Still, some people criticize the amount and cost of care given to pets. People are more important, they say. Care for poor people instead of poodles. And certainly our needy fellow humans should not be neglected. However, all of God's creatures are important. The love we give to a pet, and receive from a pet, can draw us more deeply into the larger circle of life, into the wonder of our common relationship to our Creator.

No wonder people enjoy the opportunity to take their animal companions to church for a special blessing since Church is the place where the bond of creation is celebrated. This year at Holy Trinity we won't be having a blessing of the animals, but if there were an interest, we could explore it for next year.

LAUGHTER, IS GOOD FOR YOU!

An embarrassed woman approached the Pastor after the Sunday service.



"I hope you didn't take it personally," she said, "when my husband walked out during your sermon."

"I did find it rather disconcerting," the Pastor replied.

"Well, just know it wasn't out of any disrespect to you," she insisted, "why, he has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."



PICTURE THIS...

The house is burning!

Smoke curling around everything you have ever owned, ever wanted, believed mattered. That picture of the person you love, the dog's favorite toy. The couch where you held each other when you cried. All on fire, blazing. The garbage that needed to be taken out yesterday goes up as easily as the receipt you saved from the first time the two of you had breakfast together.

Every object you love and treasure will soon be ashes. Now, given the chance, what's the one thing you would take out of the burning house?

French author and filmmaker Jean Cocteau, when asked this question, said, "I'd take the fire."

This statement is amazing; it's clean and sheer genius. But are we that smart? No, more than likely, removing the cause of the problem would never occur to us, because we'd be too busy grabbing for things. Just think about it. What would you save? Would it be a piece of art, a special book or something that means nothing to any one but you - and to you it means everything. Really, how could you choose? How could anyone possibly choose? With so much stuff, how does one remember which bits really matter? Does any of it really matter, lost in the confusion between need and desire?

But then, Cocteau was right. Every day, our houses are burning, and we are running back in, unable to escape, caught forever in the dead weight of our possessions. The only sane decision is, quite simply, to take out the fire. Yet, there is one more idea; it is simple, perfect, as elegant as removing the fire. And it is something each of us can put into practice: for everything new we bring into the house, we get rid of two old things. Soon, our house will become lighter and lighter.

Now, the next step is to apply this to our "interior life" and see if we need to be more mindful of what it is that we are keeping within ourselves. Is it worthy of us? Is it worthy of our God? ~ Nancy +

PRESS RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2009
Victoria, BC ~ The Very Rev. Dr. Logan McMenamie ~ Dean of Christ Church Anglican Cathedral in Victoria, BC calls for a response from the Canadian Government on the denial of visas to eleven invited Anglican guests from Myanmar. "In the past 13 years, over forty Anglicans from Myanmar have visited the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia as part of a church to church and cultural exchange. Fifteen men and women between the ages of 18 and 35 were on their way to Victoria for this year's exchange. Eleven of them have been turned back at the Canadian embassy in Bangkok because they were denied visas twice by Canadian officials there. Requests for intervention and assistance from Immigration Canada in Ottawa were also denied. This comes despite assurances by officials at Immigration Canada that the movement of these delegates would be monitored from Yangon to Canada.

The Anglican Church has been forced to incur substantial expenses for these 11 men and women from Myanmar. Exit visas were issued for all delegates by the Union of Myanmar.

I call on the Government of Canada to explain its actions, apologize to those affected and request compensation for costs incurred."

DESPITE THE ABOVE PRESS RELEASE the four visitors from Myanmar will be visiting Holy Trinity on October 9th. Their day will begin at the Sooke Museum. It will include a tour of the Lighthouse, a movie on Sooke Days, and one on the Flow Line, as well as a guided tour of the Museum. A tour of the Church and lunch at Vital Vittles follows and then they visit Dale Morrison's First and Second grade class at the Sooke Elementary School where the students will sing a song to them in Burmese and the visitors will return the favor! Deacon Dolly Beaumont and Shirley Siteman of St. Mary's in Metchosin, will be offering transportation and at the conclusion of the visit will take them to visit St. Mary's Heritage Church as well as have Tea and a tour of their new Church building and grounds. All in all it will be memorable!

WOW! DID YOU READ THE RECENT DIOCESAN POST?

There is an urban legend about the preacher who kept preaching the same sermon Sunday after Sunday, because, he explained, his people hadn't yet shown any sign of "getting it." The closest repetition in sermon giving we may have known would be the annual Stewardship Sermon, given in the Fall to support the annual pledge campaign. This would have been experienced in some other churches we've attended; however, that is not the case at Holy Trinity! But to couple "Stewardship" with the recent "Diocesan Post figures" regarding the decline in most of our parishes—well, it does give one pause. And we should recognize too, that there can be a sense of defeat given those numbers. The slide in membership and impact of a recession on both giving and investment returns, well, many congregations are heading toward a sense of non-viability.

At Holy Trinity, we are a people who strive to be very clear on **who we are** and **what our role is** in bringing about the awareness and teachings of Jesus Christ. We do it by our words and actions. Still, things are not normal, but they are okay. We are one of the few Churches growing, but are also with debt; still, our leaders are doing their best, and our faith community is alive. We have no need to blame or complain. These are just challenging times.

We are the Body of Christ, not a failing corner store. As such, tough times mean greater reliance on God's providence. Now is the time to celebrate grace, unexpected benefits, and mission and ministry being done in the face of adversity.

It is true, many churches won't survive another 12 months. It is incumbent on each of us to pitch in, not just to keep our building open, which is too small a goal, but to keep mission and ministry going and community alive. We will be called to collaborate. This means people working together toward common goals, pooling resources, sharing leadership, recognition and reward, as well as celebrating our abundance.

GOD IS TOUCHING LIVES

Again, having read the recent Diocesan Post, you know that many churches are struggling at this time. Big change has already come to our Island Churches and more change is on the horizon. The impact will be felt for many months and years to come. There will be some losses and some of those will never be recovered. **And yet the people of God are keeping on.** We are resilient because in our faith we have found strength.

This is an opportunity for all faith communities - like ours - to discover "what we are made of," as the saying goes. And that "stuff" won't focus on budgets that balance or light bills paid. That "stuff" will be:

Lives being transformed by the love and grace of God.

Holy Trinity can help in setting the pace. Now more than ever, our congregation needs each of us to lead with confidence and conviction.

HOLY TRINITY'S PARISH ANNUAL BREAKDOWN

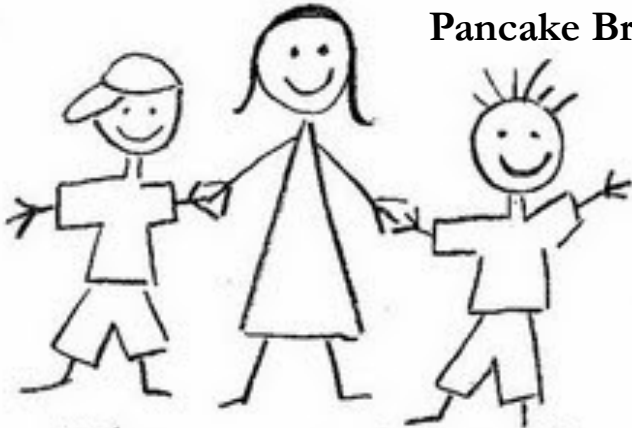
2008

Baptisms: 2 Marriages: 1 Funerals: 3 Youth/Children: 6 Average Sunday Attendance: 47

2009 To Date

Baptisms: 3 Marriages: 1 Funerals: 1 Youth/Children: 6 Average Sunday Attendance: 54

Pancake Breakfast and Sunday School Registration



**KIDS CARING AND SHARING!
AND RETURNING GOD'S GIFTS!!
MY TIME...TALENT...AND TREASURE**

Discussing the things children can do to recognize their gifts and share them year-long. Thanks to all those who helped cook and enjoy this great meal and conversation!



Humm, They look hungry out there!



We could color placemats for the guests at Vital Vittles!



Cy, our supervisor!



I've heard they could use more adult help on Sundays with the children.

We could bring canned goods to help people for their Thanksgiving!



So many good ideas... can you add any more?



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

OCTOBER

- 2 7:30 pm Plain Delight—A fund-raiser concert offered by Mary Brown
- 9 Guests from Myanmar at Vital Vittles
- 11 10:00 am Bishop James presides and preaches during annual visit
- 12 Thanksgiving Day: Office Closed
- 17 9:30 am Selkirk Regional Meeting at Church of the Advent, Colwood
- 24 5:30 pm Harvest Dinner Annual Fund-raiser at the Legion



HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!



Looking toward November:

- 7 7:30 pm Remembrance Day Ekoos Concert
- 8 10:00 am Remembrance Sunday
- 22 10:00 am Children's Sunday
- 29 10:00 am First Sunday of Advent

Trinity News Editorial Board: Alex+, Nancy+, Barry Baldwin, Tytti Smith

Production: Nancy +

Photos: Nancy +, Shirley Roodbol.

Holy Trinity Anglican Church

1962 Murray Road

P.O. Box 519

Sooke BC Canada V9Z 1H5

Office: 250-642-3172

Home: 250-664-6103

Alex's e-mail: nagyaf@yahoo.com

Nancy's e-mail: revsngn@yahoo.com

Website: holytrinitysookebc.org

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

- 14 Jocelyn Gauthier
- 24 Violet Cray
- 25 Marie Lott
- 27 Chrissy Ford
- 30 Shirley Roodbol



Anniversaries

- 10 Muriel and John Yates
- 26 Helen and Ernie Bacon

