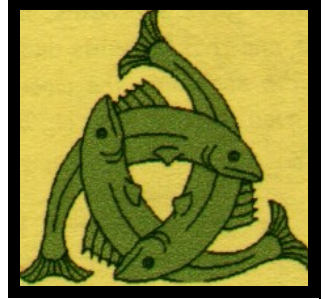


# THE TRINITY NEWS



HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH SOOKE, BC

Vol. 4 No. 1

## *Our Clergy's Thoughts and Reflections*

With a quick look back, before we go forward, what beautiful Christmas celebrations we had with a record number of worshippers to pray with as well. For the first time we had a Nativity Tableau by our young people, and the music and decorations were outstanding. Be sure you view the pictures within - or better yet on line.

The continued good news is that the parish is growing; we've incorporated new members and have gone from the 35 when we came in 2008 to an average of 61 this last year; that is a 11% growth for just last year. This growth allows us to increase our delegates to Synod by one. When a parish is on the *grow* it usually indicates that it is also on the *go*; so here we go into 2011. Beginning with this month we will have some new activities for our Parish Life to experience. Check page seven for some of the exciting things coming soon!

But being *on the go and on the grow*, is good news for us and the Diocese too, as there isn't all that much growth readily seen in too many other churches. But the challenge facing us is the need to increase our parish income.

There will be more on that at our Annual Parish Meeting with detailed reports on ministry, outreach, facility use and the fact that our Parish Council has found it necessary to pass an "unbalanced budget" for the coming

year. But, at the same time, the Council must be commended for its prudent stewardship of the resources we do have.

And, you too are to be commended; with your cheerful help in cleaning, furniture set-up and take down so that our facility usage continues to maximize the income we derive from it.

Still, we must ask that you prayerfully consider making an increase in your already sacrificial giving, while at the same time we are becoming creative with thoughts on how we can supplement our income and do it with fun!

Again, consult page seven of this newsletter.

On December 15<sup>th</sup> we thanked God for our third year in this beautiful, bright multipurpose structure we call Holy Trinity; this calls us to realize that in 2013 on August 10<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating our centennial. So, today, we thank our God for the good of the past and we ask God for guidance and discernment in the present with a generous heart, willing hands and cheerful giving of time, talent and money that is needed to continue our going forward.

Sincerely,  
*Alex + and Nancy +*

**Doing the New  
in the New Year!**

## DEACON WALLY'S REFLECTION:

### HERE IS THE QUESTION

A question asked among First Nations is: are you listening to talk? Or, listening to listen? The Truth and Reconciliation Commission at the University of Victoria on December 3, 4 and 5 was a powerful opportunity for me and other non-First Nations people to listen to listen.

The Indian residential schools affect all of us because we share from our ancestors the benefits of the good, and the responsibility of the bad, that they did.

The steps to reconciliation are (1) honesty about the past, (2) respect, and (3) reconciliation. Listening to an honest description of the past with an open heart and clear mind is the foundation for the next steps of respect and reconciliation. This process is best understood and undertaken religiously. The church is the ideal institution to help this to happen.

A First Nation's leader challenged us – there are First Nations people willing to engage us on residential school. The leader asked the church to start now, if we haven't already, and don't quit. The church is the people of God, not a building. If that person came into your church on Sunday, will you be able to say that you have started? That you won't quit?

Photos: *General Synod Archives—this page and next.*



*This Truth and Reconciliation Commission event at U. Vic., was attended by Deacon Wally, Ruth Montaldi and Graeme Morton of Holy Trinity. Graeme's reflections are on the facing column and on the following page.*

## HERE IS THE STORY

The residential schools story, its tragic legacy and the role that the Christian community, including the Anglican Church, played in that sad chapter of Canadian history has been on my mind and heart for some time.

After attending the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's community event at the University of Victoria in early December, I came away with many more questions than answers. It was an emotional, wrenching, sobering weekend, hearing first-hand the devastating effects these schools, government-funded and church-operated, have had on generations of First Nations' people.

Questions such as where was God when native children were separated from their families, punished for speaking their native language and honouring the Creator in their own way, and, too often, sexually and physically abused?

Questions like what was in the hearts of people of faith when they supported this societal institution for 150 years with, presumably, the best of intentions?

Questions such as can Canadian Christians and First Nations people ever bridge the gap that the residential schools created? How do we put the solid planks down that can bring us closer together in this healing process, for we both need to heal.

Alberta's Willie Littlechild said he and the other two commissioners touring the nation feel they have been given a sacred trust to uncover the truth about what happened in the schools, then work toward a path to reconciliation. Littlechild, a residential school student himself, led a thoughtful prayer, calling for "a good future, a new start." He noted encouraging acts of reconciliation are already taking place, such as the Calgary church whose 500 members wrote their own "book of apology" to their native neighbours.

Barney Williams is now 71. He was placed in a Vancouver Island residential school at age six and still has emotional days dealing with what he endured.

*Story continued...*

"I try not to carry this awful, awful thing with me. There were sick people involved in those schools, but there were some good people too," Williams told a hushed gathering. —The weekend also saw four leaders from Island Christian denominations open their hearts to both native and non-native delegates in an act of sincere humility we can all emulate more often. —Our own Bishop James Cowan wondered aloud, "if we don't work at this process now, if we don't listen, how many more generations will be in conflict?" —Roman Catholic Bishop Richard Gagnon said he felt shame and guilt as the shepherd of a church who took part in the residential schools program. —"It's very difficult to listen to testimony from the hearts of people who have been wounded, knowing people of your faith did bad things," Gagnon said. "But this is also a hopeful time of meeting and talking to each other. We want to make things right. That's why we're here today." —If I was vainly looking for some personal resolution, some quick fix for my troubled soul concerning the residential schools issue, I didn't find it on that weekend. But I think I did draw some wisdom, perhaps summed up best by Rev. Murray Groom of the United Church. —"In the West, the church has a long history of being aligned with those in power. We as Christians have not been faithful in protecting the vulnerable," said Groom. — And maybe that's the best resolution that I as a flawed follower of Jesus can take into this New Year of 2011 to look for chances for compassion, for openings for service, to be God's eyes, ears and arms to the best of my ability, in my daily life here in Sooke.

~ Graeme Morton



## A LITANY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Oceans warming  
Coral dying  
Sea rising  
Land disappearing  
Ice caps melting  
Polar bears dying  
Rivers flooding  
Waters overwhelming,



### Response:

Calming, caring God,  
Help us act to still the storm  
For now, for ever

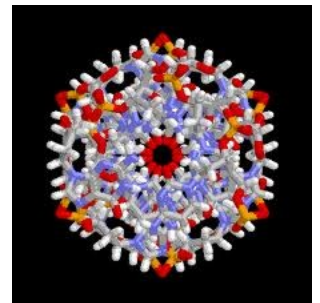
Storms destroying  
Chaos reigning  
Cities flooding  
People moving  
Disease spreading  
Homes disappearing  
Crops failing



### Response:

Calming, caring God,  
Help us act to still the storm  
For now, for ever

Hope fading  
Planet shaping  
World creating  
Life forming  
Spirit breathing  
Law guiding  
Cradle birthing  
Cross bearing  
Hope rising



### Response:

Calming, caring God,  
Help us act to still the storm  
For now, for ever.

*Taken from the 'Service of Challenge, Commitment and Blessing' service at Grosvenor Chapel, London.*

# HOLIDAY MEMORIES FROM HOLY TRINITY 2010

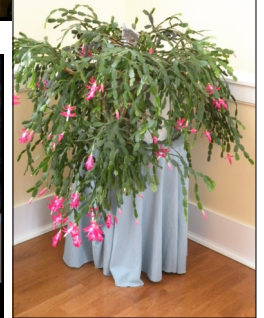


THE KENNEDY SISTERS, Julie and Carli along with Kelby McNair and Joey Smith as their back-up, started us off at the beginning of December with a fine concert.

After many requests and inquiries we were able to secure another concert by them in March, so mark your calendars!



Next we prepared for our Advent Lessons and Carols; The Christmas Story in Word and Song. Thanks to all who participated and made this a wonderful prayer service. Even the Christmas cactus cooperated!



Thanks too, to Bruce Gilbert who directed the making of the Gingerbread House for our youth. After that success he made another for the Vital Vittles Christmas Dinner. Both were consumed!

## THE CHURCH IS FESTIVE FOR CHRISTMAS!

New this year are the festive Swags for the side walls as well as new window dressings! Thanks to Gayle Morton.



The church looked lovely, warm and welcoming, thanks to our wonderful Alter guild and your generosity with the donations of greens and flowers!



## Fr. Joe and Joan Titus: their only link!

The men and women of the Columbia Coast Mission ships, legendary

figures in the history of the BC coast, are brought vividly to life in many books. I reviewed one such book, *God's Little ....* last year. From 1904 to the mid-1970s, the mission sent out ships in all kinds of weather, delivering medical care and non-sectarian spiritual support to logging camps, Native villages and white settlements in 20,000 square miles of rugged coastline.

Fast forward to the late 1950s and you find our own Fr. Joe and Joan Titus who, during those years provided the only link to the outside world for the areas of Alert Bay, Cortez, Quadra, Stuart, Redondo, Sonora and Reed Islands, bringing the folks church services, weddings, baptisms and funerals. And as a nurse, Joan was equally a welcome sight.

John Antle, who founded the Columbia Coast Mission Ships, was a devout and practical Christian who measured his success in services to BC's outposts, rather than material wealth or number of converts. The same was true of Fr. Joe and Joan, that even those not wanting to hear the word of God looked forward to the visits. "You did something more than going out trying to make people holy," he told the *Sooke Standard* back in 1991 when they did a two page article on Joe and Joan entitled, "A LINK TO ISOLATED POSTS."

Joe+ and Joan are among the legendary figures in the history of the BC coast. From 1904 to the mid-1970s, the mission sent out ships in all kinds of weather, delivering medical care and non-sectarian spiritual support to logging camps, peoples settled in 20,000 square miles of rugged coastline.

At the time the original article was written in 1991, Joe+ was serving the parish of Advent in Colwood, but they were living just south of Sooke Road on Gillespie where they still reside today, and fortunately for us they attend Holy Trinity, too!

~ Shirley Roodbol, *Sooke Museum* & Nancy+



**KUR - SEE - YO...WHAT?** Here is an opportunity to be considered for this year. ***Cursillo!***

It is a Spanish word pronounced KUR\_SEE\_YO which means a short course. Cursillo began in Majorca, Spain, during the 1940s in the Roman Catholic Church and has since spread to other communions. The full title is Cursillo de Cristiandad, meaning a short course in Christian living and its purpose is to present a method of living what is fundamental for being a Christian in the world, that is, Cursillo presents a way of structuring our Christian lives so as to make a difference in the world.

Cursillo is now active in more than 50 nations on five continents. The Cursillo Movement is one method of renewal in the Church. Its purpose is to help those in the Church understand their individual callings to be Christian leaders. This leadership may be exercised in work situations, in the family and social life, in leisure activities and within the church.

It is a three day live-in weekend and you attend the complete course during that time. The spirit of the weekend focuses entirely on the teachings of Jesus Christ and is designed to help you come to a fresh awareness of the ways in which you can live out your Baptismal Covenant.

During the weekend there will be worship and fellowship, as well as 15 talks, which will help one to become more fully-alive in Christ. The talks, given by clergy and lay people, are rooted in the Anglican tradition and a Cursillo weekend will have essentially the same structure wherever it is experienced; Alex + made his weekend some 50 years ago; Nancy's+ was more recent; 1976, and yet both used practically the same format.

So, where do you come in? Well, Cursillo of Vancouver Island will be having a weekend event in November. True that seems a long way off but now is the time to investigate the possibility of attending one. The Men's Cursillo is held the first weekend and the Women's Cursillo the following weekend.

*This year Nancy+ will be the spiritual director for the Women's weekend.*

**Epiphany**, that wonderful liturgical festival observed on January 6th, is the oldest, and originally, the most important of the Christmas festivals. The word epiphany comes from the Greek noun *epiphaneia*, which means "shining forth," "manifestation," or "revelation."



Originally it commemorated three incidents that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus, and the miracle at Cana. Nowadays, most liturgical churches emphasize the visit of the Magi on January 6th and celebrate Christ's baptism on the first Sunday after the 6th. Epiphany is one of the most important festivals of the liturgical year because it shows the church how God comes to His people.

During this season, we meditate on many of Jesus' epiphanies. **Epiphany Day** itself commemorates the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem to worship the Messiah and bring Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Since the earliest days of the church, these wise men have been considered to be representatives of all the peoples of the earth. By means of a miraculous star, God showed them that Jesus was born to be not only the King of the Jews, but the Lord of all nations.

**The Baptism of Jesus** is the first Sunday after the Epiphany. This important festival is the observance of Jesus' baptism at the hands of John the Baptist. The words of God and the appearance of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove as Jesus came out of the waters revealed Him to be God's true Son.

**The Transfiguration of Jesus**, the last Sunday after the Epiphany, is a celebration of the moment that Christ, in the company of Moses and Elijah, literally shined His divine nature on Peter, James and John, leaving them dazed and awestruck. This event, the greatest of Christ's epiphanies until His triumphant resurrection from the grave on, serves as the dramatic conclusion of the season. Transfiguration Sunday stands in vivid contrast to what takes place just a few days later, Ash Wednesday the day of repentance that initiates the season of Lent.

~ Nancy+

## SHOPPING IN THE NEW YEAR

*Thanks to Christmas gifts, the couple felt they had enough to buy the much needed sofa for their apartment; it was to be the first big purchase in many years. However, it wasn't as pleasant as they'd hoped as the prices were sky high and they weren't even in the high priced stores.*

*Many hours passed, and then they stopped for a cup of coffee and discussed the situation; their attitude changed. They realized they didn't need high-end; they actually preferred the affordable ones. The one they decided upon seemed not just a grudging compromise, but exactly what they wanted.*

Did they rationalize? No, actually they engaged in what Anglican theology calls "humble submission to reality," that changed their minds, and buying what they could afford mattered more than buying the best. They didn't fall into the trap of making a bad decision in order to protect their egos.



### **It is called an exercise in discernment.**

Vast forces — marketers, media, politicians, fear-mongers, greed-affirmers, bigots and appetite-satisfiers — are deploying powerful tools to lead us away from discernment. They don't want us to recognize choices, or think for ourselves, or study values, or look at a large array of options and applying common sense and lively faith to make responsible choices. Because money is made by encouraging irresponsibility. Votes are secured by mistaking fear and bigotry for true self-interest.

The events described in Matthew 2.1-12 find the three wise men portrayed as engaged in discernment. They left their comfortable "thought and faith world" to seek God's new thing. They brought familiar tokens of homage. But their true homage, reflecting discernment of Jesus and of Herod's threat, was to leave by "another road."

They came prepared to change, and what they discerned led to even greater change. As we embark on the new year ahead, let us pray that such bold and humble discernment will come to us.

~ Nancy +

## PARISH ACTIVITIES 2011

The following suggestions were made by Gayle Morton to the Parish Council. What do you think? Please contact her or a Parish Council member with your thoughts / suggestions. **This is only a partial list for the first few months:**

**January - NOTE: This event is a GO—so mark your calendars for January 23rd!!**

Everyone has had too much turkey, sweets, etc. and we are all on a collective diet. The weather is cold, wet and no one wants to go out but after a couple of weeks they are getting bored. So we will invite the parish as well as the community to come and make a deal at **The Great Trade Event**. Here is a way to get rid of gently read books, music, candles, scarves, hats, sweaters that you no longer want and pass them on to someone else. Also bring other items from the above categories that you'd be willing to part with for Table 2, which will be a strictly sales table, rather than a trade scenario. How? Simple, you bring an item to either **trade** at table #1, or you can **buy** from table #2. We will limit the items to books, music, games and puzzles, crafts/crafting patterns, candles, small indoor sport items, or other items that are on that theme (all cold weather, stay inside type of activities/items) which we would invite people to actually swap with another item at the Event at the first table. (Note: flyers explaining what items can be brought, or not, will be posted.)



Additional funds will be raised by a chili lunch as well as hot chocolate and goodies we make to sell. And to further pique people's interest, Graeme Morton will also be in the Fellowship Hall hosting a game of 'Trinity Pursuit'. Even you will want to play that one!

This Event won't tax people's wallets, it will be lots of fun, and we won't be left with a lot of stuff donated that we then have to figure out where to dispose of or donate.



**February** - Now this is Heart and Stroke month and Valentine's. Some flowers are starting to bloom and the weather can be nicer. How about a Valentine's Dinner/Dance and Silent Auction. This time dinner could be lasagne, with vegetarian and gluten free options, and for dessert we could make up a fresh fruit tray for

each table, or do ice cream (chocolate would go well with the Valentine's theme) with frozen berries spooned over the top. Hearts and flowers would be the theme with red the color. Our spaghetti supper colors would look good at this, maybe with a little silver thrown in. And maybe the focus for the silent auction items could be either flowers, chocolate, or jewellery (Valentine's) or items that are focused on Heart/Stroke month. We could also give, say 10% of our profits, to Heart and Stroke for that event. Win, win. Advertising that on our posters leading up to the event shows our involvement in something beyond ourselves to benefit the community around us, which could stimulate more ticket sales to people who identify with that particular charity, and raises their awareness of our church.



**March** - This could be a month for the ladies, with a spring fashion show from a local ladies store, or stores, wine and cheese or dessert party, and/or a home and garden day featuring a gardening speaker, home/garden decor items on display from Home Hardware, involving the community. A garden tour with admission being charged to raise funds that ended at the church with a dessert party would be lovely. These events may be done together or separately, busy, but fun.

Or invite a student chef from one of the cooking programs to come do a cooking demonstration and then everyone joins in and does a meal together. This could be hosted at someone's home, or the church hall depending on how many would be interested. Admission would be charged to cover cost of food and the cost of bringing in the chef. Copies of recipes would be one of the perks to take home. It could be a fun fellowship exercise to know one another in a different sitting!

### ***THERE'S MORE!***

More to these monthly ideas and more months to consider, but we will wait until next month to look at those. For now, consider these — along with your ideas or suggestions.

*Contact Gayle or another Parish Council member to converse about it.*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS January:

- 2 10:00 am—Feast of the Epiphany
- 9 10:00 am— Feast of Baptism of Jesus
- 13 1:00 pm—Chronic Pain Management Class
- 16 10:00 am—Sunday Service  
2:00 pm—Sooke Community Choir's Sing-A-Long
- 19 1:30 pm—Mothers' Union
- 23 10:00 am—Sunday Service followed by The Great Trade Event
- 26 11:00 am—Worship Committee; 11:45 Women's Journey; noon Men's Lunch
- 30 10:00 am Sunday Service; 2—5pm Dance Workshop

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

*Every Saturday: Early Church 5pm. Pot Luck follows on Second Saturday of each month*

## NOTE: February

**20 10:00 am Sunday Service followed by Annual Parish Meeting and Lunch**



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## CELEBRATIONS



- 3 Janice Knutson
- 15 Brynna Leigh Ford
- 19 Connie Isherwood
- 24 Alex +
- 26 Beth Van Ek