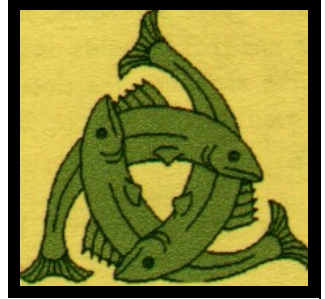


THE TRINITY NEWS



HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH SOOKE, BC

Vol. 4 No. 6

Our Clergy's Thoughts and Reflections

As Nancy and I were getting to know each other, I soon became aware of distinct similarities and differences in our upbringing. We were both very much attached to our parents who were weekly church goers. However, we regarded annual vacations in totally different ways.

Before I went to seminary at age 14, once my parents took a one week long driving "vacation" in Texas during which my father visited five different branch offices associated with his work. Nancy's parents worked for the Federal Government where a 30 day vacation was normal. So, every summer her parents gathered the four children and they enjoyed 30 days of tent camping in different places throughout the US and Canada.

Since we married, Nancy has continued to point out to me that research studies show, that while modern society feels idleness, time off and vacations are to be discounted, idleness is proven to be a significant part of our human mental health. Idleness allows us to collect thoughts, to expand our viewpoint, and to alleviate anxiety. This time of being idle is essential to a happy, contented life.

For most of the last 29 years we have enjoyed two weeks away from the parish—recently increasing it to three. Now, for the first time, this year it will be four weeks. Nancy is marking the calendar for this special event in our lives!

Creation concludes with the Sabbath. "On the seventh day God completed the work God had been doing. God rested [Hebrew: ha sabbath] on the seventh day after all the work God had been doing. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on that day God had rested after all the work of creating." Genesis 2: 2-3.

THE IMPORTANCE OF REST

The Sabbath is of divine institution: on that day God rested ... and by implication, so too should we. Originally not just the Jewish people

but also their work animals, the children of their slaves, the slaves themselves and strangers were to rest. Exodus 23: 12; Deuteronomy 5:14. Moreover, every seventh year, all lands cultivated for produce, as well as vineyards and olive groves, were not to be cultivated but left to lie fallow. Exodus 23: 10-11.

God created us to work hard but to rest daily, weekly, and to take every seventh year off! Well, let's just say, a longer period than a month.

Rest, enjoy the sunshine, the long days and the memories of a God who gives you talents to develop, put at the service of all and during rest times, be grateful!

Sincerely,

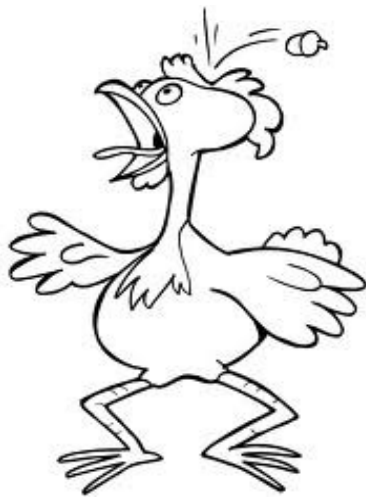
Alex+/Nancy+

DEACON WALLY'S REFLECTION:

Harold Camping firmly believed that the rapture would happen on Saturday, May 21, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. The Bible calls for the 'end of times' but does not (Harold Camping notwithstanding) give a date.

**THE SKY IS
FALLING!**

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Christopher Page, an Anglican priest in Victoria, gave his thoughts before May 21 in an article in the Times Colonist. It is a thoughtful example of the Anglican tradition. The web link is below.

Before Christopher's article, someone asked me if I thought Judgment Day is coming very soon. I answered maybe in 15 seconds, maybe in 15,000 generations. But, what does that matter to me or you?

Not one of us knows whether we will live to see the next dawn. We are not cramming for a final exam. We can only live each day as best we can. 'Forgive us our sins, as we forgive the sins of others'. Each and every day is Judgment Day.

Archdeacon Christopher's article can be found at:

<http://communities.canada.com/victoriatimescolonist/blogs/spirituallyspeaking/archive/2011/05/20/truth-in-unexpected-places.aspx>

HOLY TRINITY TO CELEBRATE FEAST DAY—Just two years to our 100th!

After the Sunday Service, June 19th we will have a BBQ in Parish dining room to celebrate Holy Trinity's Feast Day. Bring the meat you'd like to eat and our Wardens will grill it to perfection! (Watch where you park as the BBQs will take up some parking space.) Also bring a side dish or desert to share. Drinks will be provided. Come in casual attire for this Sunday.

EARLY CHURCH TAKES A VACATION

There will be no Early Church after June 18th. It will resume on July 30th. Early Church is held on Saturday from 5 pm—6 pm. We will also resume our pot-luck together on the second Saturday of the month after the service.

LENDING LIBRARY—AT LAST!!



The shelves are ready!

Books can be brought in from now on for the Lending Library. The shelves will be located just outside the office door and there will also be a clip board for signing out books. Books to be accepted will have to do with Spirituality, Anglicanism, Parish Development, Self— Help, Inspirational, Prayers and Poetry. Books should be of relatively recent publications. Our older, classic and reference books will continue to be on the current bookcase by the Holy Trinity Banner. Children's books are also needed. For more information on book topics speak to Nancy+.



AT THE END OF THE DAY

In April, I wrote that I'd recently learned, thanks to those good folks in the

tourism department of the state of Michigan, that we get to enjoy about 25,000 mornings in a normal lifetime.

But with the longest day of the year falling this month, I'm drawn to thinking about evenings and their purpose in our lives. By all accounts, we should get about 25,000 evenings to savour too.

While mornings offer a fresh sheet of paper, an untouched canvas, to write/paint the latest chapter of our lives onto, these glorious, soft-falling, extended evenings of June (and we get a break from the chill and rain, won't we?) give us a time to reflect on our day and our lives.

In this modern "civilized" world, we have become conditioned to think that our value must be measured by our careers - what we "produce" or tangibly contribute to society. All that is good; there is great satisfaction in using the gifts that God has given us to earn a living, and hopefully help our fellow man and woman along the way. But the downside to this has been a perception that if we are not 'doing' something every waking moment, we are somehow "wasting" time.

I think that's why God gave us the gift of evenings, a time to slow down, to think of the bigger picture instead of the non-stop agendas of the daylight hours. God gave us evenings to build a fire in the woodstove after dinner, to feel the growing warmth begin to take away the aches and pains and stresses of the day. God gave us evenings to reflect on our accomplishments for the day, whether they be solving an impasse in the office, completing a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle or serving up nourishing food at Vital Vittles.

And the older I get, the more I realize that my daily accomplishments don't have to be earth-shattering or head-turning to be of value.

And so just as I am doggedly trying to follow the example of Jake, the farm's border collie, of tackling each morning with tail-wagging anticipation, I am going to try to set aside the TV remote (once the Stanley Cup final is over) and use these precious evenings to reflect. I am going to think about where I've been and what I've done in my life, where perhaps God is urging me to go and where I can follow Christ's example a little better.

Earlier this spring, the best thing I did one day was to free a hummingbird who had taken a wrong turn on those amazing wings and flown into one of our greenhouses. It was a blessed feeling to gently cradle that dazzling, tiny, iridescent creature in my cupped hands and release him into the blue Sooke sky to continue his life's remarkable journey. To me, there is nothing so sublime as a glorious sunset at the end of a day. I've tried to photograph that elusive "perfect sunset" for most of 40 years, whether through the golden autumn haze of combines bringing in the wheat crop in Saskatchewan or on a beach in Barbados, where you can almost hear the hiss of the sun as it first touches the ocean. I hope this doesn't sound sacrilegious, but I think the first sunset metaphorically occurred on the evening of the sixth day of the creation story in Genesis - when God surveyed all the wonders of his toil, found them "very good" and capped them off by painting the sky with all the colours of that celestial satisfaction.

Evenings set the stage for night and the mysterious condition of sleep, when perhaps we are closer and more in tune with God than at any other time of the day. May these warm evenings of June always bring me back to the final verse of one of my favourite hymns, #21 in our blue hymnbook.

Come Holy Ghost, soon we should be sleeping
Gladden every heart entrusted to your keeping
Let our bodies rest, free our minds for dreaming
and shed the light of Christ to set our spirits gleaming.

~ Graeme Morton



PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR THE “HOPPY EASTER ENDING!”

This Children’s play was presented the Second Sunday of Easter! Below is an overview.

The story is set in the garden of Holy Trinity Church, where on the day after Easter, EDEN the Easter Bunny was late going home to Murray Rd. And she was quite tired when she arrive there to rest. To her surprise she heard a voice. SMILE, a Holy Trinity Bunny, asked who she was? EDEN gave her name and said she had had a very busy Easter and was pretty tired. “I was late delivering all my Easter eggs and now I am going home.”

Just then OREO, another Trinity Bunny, hopped over and asked, “Why did you stop here?” “Well,” EDEN replied, “I needed to rest and this is a nice garden...do you two live here?” OREO replied, “Yes! We are the Trinity Bunnies.” EDEN went on to notice that it must be a fun place as they were not tired like she was.

Further, she noted, “You aren’t tired like me and you are all so happy!” “Well, wasn’t she happy,” SMILE asked. She said, “No, I’m very sad because everything has ended. Nobody ever remembers us Bunnies AFTER Easter you know.”

“WHO TOLD YOU THAT?” they cried out together. And then SMILE and OREO proceeded to tell EDEN that Easter was NOT about endings.

Easter is actually all about BEGINNINGS! “You see, EDEN, Easter isn’t just about flowers, butterflies and baby birds being born and waking up after winter,” SMILE told her. “Really?” replied EDEN. “Yes, really,” OREO said.

continued

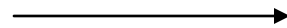
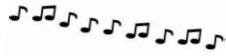


PHOTO REFLECTIONS OF EASTER

“It is about God bringing Jesus back from death to life, because he loves us all and wants us to have this wonderful kind of life, just like Jesus.” “That’s amazing,” EDEN said, “What a surprise!” To which all the bunnies responded... “YES IT IS!”

SMILE suggested that they sing a song to cheer EDEN up. It went like this:

Jesus loves the little bunnies
All the bunnies in the world
They are frisky, they are bright
They are special in His sight
Jesus loves the little bunnies of the world.



EDEN loved it. “Guess what,” she said, “I feel much happier now!”

“That’s great,” said SMILE. Then OREO invited EDEN to join him and SMILE for lunch because as everyone knows...



“We have great food at Holy Trinity!”

LOTS OF CARROTS!



NO, IT'S NOT YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S CHURCH!

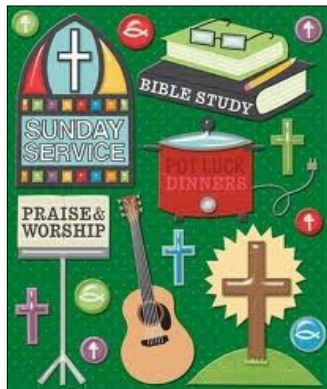


Today, more and more “Church” is seen as a faith community, steadily replacing church as bricks-and-mortar. Congregations are imagining a future that doesn't revolve around maintaining an inherited facility. They see the positive value of being a faith community that is flexible, nimble, responsive to changes, hurts and needs in the marketplace; not buried in facility's overhead.

And in congregations like ours, that do remain committed to their facilities, they are also looking beyond them and not envisioning a growth trajectory that inexorably leads to facility's expansion and decentralized ministries.

What does the new leadership look like in today's church? For one thing it isn't painless and is always in that “transition” space. New skills and ways of doing things are needed; not the ones we relied on in the past. Fresh vision is needed - but along with that we can't have the de-valuing of the wonderful work that went on before; after all it is the work that got us this far.

Active elderly are remembering how churches worked some 40 - 50 years ago. Unfortunately, those years can't be recaptured, nor should we try. Still, business as usual is over; we must start asking ourselves “What is the next new thing we can do?” Good question! Ask yourself. Discuss it with others. How do we, here at Holy Trinity, do church in 2011 and beyond?



No question, it is an exciting time...a stressful time... a time of growth and new life as well as a time of conflict. **Ultimately it is the time in which we live. And we are doing it together!**

Spiritual Development for All

Part Two continues the series from last month's issue. Now from Prayer we now turn to Study.

To **study** effectively, we need to let go of two expectations: for many people, "study" evokes images of requirements, examinations and grades. "Study" suggests mastering facts or skills and thereby gaining acceptability (for a degree, job or award).

As a spiritual discipline, however, study means activities such as these:

Sitting with a verse from Scripture and allowing it to speak

Exploring an idea with a group

Pursuing an insight in a written journal

Reading a useful book and allowing it to open one's eyes

Writing an essay or story that takes one deeper into a thought about God and/or life

Study can be centered in a formal course or a self-designed pursuit. The format matters less than the discipline and determination to keep at it. Where prayer flows as it flows, study seems most helpful when it flows from intentionality.

Study can be an individual or group experience, or a combination of both.

Study has the advantage of total freedom to explore, without any concern for affirmation or criticism. It has the disadvantage of being too self-referential and stopping short of uncomfortable discovery.

Study has the advantage of holding one accountable and stretching one's boundaries. It has the disadvantages common to any group experience, such as conflict, acting out, passive-aggressive behavior or wasting time.

LIFE, GRAND GESTURES, CHOICES

~ Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom." (Matthew 21.42-43)

Much as we may like to, we don't live on the grand stage. Most of us don't have lives of renown, and for those who do have large jobs or visible roles, our circle of influence is small.



Life isn't about grand gestures or making history.



ways we give away what we have.

What Jesus called the "fruits of the kingdom" are produced, or not produced, in daily life.

An institution can have a grand strategic vision, but until it actually serves or exploits a customer, helps or hurts an employee, gives sustenance or hoards manna, nothing has



happened. Putting a sign out front is one thing; actually having food, friendly conversation or guidance inside is something else.

As financial collapse exposes extraordinary greed, stupidity and delusional behavior, the story comes out as small decisions made poorly. Even the grandest of wars and recessions start out with individual choices.

When Jesus warned that the kingdom of God would be "taken away" from one people and given to another, we



shouldn't think of national fortunes or tribal fortunes. We should think of smaller circles and individuals who either get with God or get it wrong and who then feel the consequences.

Jesus revealed God as patient and merciful. We turn away from God, however, and forfeit the kingdom when we deny our tenancy in a field that doesn't belong to us.

Share it, or lose it.

Much of human history turns on this very question: lust for land, wealth and power versus our real condition as stewards bound to one another.

It's the story-within-the-story of our current financial crisis.

It's the heart of what we do as citizens, family members and churchgoers. It's the hard edge of Jesus' commandment to love one another.

We should stop behaving as if this creation belonged to us and, in an economy of scarcity, compelled us to fight each other for control.

~ Nancy+

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JUNE



- 1 Women's Tea 3pm
- 4 Dr. John Etherington's Memorial 1 pm
- 5 Ascension—Holy Communion 10 am
Ellen's Students' Final Recital and reception 2:30 pm
- 11 Men's Breakfast—Mom's Cafe 9:30 am
Alan Moberg Concert @ Parish 7 pm
- 12 Pentecost—Holy Communion 10 am WEAR RED!
- 14 Parish Council—7 pm
- 15 Mothers' Union—1:30 pm @ Flo Tickner's home
- 18 Early Church—5 pm (for last time until July 30th)
- 19 Trinity Sunday—Holy Communion 10 am followed by Parish BBQ
- 29 Men's Lunch—Mulligans @ Noon

Signs of Spring!

Alex + and Nancy + will be on holidays from June 21st—July 21st

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CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

- 7 Fred Cadman
- 11 Deacon Wally Eamer
- 22 Joan MacKenzie
- 25 Steve Ford
- 27 Joan Taylor
- 30 Flo Tickner



Anniversaries

- 1 Laura and Brian Sutherland
- 8 Dale and David Morrison