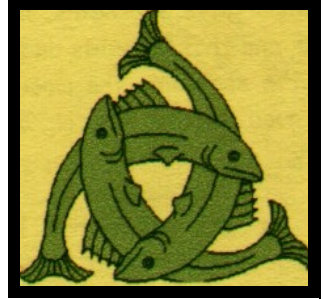


THE TRINITY NEWS



HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH SOOKE, BC

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

Vol. 2 No. 9

Our Clergy's Thoughts and Reflections

STEWARDSHIP:

TRANSITIONING TO A YEAR ROUND, ALL INCLUSIVE MENTALITY

Let's start at the very beginning: Genesis 1: 28-31a. After a logical, progressive creation account, the author concludes by God blessing the man and the women with four blessings. Our Hebrew teacher taught us that in a series of verbs, the most important is the last one. It is so important that it contains the key to understanding the previous verbs so much so that the previous could actually be omitted – they merely spell out what is implied. So, when God blessed them saying "be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it," (v. 28) paraphrased, God was saying: "through your ingenuity and intelligence, responsibly, bring creation to completion." As God was responsible for the beginning of creation, so humankind is given responsibility for its conclusion.

God trusted us so much that God entrusted the end of the story to us. By how we use the goods of this earth, we are showing how we are living our vocation as stewards: not owners who have the final say but as workers responsible for the good of the earth and for all it contains.

In most parishes, stewardship happens once a year for one purpose: by your telling us the projected amount of your monetary support, you help the Parish Council

in establishing for the congregation a budget for the coming year. I don't know how this came about but I do know that in its place, we are proposing an all inclusive (more than just money) year round (not just one day a year) approach.

We have invited our dear friend, The Rev. Dr. Gary Nicolosi, to preach during our worship on Sunday, September 13, at 10 am. We then asked Terri Muir to coordinate a parish pot luck. Finally we asked Gary to lead us in a two hour Stewardship workshop.

Come: worship, eat /drink, enjoy each other's company, learn together how God is calling us to build on the good of the past and to surpass it.

Sincerely,

Alex+/Nancy+

This is an opportunity for our faith community to discover "what we are made of," as the saying goes. And that "stuff" won't be budgets that balance or paid light bills.

That "stuff" will be lives being transformed by the love and grace of God.

Deacon Wally continues...

Diakonia 2009

Diakonia is the organization for Deacons of all Protestant denominations around the world. The Lutheran and the Methodist churches have the most members.

Every four years, Diakonia has a world conference, which happened this year in Atlanta from July 21 to 28 with the theme of ``Crossroads of Grace: Revive and Reconcile``. The conference was bilingual, in English and German.

There were 336 Deacons attending, with probably 60% from the United States and Germany. Nancy Ford, our Director of Deacons, and I attended from Vancouver Island, and there were about 10 others from Canada, two of them Anglican. I met Deacons from most countries of western Europe, Africa, India, Australia, New Zealand, a few from Latin America, and, to my surprise, two Coptic nuns from Egypt.

Many of the Lutheran churches in Germany have a tradition of people becoming Deacons in their early adult years, and serving as health care workers, especially as nurses and attendants. Both men and women serve, although probably 75% are women. They are paid at 'secular salaries' by hospitals and care homes, and can either live in a "mother house" or by themselves. In the past, all stayed single and lived in the 'mother house' but now some marry, or live alone.

The Deacons for Africa and Asia often dealt with (by our standards) horrific issues arising from AIDS and war, and from extreme poverty. God gives us the strength for what we are asked to do, and almost all had a deep serenity.

So many people, with such different ministries, and from such different cultures, shared the same spirit of Christian service. A phrase kept coming to me that captures my emotional reaction to the delegates: many bodies, one heart.

WHICH IS YOUR CHURCH?

Sometimes churches can fall into the trap of offering what they have decided people need rather than being of service or aiming to meet the needs of the congregation. Let me give an example.

Church A: Has a top down focus.

- Here the clergy preach what they want to preach with no thought to the preaching as an aid in helping people find answers.
- The music and hymns are selected with only the taste of the musicians in mind.
- The Church newsletters, bulletins and web sites function only as informational tools; informing people about what the congregation is doing, what the facilities look like and how to locate the buildings.
- The facilities are only for the parish ministries, like pastoral care and worship that serve the needs of the members.

Church B: Functions differently.

- Preachers respond to questions and needs of people.
- Musicians are aware of the abilities of congregation and choir and pick music accordingly.
- Music participation in the liturgy matters more than erudition in the selections.
- Publications, newsletters, website are focused on the visitor not on the institution. Delivers information in a timely, interesting and user friendly manner.
- People matter most; facilities go to the ministries that touch people's lives. It does not matter if they are new, long time or not a member at all.
- Web site has option for visitor to contact the clergy or others in order to be heard.

Our aim at Holy Trinity is to strive to meet people where they are and to show them the love of Christ through all we say and do.

Contact your Parish Leadership Tell your clergy and parish council members how you think we are doing. Let them hear your suggestions.

We're on the grow, and we want to know!

~ Nancy +

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

"Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, yours are the eyes through which he is go about doing good, yours are the hands with which he is to bless people now..." (St. Teresa of Avila)

What is it exactly, this Christian Stewardship?

It is a lifestyle, a life of total accountability and responsibility that acknowledges God as the Creator of all. We, the Stewards are the caretakers of all Gods' gifts and our gratitude for these many gifts is expressed in prayer, worship, offering and action. Stewardship is a way of life. It is a way of thanking God for all our blessings by returning to God a portion of the many gifts (everything we have, for instance, our time, talent and treasure) that we have been given. It involves the intentional, planned and proportionate giving of all we have.

Stewardship encourages everyone to participate in the task making God present in the here and now. When we explain that God has given each of us certain things, that these gifts are our responsibility to care for, and that we are accountable for what we do with these gifts, then there is no doubt that everyone should be involved. Stewardship rejects the notion that we must "have it all" and instead, demonstrates the value of giving in love, in service and in justice.



On September 13, 2009 The Rev. Dr. Gary Nicolosi will be the Preacher at the 10:00 am Sunday service. Then, following a luncheon in the Parish Hall, he will lead a session on Stewardship.

Dr. Nicolosi is the Development Officer for our Diocese and is no stranger to Holy Trinity. You may have heard him say, *"it's not enough to make a living. We need to make a life. We need to live in such a way that we glorify God, help others, and fulfill ourselves, so that by the time of our dying we can look back and say that we have left this world a little better by our passing through it"*.

Plan to join us for lunch and a rewarding few hours!

VISITORS FROM MYANMAR!

During the week of October 4th to the 14th a group of people from Myanmar will be visiting the Selkirk Region of our Diocese.

On October 9th we are to have a small group from Myanmar visit Holy Trinity and the Sooke area. They will experience our Vital Vittles program, visit parishioner Dale Morrison's second and third grade class at Saseenos Elementary School as well as a visit to the Monument in front of City Hall to help explain the importance Sooke had in bringing water to Victoria.

There will be seven people coming from Myanmar and if you could offer in-home hospitality for one night please contact Nancy+. This could either be the Thursday night prior to the visit or that very evening. Plans are still in progress! If you have any additional ideas on how we can best enrich this experience for our visitors please let me know.

~ Nancy



We raised \$410!

Thanks to all who participated in the wonderful **CAMP COLUMBIA HOT DOG FUNDRAISER** Such a success! Spearheaded by Connie and her team we all had plenty of hot-dogs and all the trimmings. We were joined by our neighbours from St. Mary Metchosin and we all had much fun!

Our Diocesan Camp Columbia is a fantastic summer camp located on Thetis Island on 72 acres with 600 meters of unique waterfront property, forested trails and a large playing field. In addition to the daily activities, they have special events and theme days that allow children to be creative and explore many new adventures at Camp Columbia.

Our support is much needed and appreciated!!

SELKIRK REGION RESPONDS: Our input comes next month!

In June Bishop Cowan asked the Selkirk region to provide leadership for a diocesan study of the issues surrounding proposals to bless same-sex relationships. The study process outlined below has been developed by a group of Selkirk clergy and approved by the Bishop.

General Synod 2007 asked for a report from the Primate's Theological Commission on "whether the blessing of same-sex unions is a faithful, Spirit-led development of Christian doctrine," and "Scripture's witness to the integrity of every human person and the question of the sanctity of human relationships."

The Primate's Theological Commission has studied these matters and published the *Galilee Report*. In it, the Commission shares its reflections along with a series of essays written by its members from a variety of perspectives. The Commission has invited all Canadian Anglicans to comment and respond so that their views can be reflected in the final version of their report to General Synod 2010.

This study process is designed to assist our diocese — and individuals and parishes — to study the *Galilee Report* and provide input to the Primate's Theological Commission.

August

- Every rector in the diocese is invited to arrange at least one study session in every congregation, to be held before the end of October.

- Selkirk region provides study materials.

September

- Dates for the study sessions should be settled. Each congregation may design whatever process and plan whatever number of meetings best meets its needs.
- Please be in touch with Archdeacon Nancy Nagy Canon Karen Fast (regional dean of Selkirk) or Canon Harold Munn (convener of the study support group) if you would like to arrange for a member of the Selkirk region to attend a study in your parish.

October

- Study sessions are held, and notes are taken to record the insights and opinions of those present.

- Each parish, and every individual participating in a study, is invited by the Primate's Theological Commission to share their responses with the Commission directly.

November

- Each parish, using whatever process it wishes, will prepare and submit a parish response to the Diocesan Council based on their study.

December

- Diocesan Council will consider the notes from the parish studies and will draft a diocesan response which will be sent to the Primate's Theological Commission.

Questions for the study group

When parishes undertake their study session, the Primate's Theological Commission has asked church members to respond to the following questions:

1. Does the *Galilee Report* reflect your experience of the Anglican Church of Canada at this time?
2. Do these papers, prepared by the Commission, offer an adequate response to the request of General Synod to "consult with the dioceses and parishes ... on the theological question of whether the blessing of same-sex unions is a faithful, Spirit-led development of Christian doctrine"?
3. Are there additional resources that you would suggest on the theological question of whether the blessing of same-sex unions is a faithful, Spirit-led development of Christian doctrine?
4. What is missing in the conversation from your perspective?
5. Please add other specific comments...

Support

- **Members of Selkirk region** will make themselves available to attend any study session anywhere in the diocese to assist with, or lead, or provide background for, the study if that would be of assistance to the rector of any parish. Please be in touch with **Archdeacon Nancy Nagy, Regional Dean Karen Fast or Canon Harold Munn** if you would like to arrange this kind of support for your parish's study.
- **Archdeacons and Regional Deans** will be available to assist in any way with the process.

Resources

The *Galilee Report* itself can be found at:

www.anglican.ca/primate/ptc./galilee/index.htm

- Ten members of the Primate's Theological Commission also wrote one or more essays individually, which reflect their personal positions. These can be found at the *Galilee Report* site.
- Since some of these documents are fairly technical, and the essays comprise in total nearly 185 pages of text, members of the Selkirk region clergy have provided **2-page summaries** of them. We would urge study groups to read at least some of the original documents, if at all possible. Recognizing that time is limited, a second-best option would be to read and discuss the summaries.
- Four of the essays are written from a conservative perspective and, in order to ensure accuracy, the summaries of these conservative essays were submitted to clergy who have left the Anglican Church of Canada to ensure their opinions were presented fairly. The accuracy of our summaries of the conservative essays was confirmed.
- Background information about the Primate's Theological Commission is at:
www.anglican.ca/primate/ptc.

Another committee of General Synod (the Faith, Worship and Ministry Committee) was asked to prepare a rationale for allowing same-sex marriages to be solemnized in church. Their report, called the *Rothesay Report*, can be found at:
www.anglican.ca/about/ommittees/fwmc/rothesay-report.htm.

- Selkirk region clergy have provided a 2-page summary of this report also.

The full text of all past **resolutions of General Synod** relating to this issue, along with all the relevant **statements of the House of Bishops**, is available at:
www.anglican.ca/faith/hs/hsrh.htm.

General Synod meets in Halifax in June 2010. The BC Diocese holds its Synod in March 2009. Parish responses from this Study will be submitted to the BC Diocesan Council in November 2009

PLEASE NOTE:

Your parish council will soon be announcing the date for Holy Trinity's Study.

Persons who would like to receive the study materials, either in an e-mail or hard copy, can do so by calling the office 250-643-3172 or by requesting it from your clergy.

A FIRST! TWINS ARE BAPTIZED AT HOLY TRINITY

Twins and family of Andrew Owen and Matthew Robert Ralph - Bruce as they proceed to the back of

the church to the Baptismal Font, the traditional position for welcoming new members into the Christian community.

Our Mothers' Union presented the boys with a banner reading: God Loves Andrew, God Loves Matthew.



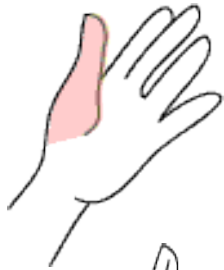
SUMMER FLOWER FESTIVAL AT ST. MARY'S!

Thanks to our own Pauline Chamberlain and Helene Barwis, we were well represented in St. Mary's Saanichton's Summer Flower Festival on August 15-16th.

St. Mary's celebrated the Festival of their Patron Saint, St. Mary, as well as the 150th anniversary of the Diocese of British Columbia over this two day event ending with a sung Vespers. Participating along with 10 other parishes in the area, the windows and other areas of the church were decorated with floral arrangements using rose, white lily, carnation, chrysanthemum, gladioli, baby's breath, marigold, ivy and hosta. These flowers were given their medieval name and the religious meaning associated with them in an informative brochure. Many thanks to Pauline and Helene for representing Holy Trinity so well!



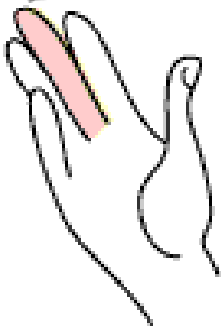
THE FIVE FINGERS OF PRAYER



1 Your thumb is nearest to you so begin by praying for those closest to you; they are the easiest to remember.



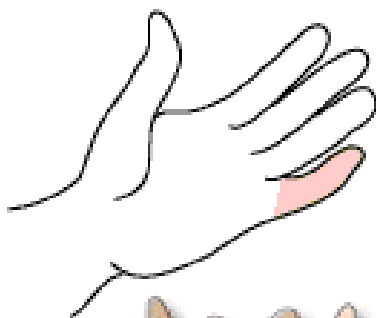
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct, and heal - this would include teachers, doctors and ministers. They need support and wisdom to point people in the right direction.



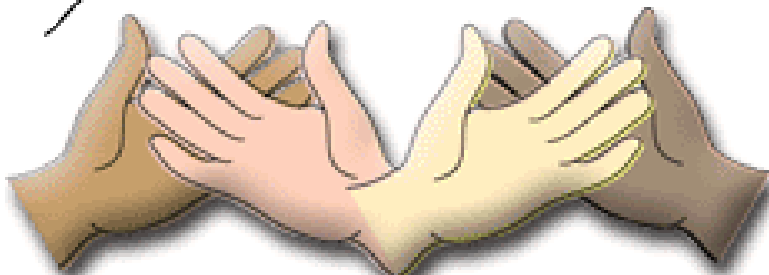
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for our politicians and the leaders of our country, leaders of business and industry, and administrators. These are the people who shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance the most.



4. The fourth is the ring finger - this is the weakest finger and the only one without an independent tendon - it should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need our prayers day and night.



5. Last, the little finger, the smallest of all. This is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie finger should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for all the other groups, your own needs will have been put into perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.



Now join hands with others and think of what you can pray for with your other hand!

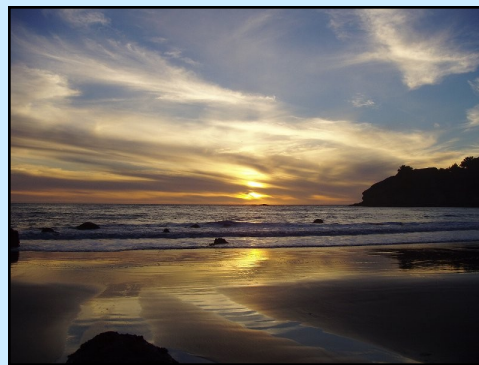
MARK YOUR CALENDARS - SEPTEMBER

- 3 12:30—7 pm Canadian Blood Services
6 Labour Day: Office Closed
13 10 am Holy Communion; Stewardship sermon by Dr. Gary Nicolosi;
parish pot luck followed by Stewardship Workshop.
27 9:15 am (BAS) or 11am (BCP) at Christ Cathedral to Celebrate the
Diocese's 150th anniversary.

NO HOLY COMMUNION AT HOLY TRINITY on the 27th

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



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CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

- 4 Jerry Van Ek
11 Kase Roodbol
17 Ruth Montaldi
18 Pauline Chamberlain
24 Dorothy Wing



Anniversary

- 11 Alex+ and Nancy+

