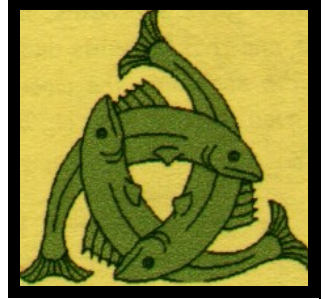


THE TRINITY NEWS



HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH SOOKE, BC

Vol. 4 No. 11

Our Clergy's Thoughts and Reflections

THE SAINTS OF GOD: YESTERDAY and TODAY

v. 1 *I sing a song of the saints of God,
Patient and brave and true,
Who toiled and fought and lived and died*

v.2 *And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
And one was a shepherdess on the green;
They were all of them saints of God, and I mean,*

Written in Britain by Lesbia Scottit was first published in 1929

The liturgical calendar designates November 1st as the day we remember the better known saints, such as the Apostles, Mary, the Mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Francis and Claire of Assisi and then the following day, all the lesser known saints: almost everyone else! At Holy Trinity we do not make this distinction; rather, we celebrate ALL saints together on the same day.

We thanked God for all the good that came into our world and into our parish through the efforts of those who this year completed their earthly pilgrimage: Kay Caffery (May 13), Dr. John Etherington (May 18), Major Byron Tweedy (October 9) and Ernie Bacon (October 18).

It is important that in telling the story of our parish, we acknowledge the solid foundation laid by the 26 Anglicans who 100 years ago decided that they wanted an Anglican presence in Sooke.

At Holy Trinity, on the Sunday closest to Remembrance Day, we remember those Canadian military personnel who died during the wars from WW I until today.

v.3 *They lived not only in ages past,
There are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is bright with the joyous saints
Who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, or in planes, or at sea,
In church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;
For the saints of God are just folk like me,
And I mean to be one too.*

So, how do you and I consciously strive to live like saints, friends of God?

Sincerely,

Alex+/Nancy+



DEACON WALLY

Here are some thoughts from my visit to Peru. I can't put a tidy, logical ending to it. Can you?

When the Spanish arrived in the Americas, the Inca had expanded their empire from the Cuzco valley to a vast area from northern Colombia, through Ecuador and Peru, western Bolivia, and northern and central Chile. Like the Romans, the Inca built stone roads, 40,000 kilometers, to bind their empire together.

The Inca roads, plazas, and temples were constructed by the forced labour of people throughout the Inca empire. When the Inca conquered the land with the great temple of Pachacamac, near Lima, they built a large temple to their god of the sun on the highest hill in the temple complex. Pizarro the 'conquistador' allied his few Spanish soldiers with thousands of warriors of the peoples that the Inca had conquered, and together they conquered the Inca. Then, Pizarro and his Spanish soldiers replaced the Inca nobility.

The major plazas and churches of central Cuzco are built over the plazas and temples of the Inca. The Spanish used the forced labour of indigenous people to tear up the Inca buildings, and used the stones to build the new plazas and churches, just as they replaced worship and sacrifice to the sun with Christianity. Extraordinary mountains make travel dangerous, but over centuries priests merged the cultural styles of Inca and Spanish, and spread Christianity everywhere. In Cuzco, Spanish is the language of the street, but in the distant countryside it is Quecha. The distinctive Inca clothing is as common in the churches as it is in the street.

In 1992 the residents of Cuzco placed a plaque, in Spanish not Quecha, in the central plaza dedicated to [my translation] '500 years of Andean opposition to the Spanish oppression AND THEY COULD NOT KILL US'.

As Wally stated at the beginning he could not put a logical ending to this reflection...can you?

SAINTS BE TO GOD! Saints to you!

There is a saint to be remembered for each and every day in the church calendar, but the Feast of All Saints is the only day when the church honors all the saints together; known and unknown. While we have lots of information about many saints and we honor them on their specific day, there are still many unknown or unsung saints, saints who have either been forgotten or were never specifically honored.

On All Saints Day, we celebrate these saints of God! The whole concept of All Saints Day is tied in with the Communion of Saints, the belief that all of God's people, on heaven and earth, are connected in a communion. Where we in the year 2011 miss the boat is to think of these men and women who have gone before us (if indeed we think of them at all), as possible role models but rarely connected to us today. In doing so we short change ourselves by not broadening our horizons to consider the lives of these saints but also to consider saints of today; current saints with whom we live and breathe.

If you were trying to define a contemporary saint, you might use words like caring, selfless, "against incomprehensible odds achieves greater good", "meets unending challenges", genuine, kind, admirable, but bottom line, a saint it is a person who leads a holy life, a life where it is obvious Christ dwells.

Who are the saints in your life?



THOUGHTS TO PONDER

by Alex+ and Nancy+

Taken from their book, published in 1982.

True Christian Discipleship

Who are the true Christian disciples? In Matthew's Gospel, chapter 7, verse 21 Jesus says: "It is not those who say to me, 'Lord, Lord', who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but those who do the will of my Father in Heaven." True Christian disciples are the ones who ponder the Word of the Lord but do not stop there. Rather, inspired by the Word of God are moved to live according to the values of Jesus. Therefore, the true disciples are those who not only listen to the words of Jesus but act on them.

Questions for reflection:

Week 1 – Do you think this passage calls into question "self-deception"? Why?

Week 2 – When God looks at you, what does God really see? Are you happy with that?

Week 3 – Read all of Matthew's chapter 7; what inspires you most from it?

Week 4 – List the changes you are making in light of this Gospel passage.

ALL SOOKE FAIR AND CRAFT SALE

REMINDER...

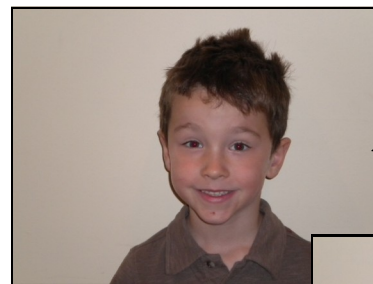
Holy Trinity will have three tables for display of our crafts and baked goods for the duration of this Fair! This is a great opportunity to participate in a community event as well as to offer our sale items. Since we will not have to rent these vendor tables, all the profits will go to Holy Trinity. For more information please contact: Valerie Mills at 250-642-5601 or the Office at 250-642-3172.

AROUND HOLY TRINITY

A great Visioning Day with Canon Marion Little, Bishop James' annual visit with Don Lee+ assisting as Alex+ was with Nancy+ after her knee surgery. New member, Liz Johnson, is inducted into Mothers' Union by Bishop James.

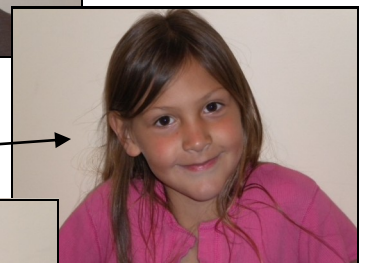


New faces in Children's Best Blesst group:



JACKSON

SHAUNA



SHAUN



Spiritual Development for All

Part Seven: in our series: Confession



Just what is Confession?

It is an approach to God made in humility, openness, and / or submission. It is laying one's sins before God with the assurance that God will show mercy.

Public confession is practiced regularly in liturgical churches.

The sacrament of Confession (usually private) is less widely practiced, except in Roman Catholicism. It is also called Reconciliation of a Penitent.

Purposes of confession:

To restore oneself to right relationship with God and with other people, especially one's faith community.

To remove the burden of guilt, so that one can live freely.

To make amends to God and, emboldened by that, to make amends to those hurt by one's sin.

Roles of the confessor:

To listen with a non-judgmental attitude.

To provide a safe place where people can face their frailties.

To provide the assurance of forgiveness.

To call the penitent to new life and wholeness.

Personal confession, made in one's prayer time, has merit, too. The key is honesty with oneself.

The priest needs to set aside regular times to hear confessions.

(For more information consult the BAS pp. 165-172 "The reconciliation of a penitent.")

WHO DO WE THINK WE ARE?

The Selkirk Region is being featured at the Cathedral on the Second Sunday in Advent. This means that all of the parishes in our region will be asked to take part in the liturgy that day and to have a card-table size display that tells people who we are; not who we've been or who we hope to be but who we are now.

Prior to this event, on November 5th, there is a Selkirk Regional Meeting, held in preparation for Synod 2012; at that time, each of our region's parishes is asked to give a 3-4 minute description of their parish with one or two visuals. This will be an opportunity to focus on what our display could contain!



WHAT SHALL WE SAY ?

Here are some of the comments about our parish that surfaced during our Visioning Sunday a few weeks ago with Canon Marion Little:

"I come to Holy Trinity because I am with people who really care about me." "I feel supported by the people with whom I pray on Sunday." "Children are welcomed no matter what age." "Everyone here is really friendly from day one." "Holy Trinity is a safe place to be"

What would you add to these comments to help express who Holy Trinity is today?

Would you have some ideas on how these could be displayed in a three part poster display at the Cathedral? If so, please contact one of the parish council members with your thoughts and ideas. We don't have much time as December 4th is just around the corner.

Also, the Cathedral staff will supply us with a priest to conduct the Sunday service for any who can't join us at the Cathedral that day for either or both services: 9 and/or 11 am.

A REAL THANKS GIVING

Recently during our time of Thanks - giving during the beginning of Early Church, one of our participants, Bruce Gilbert shared how safe he felt at Holy Trinity. He later sent this email to Alex and offered it to be reproduced in this newsletter. Often, we do not know the impact our community can and does have on others. ~ Nancy

Dear Alex,

I did mention to you that I was going to send you an e-mail and tell you how much you, Ruth, Wally, Shirley, Nancy and the rest of the people in our parish at Holy Trinity have changed me and my ways over the past 3 years.

Since I left Ontario back in the Summer of 1989, I was going through a lot of problems. I was associated with those who set bad influences on me which gotten me in trouble with the law, which made me decide to leave and prove to my family and my friends what I was really made of. When I arrived in Victoria in August 1990 after my year of traveling most of the world, I wanted to settle and make something in my life. At first I was on social assistance for a few months before I first began working at a bakery. I was working with a family from Chile who owned 3 bakeries. I was with them for 5 years in total until they sold their business, then I went into Casino Gaming for 13 years. During those 13 years of my duties there, nothing but disrespect, being judged on a daily basis, being bullied by those whose were more superior, people taking advantage from me, being verbally abused,...even though I did everything I possibly could to please them. I have failed. Most of my friends were party animals and gossipers, and mostly spend 80% of the time in nightclubs and bars. I can honestly say, I took part in that as well. I used to love doing karaoke and singing my heart out.

It destroyed me to pieces when doctors discovered that I was getting seriously ill and I had no choice than to leave Casino Gaming. It was also the same era when my mother passed. It was the hardest thing for me to do was leave. I would not be here right now if I stayed. According to my friends I had then and by their judgments, they feel that I'm the same person as I was when they met me 20 years ago. I have changed that much and I want nothing to do that they do.

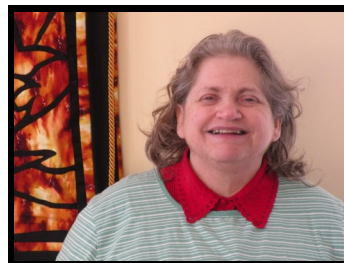
Yes I was so lost, after I left the Casino Gaming. I had no idea where I was going to end up.

When I met Ruth 4 years ago, she helped me a great deal. Without Ruth, I don't know where'd I be now. She saved my life practically. When Ruth introduced me to Holy Trinity and the parish, I have never felt so welcome in the longest time. I have never felt so happy in the longest time. When I met most of the people from the Church parish, I noticed their kindness, their love, their acceptance and their attitude towards me compared to the people I was with then. So I chose Holy Trinity. I feel safe, secure, comfortable, and loved. And I feel the same towards everyone who goes there. And nothing will take that away from me. I thank Ruth with all my heart for everything she has done for me. She is one in a million.

Bruce Gilbert

NEW PEOPLE'S WARDEN,

RUTH MONTALDI



When Norma and Brian Fitchett decided to move back to Ontario two vacancies were left on the Parish Council. One of these was for the People's Warden. The Rector's Warden then took nominations from the Council members for this position. Ruth Montaldi was suggested, agreed to serve out the remainder of the term (4 month) and was unanimously elected.

Currently, Ruth serves as an Advocate for Social Services and offices at Holy Trinity. She is also the person who makes the copies of our Sunday bulletins as well as the Parish Newsletter. She was formally inducted at the Sunday Service on Oct. 23.

If you don't know Ruth, please introduce yourself to her...she is your new People's Warden!

HOME AT LAST

~ Tony Church



REMEMBRANCE DAY

November 11, 2011

He's home at last, a mother's son, a fine young man, his duty done,
Yet not for him the fond embrace, a loving kiss, a smiling face
Or cries of joy to laugh and cheer the safe return of one so dear,
It is his lot to show the world a soldier's fate as flags unfurl
And Standards lower in salutation, symbols of a grateful nation.

Sombre now, the drum beats low, as he is carried, gentle, so
As if not to disturb his rest, by comrades, three and three abreast
Who now, as quiet orders sound, they, one by one then move around
To place him in the carriage decked with flowers in calm and hushed respect,
Preparing for the sad, slow ride through silent crowds who wait outside.

So the warrior now returns to native soil and rightly earns
The great respect to one so young, though sadness stills the waiting throng,
While flowers strew the path he takes, as the carriage slowly makes
A final turning to allow the veterans standing there to show
The soldier's pride, a silent, mute, proud and respectful last salute.

Yet, while onlookers stand and see the simple, moving ceremony,
There is a home, a place somewhere, where sits a waiting, vacant chair,
And one great yawning empty space in someone's heart, no last embrace
To bid a final, fond farewell to one who will forever dwell
In love and cherished memory, a Husband, Son, eternally.

And we who see should not forget that in this soldier's final debt
And sacrifice for duty's sake, it is the loved ones who must take
The hurt, to bear as best they can, and face a future lesser than
The one they dreamed in bygone years, now to regard with bitter tears,
Reflecting, as time intervenes, on thoughts of how it might have been.

But in their grief there's quiet pride that loved ones bravely fought and died
Believing in a worthy goal which helps give solace, and consoles
By knowing that the loss they bear is shared by all our peoples where
In gratitude, their names will be forever honoured, guaranteed
To be remembered and enshrined, beyond the shifting sands of time.

HEROS, PEACE *and our part in it all*

Growing up, I really wanted to have a "war hero" in my family.

My dad had a vicious battle with polio as a boy which left him blind in one eye and with one leg considerably shorter than the other. Dad spent the war years in an admirable calling, teaching school in rural Alberta. He was my hero in so many ways, but as a naive kid coming of age in the 1960s, I still longed for a "war hero" to look up to.

Enter Stirling, my dad's younger brother, who was always 'Uncle Bud' to me. In the autumn of 1939, he left his native Calgary for England, where he enlisted in the Royal Air Force at the tender age of 19. He served as a navigator in the RAF's Coastal Command, flew missions throughout the war and came out alive. Uncle Bud fell in love with a pretty English girl, got married and only came back to Canada periodically.

During my first visit to England in 1963 at age nine, I asked ... no begged my uncle to regale me with his wartime heroics. He smiled and told me, "I can't remember," or "it was a long time ago ...", even though it really wasn't. To my knowledge, he never put on his uniform after the war or joined a veterans' organization. What he went through in those planes, the fears and close calls, I will never know.

Which brings me, in a convoluted way, to Remembrance Day and the whole issue of war and faith and God. It is an issue that I have wrestled with for years, with no resolution in sight.

The Old Testament is riddled with stories of God siding with the Israelites in their wars with other tribes, often spawning horrific slaughters of men, women and children.

When we take up arms against the foe, how are we sure that 'God is on our side'?

History points to atrocities committed by Protestants and Catholics against each other in the turbulent era after the Reformation, both branches of Christianity absolutely certain that God guided their swords and cannons.

Surely there were generous, loving Christians living good lives in Dresden, Germany when the bombs fell out of the sky and the firestorm started.



Where was God for them?
Or for the terrified residents
of London during the Blitz
when the dome of St. Paul's
Cathedral stood miraculously
amidst the rubble, smoke and
flames?

I had a friend who was a gifted photographer for one of the Calgary newspapers I toiled for. American-born, he went to Vietnam as an army infantryman and man of faith and came home to the States a devout atheist. Jack told me that no compassionate, loving God could have allowed the senseless pain and abject waste of life he experienced first hand in Vietnam. I had no answer for him.

QUESTIONS... ANSWERS?

If God can perform miracles large and small on a daily basis, and if he sent Jesus to be a shining role model and friend to us through time, why can't he instill in us an all-consuming passion for peace instead of a fatal flaw for violence, conquest and war?

If you know the answer to this, please take me aside after church and explain it to me. What I hold on to when I'm troubled by this question is my favourite of the Beatitudes from Matthew's gospel, "blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God."



**Who knows, perhaps
God is just patiently
waiting for us, his
children, to finally
grow up.**

To the memory of my dad and my Uncle Bud and to all the heroes in your life, a thoughtful Remembrance Day to you.

And may peace be in our heart and on our tongue each and every day.
~ Graeme Morton

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

5 Selkirk Regional Meeting at St. John the Divine; 9:30-11:30 am. Followed by St. John's Craft Fair, to which we are invited. **SET CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR**

6 Remembrance Sunday: Presentation of Colours and reading of names of those from Sooke who have fallen.

15 Parish Council—7 pm

16 Mothers' Union—1:30 pm

18-20 All Sooke Fair and Crafts Sale at Community Hall.

19 Sooke Elections—Please vote!!

27 First Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER

4 Selkirk Region Parishes celebrated at Cathedral; 9 and 11 am services.

10-12 Bethlehem Walk @ Baptist Church 6:30—9 pm

11 Advent Lessons and Carols @ 4 pm

24 Christmas Eve Service 7 pm

25 Christmas Day Service 10 am



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CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

- 4 Claire Sutherland
- 11 Shirley Sutherland
- 12 Bruce Gilbert
- 18 Chris Cadman & Don Lee+
- 20 Pat Lee
- 27 Barry Baldwin
- 29 Oliver Bingham
- 30 Libni Pardo



Anniversaries

- 2 Connie and Foster Isherwood
- 4 Chris and Fred Cadman
- 29 Wally's 4th Anniversary of Ordination