



Thanksgiving?

In planning the layout of this issue of the Post, I intended to use a picture of the Ceramic Mural that is in the Chapel of the Sturgeon Hospital in St. Albert, Alberta. It was placed there when the chapel was opened in 1993 and I was chair of the Pastoral Care Committee at the time. The mural reminds me of the verse from the Benedicite, Omnia Opera (BCP page 26): "O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord: praise him, and magnify him for ever." At Thanksgiving we are called to give thanks for all of creation and especially how we are personally blessed as we live in this part of God's creation.

However I have just read the blog that the Rev. Scott McLeod recently posted on the Community page of the website of the Anglican Church of Canada. It has left me, as a Canadian and an involved Christian asking the question, what are we doing to help alleviate the world Refugee Crisis that is growing day by day?

Scott's article hit home when I realized that the Aunt of the young child is living in Coquitlam and had been doing her best to help get the family to Canada. This really put a face to the tragedy.

While we give thanks for the many blessings that we, as Canadians, receive, what are we doing to help the less fortunate people in the world?

**Ed Lewis
Editor**

The refugee crisis and that picture

*Posted on the website of the Anglican Church of Canada, September 3, 2015
by Scott McLeod*

I will admit it. I am, literally, in tears as I write this. The picture. Yes—that picture that started circulating yesterday of the three-year old boy washed up on the beach in Turkey. He and his family were trying to come here—to Canada. The heartstrings are pulled.

My son is three. Trying to think through everything that led to that picture is too much; the conflict in Syria; the danger and difficulty of travel, and not being able to find a safe place. The difficult choices that get made by people under tremendous pressure, faced with bad choices and even worse alternatives—and I don't mean the refugees fleeing.

I mean the civil servants and state agents enforcing policies and laws that were never designed to even start dealing with the kinds of need we are now seeing in the world. Those policies and laws that needlessly put the lives of innocents in danger, and make it safer to board an un-sea-worthy vessel in hopes of reaching a distant safe shore, rather than face a horrible and painful death.

Immigration laws and systems, whether in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, North or South America, were not designed for dealing with the kind of human migration that is happening, mostly due to armed conflict



Photo: twitter

Aylan and Galip Kurdi who were drowned with their mother as they tried to flee Syria. We have not used the picture of the soldier carrying Aylan's body out of respect and at the request of the family.

around the world.

The United Nations refugee agency—the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) says that there are almost 60 million people displaced—read on the run—because of conflict in the world. That is refugees who have fled their country (almost 4 million Syrians, 3 million Afghans, over 5 million Palestinians, and on and on) and Internally Displaced People (IDPs) within their countries (almost 1 million Ukrainians, 9 million Syrian, 3 million Iraqi, and on and on). 30,000 people a day have to flee, according to the UNHCR.

It is not slowing down, the pace is picking up. Seriously—there is almost no peace anywhere. Everyone is rightly focused on the Middle East right now, especially Syria and Iraq, but there are equally, countless other conflicts and situations all around the world - too many. I cannot wrap my head around it—it is overwhelming.

My heart bleeds; my eyes stream with tears when I think about it too long, and when I am sitting there feeling totally helpless, my internal monologue consists of a sustained scream. What is wrong with the world? What is wrong with us? What, in the name of God, is going on?

I have been involved with sponsoring and resettling refugees through our church since 2008. I know what it means to try and do something—I have met "those people." In the most humbling moments of my life I have been called "brother" and "son" and "uncle" and other equally undeserved accolades. At the same time, I hate myself for having been on the phone with people calling from Libya, and Indonesia, and Brazil and other places and telling them that I can't help them.

I am not just sitting in a corner crying and wringing my hands. I do that too, but I am and have been consistently involved with trying to help. For all of those accusations and criticisms of "bleeding heart liberal" etc, I try to put my money where my mouth is, I have tried to walk the talk.

But it's not enough. For two main reasons:

The need is overwhelming. By June of this year the UNHCR said that the number is 59.5 million people.

"That" picture. Because as much as there is about the picture of 3-year-old Aylan Kurdi, there are hundreds more just like him around the world every day. Children die needlessly, let alone the men and women who also die, as a result of being displaced.

A couple of years ago, the UN had a slogan for World Refugee Day – One Refugee without Hope is too many. In my heart and mind, that holds true.

What can we do as individuals? Lots. You don't have to feel helpless about this. There are all kinds of donations to be made to good organizations doing good work. You can find out about how to be involved with sponsoring and resettling refugees through the Anglican Church (Hint: it's not cheap. It's time consuming. It is challenging in every possible way, and it is but one of the most worthwhile things you could possibly do).

If you don't want to do that, then advocate and work for policy change that would allow and facilitate our government to help more people. If you don't want to do that, then use your God given faculties to figure out other good and creative ways to build up the Kingdom of God proclaiming by word and example the good news of God in Christ. and seeking and serving Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself.

If you don't want to do that, then sit down and shut up.

Seriously.

If you think that it is too expensive, too complicated, too anything, then look at the picture of three year old Aylan Kurdi again, and think about writing a letter to his parents explaining all of the reasons why there is no room in Canada for them, why they don't belong here, how we are too busy, and the life of their son was too expensive for us, why there isn't a faster, better system for Canada to respond to the refugee crisis in the world—be my guest. But don't delude yourself that you can't do anything. Don't compare refugee resettlement to any other form of outreach. It's not about whether helping refugees is more important than dealing with homelessness, or addressing the systemic racism towards First Nations in our country because it's not. Believe it or not, you can do both.

We still believe in the myth that our country is open and caring and loving to the world. Lots of refugees believe it too. Until they try to come here. Our country has changed drastically since the times we took in 60,000 Vietnamese, and 20,000 Kosovars. A friend of mine commented that

the situation for refugees is awful but the situation for the much larger numbers who have not left and cannot leave is of course much worse and that has no happy ending. He continued that the fundamental issue is injustice of our security and privilege and exclusion of those outside of imaginary political boundaries. I am inclined to agree.

In one sense, I don't care what party ends up in power after the upcoming election. What I want the politicians to do is to care. I want them to have big bleeding hearts that will see them do the impossible—or what they think is the impossible. In reality, the refugee portfolio is the smallest in the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration Canada, but it responds to some of the most desperate and some of those most in need in the world in a way that no other does. I want whoever is the next government and whoever is the next minister to allow the very good people who work at CIC to do their jobs. I want them to work with the many, many people across our country who want to help, and to make it happen.

Its time to pray, and let God back in our hearts, and change our hearts of stone back in to living hearts of flesh and blood. It is



The Mural in the chapel of the hospital at St. Albert, Alberta

time to repent, act and do more than we think we are able or have the capacity to do. Every time we think we can't do it, God usually proves us wrong.

One of God's children without hope is too many, and every refugee on this God given earth is one of God's children.

In our Diocese we can find out more about how we can help solve the refugee situation by contacting the Rev. Canon Bruce Bryant-Scott who is the chair of the Diocesan Refugee Committee and Incumbent of the parish of St. Matthias, Victoria. He can be reached at bbryantscott@bc.anglican.ca or stmatthias@bc.anglican.ca.

The Rev. Scott McLeod serves as Associate Priest at St. George's Church in St. Catharines, Ontario. He is also the coordinator of the refugee sponsorship program for the Diocese of Niagara, and was previously the coordinator for the Diocese of BC from 2008-2015. Scott worked in the Diocese for the last 10 years, and has relocated to Ontario this year.



Bishop Logan Writes

.....a sense of Thanksgiving

for where I am at this time and where we are as a Diocese.

However, as I look forward to this issue of the Post my mind will be on two things that will be happening in October.

Firstly we will be celebrating Thanksgiving. As some of you know our children attended Pacific Christian School. The school came out of a vision the Christian Reformed Church had for education. It was based on a vision to change the world and bring the world closer to the place of God's vision. The school was based on the understanding that the young people who were prepared for their future career in the world would be able to bring a critical mind to their career, a critical mind based in their faith

in God found in Jesus Christ.

Those who began these schools came to Canada from the Netherlands after World War II. They were thankful for the open doors of this nation and the new life they found upon their arrival. I always remember assemblies at the school when the national anthem was sung. It was sung from the heart - it was sung loud and proud - it was sung with sense of Thanksgiving.

For those of us who can remember immigrating to this country there is a real heartfelt sense of Thanksgiving at the new life we received in coming to this country. I never left a war-torn country in coming here. My daughter Meghan reminds me that in essence I was an eco-

nomie migrant to Canada like many Scots before me. So this Thanksgiving I will remember and give thanks for the welcome I received and the opportunities that lay before me in coming to Canada.

The second thing that is upon us this month is a Federal Election. We have a responsibility to vote and we all should fulfill that responsibility. I am fearful that many will not vote because they feel their vote will not count so why bother. Their view is that nothing will change anyway. Nothing will change if we do not become involved in the issues and cast a vote.

We have another responsibility as Christians and that is to vote because we are called to support the institutions and structure that will make our country a healthy and just society, and to name and speak to those that fail to make our country healthy and just. I would ask you to attend candidate meetings and ask questions about some of the major issues facing our nation.

As we enter into this election the call for us

as Christians is to remember who we are and whose we are. Our call is to be a people who are involved with the least. We are called to work to remove the causes that give rise to poverty within our society, and to speak on behalf of those who are forgotten by our society. We are called to be reconcilers. In our land that means to make sure the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is not lost but acted upon. When we are listening, when we ask questions of candidates these concerns should be central as we live as God's people in this great land.

We have so much to be thankful for. Let us enter these days of October with hearts glad for what it means to be Canadian and for all we have received through God's hands.

Bishop Logan



Personnel Notes

Appointments:

The Rev. Canon Dr. Travis O'Brian as Director of Anglican Studies at the Vancouver School of Theology. He continues as Incumbent at St. Barnabas.

Mary Barlow commissioned as a Diocesan Lay Canon on Sunday, August 30 at Christ Church Cathedral.

The Rev. Canon Philip Wadham as Interim Priest-in-Charge at St. Andrew's, Sidney, effective September 20.

Resignations:

The Rev. Shelagh Huston, as Deacon in the Diocese of British Columbia, effective September 13. She and David, her spouse, are moving to the mainland to re-retire and to be closer to family.

The Rev. Wade Allen, as Incumbent of St. Columba, Port Hardy, and St. John, Port Alice, effective October 11.



Photo: C. Allen

Lay Canon Mary Barlow being presented to the congregation. (L-R): Dean Ansley Tucker, Lay Canon Mary Barlow, Bishop Logan, Canon Sue House

The Bishop's Calendar

During the next few weeks Bishop Logan will be taking part in the following events:

October

- 3 Threshold Housing Society - Guest at AGM
- 4 St. John the Evangelist, Ladysmith - Parish Visit
- 6 New Clergy Orientation Day
Emmaus Community - Worship
- 11 St. Philip, Cedar - Parish Visit
- 13 Archdeacons Meeting
- 15 Finance Committee
- 18 Christ Church Cathedral - Installation of the Dean
- 19/23 National House of Bishops Meetings
- 28 St. George the Martyr - Wonderful Wednesday
- 31 Diocesan Conference

The Diocesan Prayer Cycle

Your prayers are asked weekly for

Bishop Logan McMenamie
and the following parishes:

October 4, Pentecost 19
St. John the Divine, Victoria

The Ven. Alastair McCollum, Incumbent
The Rev. Jane Reid, Priest Associate
The Rev. Canon Kevin Arndt, Priest Associate

October 11, Pentecost 20
St. Peter, Quamichan

The Rev. Deborah Rivet, Incumbent

October 18, Pentecost 21
St. Anne and St. Edmund, Parksville
Church of the Good Shepherd, Lasqueti Island

The Rev. Andrew Twiddy, Incumbent

October 25, Pentecost 22
St. Andrew, Sidney

The Rev. Canon Philip Wadham, Priest-in-charge
The Rev. Suzanne Crerar, Deacon



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Editor: The Rev. S. Edward Lewis

Proofreader: Sheila Martindale

Our Address: 900 Vancouver Street, Victoria, BC V8V 3V7

Telephone: 250-386-7781

Fax: 250-386-4013

E-mail: thepost@bc.anglican.ca

www.bc.anglican.ca/~diocesanpost

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Submissions:

News, letters and other articles are welcome. Please limit articles to 600 words and letters to 200 words. Submissions must include name and contact information of the author. Pictures must be at least 6" X 4" with a resolution of 300 DPI and in sharp focus. Clearly and accurately identify the name of all subjects as well as the person who took the picture.

Submission Deadlines:

January issue - December 1
February issue - January 1
March issue - February 1
April issue - March 1
May issue - April 1
June issue - May 1
September issue - August 1
October issue - September 1
November issue - October 1
December issue - November 1

All material is subject to editing.
Volume 49, No 8

Bethlehem Retreat Centre purchased

Peter Daniel

This tranquil lake-front property, nestled in a forest setting, has been operating as a Retreat Centre by the Benedictine Sisters for many years. It includes a Chapel, main building with full food service and meeting rooms, a library and administration offices plus several guest residences. Buildings are scattered over this 6-acre site among lush landscaping with waterfront views featured. Westwood Lake frontage connects to 6.4 kilometers of hiking and biking paths at the foot of Mount Benson.

The property has potential to host gatherings of various sizes and can accommodate up to 65 overnight guests.

The Benedictine Sisters have recently sold this property to a newly formed corporation. The participants in this corporation include the Anglican Synod of

the Diocese of BC as a 25% owner.

The Diocese and the other benefactors forming this corporation have leased the property to the "Friends of Bethlehem Retreat Centre Society" on a long-term lease arrangement to operate the Centre and continue the legacy of the original owners. This Society is capably governed by a Board of Directors with a depth of business and operational backgrounds. The Diocese will appoint a new Director to the Board of the Society shortly.

In approving this arrangement for New Ownership and Governance by a "not for profit" Society, the Diocese and benefactors were provided with independent financial analysis of the business plans of the Society. This detailed business planning



Bethlehem Retreat Centre - Nanaimo

Photo: Submitted

confirms viability of operations with emphasis on new marketing initiatives.

Among other priorities, the Business Plan calls for:

- Increased annual occupancy of the Centre from break-even levels to substantial growth through marketing to

faith groups and ecumenical users.

- Substantial investment in new marketing initiatives from branding to direct contact with potential new user groups.

- Continued friendly and welcoming approaches to all who visit.

The property is located at 2371 Arbot Road in Nanaimo.

The website is www.bethlehemretreatcentre.com.

Please visit us on the web or in person. Telephone contact for more information is 250-752-0498

Diocesan Refugee Committee update

Bruce Bryant-Scott

For the first time since the Second World War, the number of refugees now exceeds 50 million. This number does not include economic migrants, but only those who have been forced out of their home nations by war and persecution. Wherever one turns in the media one finds stories about refugees from Syria, Iraq, Somalia, South Sudan, Afghanistan, and beyond. Most of these people qualify as convention refugees and in theory may be accepted by developed nations to be permanently settled as newcomers and immigrants.

In most western countries refugee settlement is government sponsored and funded. Since the late 1970s – the era of the Viet Nam boat people - Canada has also had the Private Sponsorship of Refugees ("PSR") which is supposed to be above and beyond Canada's international commitments to settle such refugees. For the past four decades the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia has been one of the organizations that settles PSR refugees.

The Rev. Scott McLeod served as Diocesan Refugee Coordinator from 2007 until February of this year, essentially rebuilding an important ministry that had suffered from "mission creep" and too few volunteers. His departure left a big gap in this ministry, but he left the program in excellent shape. The new coordinator, the Rev. Bruce Bryant Scott (St. Matthias, Victoria) and John McLaren, the chair of the Diocesan Refugee

Committee, have been endeavouring to fill that large hole.

There are currently have nine active cases in the Diocese, either at various stages of processing by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, or being prepared by us and the refugees for submission to CIC. Not surprisingly, given the civil war in Syria and the serious incursion of ISIS into both Syria and Iraq, several files involve refugees from those countries. They are also working with refugees from Afghanistan, and Palestinians who had fled from Iraq to Syria, only to be dislodged once again by the conflict there. The Refugee Committee is also responding to a lesser-known problem, the fate of non-Jewish refugees from the Horn of Africa who have made it to Israel as a temporary refuge, but still need to find a "durable solution," as the Israeli government is actively deporting such people.

The Refugee Committee works through groups in parishes known as "constituent groups" which include people from the parish and beyond, including people of different denominations, non-Christian faiths, and those of no discernable religion.

Both Bruce and members of the DRC can provide guidance and training, together with several knowledgeable NGOs supporting this work. If you would like to join this work contact Bruce Bryant-Scott at refugeecommittee@bc.anglican.ca or John McLaren (jmclaren@uvic.ca and 250-592-7031).

Next Justice Camp to take place in Cuba

HAMILTON, ONTARIO –

The first-ever international Justice Camp will bring together a diverse group of Anglicans in Cuba next May to explore the concept of the common good with an eye towards furthering God's justice and loving purposes.

Through a week-long program of directed immersion experiences, biblical reflection, worship, and relationship building, participants form friendships and develop skills to become effective social justice leaders within their own local communities. Issues related to food security, economic justice and civic engagement will be featured throughout the camp.

"The camps are a tangible expression of our baptismal promises, especially as they better equip us to strive for justice and uphold the dignity of every human being," said the Reverend Bill Mous, one of the camp's organizers. "This camp will also foster Cuban-Canadian relationships and explore what it means to be the Body of Christ at an international level."

Twenty-five Canadians over the age of 18 will be chosen to participate in the camp alongside 25 Cuban participants. In keeping with the justice camp ethos, efforts will be made to ensure participants reflect the Anglican Church of Canada's diversity. Those interested in learning more about the camp or desiring to submit an online application can visit www.justicecamp.ca.

There have been seven Justice Camps since the first was hosted in Winnipeg in 2005. This Justice Camp is an innovative joint initiative of the Diocese of Niagara and the Diocese of Cuba. These two are in a companion diocese relationship, along with The Primate's World Relief and

Development Fund and the Anglican Church of Canada.

More information about the camp can be obtained by contacting the Rev. Bill Mous, Director of Justice, Community & Global Ministries, 905-527-1316 x 330 or 905-541-9750, bill.mous@niagaraanglican.ca



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COMING UP AT THE CATHEDRAL

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 4, during the 9:15 am service

BENEDICTINE SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Thursday, October 15, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
in the Chapter Room

"IN CONVERSATION" POTLUCK SUPPER

Friday, October 16, 6:00 pm
in the Chapter Room

INDUCTION AND INSTALLATION OF CCC's NEW RECTOR & DEAN

Sunday, October 18, 4:00 pm
Followed by reception in the School Gym

ORGAN RECITAL: OLIVIER LATRY

To mark the 10th Anniversary of the inauguration
of the Wolff organ
Tuesday, October 20, 7:30pm
Tickets: \$25

SOLEMN HIGH MASS

Sunday, November 1, 11:00 am

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Reflections

Nobility

He was my churchwarden many years ago. When we first met he was at the height of his powers physically and professionally. He had had a distinguished career in national affairs and was now in business. He had about him a most wonderful *joie de vivre*.

The ethos of his Anglicanism was that of a tradition absorbed in boarding school and never subsequently doubted. I mention this because, being myself a boarding school survivor, I know well that the regular application of school prayers and religion classes does one of two things. It either turns one off or it captures one's allegiance for the rest of one's life.

Time went on, about a year if memory serves well. One day he asked to have lunch. Much to my surprise he came in the company of a very attractive person whom I already knew because she with her two children was also a worshipping parishioner. They were intending marriage, a marriage that I would have the immense pleasure of conducting in a month or two.

Three or four years went by, the children grew, and their parents lived full rich lives. Then one day he phoned and told me that she was ill, something had to be looked at – just to make sure it was nothing threatening. She would be in hospital for a few days.

Within a month she had died, ravaged by a deeply malignant implacable cancer.

How can we describe the ensuing months? Some of us already know this terrible journey that must be taken after ultimate loss. Some of us have walked, or tried to walk, with devastated friends.

Within the next year he suffered a heavy stroke. Typically, with the children in mind, he fought back. Endless hours of physio over many months eventually paid off, giving partial recovery. We remained friends.

During all this time he had decided to keep her ashes in their home. Out of sight but near him on a high shelf in what had been their bedroom. He once said that he would tell me when he was ready to decide on a resting

place for them.

The summons came in early autumn. He wished to place the ashes on the waters of the gulf. I drove to the house and found him ready. He held her ashes in the crook of his good arm and with the other hand he held a wreath.

We drove out of the city along the coast. It was not the easiest of approaches because between the water and us there was an area of dense growth, mainly thorn bushes. A narrow winding path gave difficult and grudging access. I had offered to carry one or other of the ashes or the wreath but he was adamant. Along the path we went, heading for a high rock that jutted out over the water.

For him the walk was a supreme challenge. Three times he lost his balance and fell into the bushes, holding firmly to his

burden. The third time he surrendered the ashes to me and we continued our very slow progress to the rock.

He had calculated carefully that the time for our evening journey would coincide with an ebb tide. Below and beyond the rock there was a protruding shelf where I was able to stand. I said some ancient and loving words which we had agreed on, and placed the ashes as far out into the water as possible, then climbed back up to be beside him because I knew he was determined to deal with the wreath himself.

Steadying himself on the rock and reaching for my hand with his weakened arm, he bent his once athletic body as low as he could, swept his good arm in a powerful arc and hurled the wreath to land out where the pale ashes were already mov-



Herbert O'Driscoll

ing seaward along the golden line of the setting sun. For a while we stood together in the silence. After a while he turned and once again made his way slowly along the path to the car.

I have always considered that evening one of the great privileges given to me in a long ministry. The word that has always come to mind when I recall his friendship and his fellowship in the faith is a word seldom used today. I have placed it as the title of this memoir.

The word is **Nobility**.

To the editor

Over the last couple of weeks I attended many of the venues connected with the Sacred Memorial of "Walking With Our Sisters" that took place on the Komox Reserve on Dyke Rd, Comox from July 31 to August 15. It was open to the public from 1 - 8 most days.

Comox was the only place in BC to be honoured with this venue. It is now in Ottawa and can be found on line under "Walking With Our Sisters."

Prior to the Sisters event there were many venues leading up to the arrival of the Sacred Bundle honour-

.... Did we miss an opportunity?

ing the Sisters:

1. The film "Finding Dawn" - about a downtown eastside Vancouver woman whose DNA was found on the Pickton farm in Coquitlam.

2. The film "Highway of Tears" - about hitchhikers missing on Hwy 91. Discussion and healing circles followed both films.

3. On 1 August, the bells at Courtenay United Church were rung 1,129 times for the Sisters. A public apology was given and a gift made to the elected Chief of the Komox Reserve.

A Cowichan Band Resi-

dential School Survivor gave a heart-felt reflection that I viewed through live streaming on my computer.

Clergy familiar with Alert Bay and Kingcome also showed respect and empathy. 300 volunteers from the "white" community were gratefully received and respected.

This Sacred Memorial was widely advertised in all of the North Island outlets.

All of this was prompted within me as a born Anglican because of the direction Synod took to support this in Victoria.

My heart is heavy, as I didn't witness any local involvement by the Anglican clergy. If they were in the shadows, I am thankful for the support. If absent - Why?

St. Michael's Indian Residential School damaged several generations of my friends and their families.

As an Anglican, I was taught to follow the teachings of Jesus and to "Love thy Neighbour" and to respect them. For every action there is a reaction. Listen to others and you might hear the voice of God telling you of the path he has for you.

"Thanks Be To God"

**Sincerely,
Sandra Ryan**

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

The Diocese of British Columbia, serving Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, is re-defining the scope of its ministry and mission to align with its vision that will renew and revitalize the Anglican community ministering in today's world. **The Communications Officer** is a new full-time position in the mission and administration of the Diocese reporting to the Executive Officer. **The Communications Officer** will have diversified experience in multiple forms of communication and related technologies. This new position will start by developing a communication strategy and oversee its implementation.

Applications for this position will be accepted to October 13, 2015. More information concerning the Diocese can be found at www.bc.anglican.ca. A detailed role description can be found at: <http://bc.anglican.ca/employment>.

To apply please send your resume or CV by either of –

Mail: Private & Confidential
Canon Imelda Secker
Diocese of British Columbia
900 Vancouver Street
Victoria BC V8V 3V7

or Fax: 250 386 4013

or Email: seckeri@bc.anglican.ca

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Community joins in cemetery cleanup at St. Luke's

Barb Prescott

St. Luke's churchyard is the resting place of many of the early families of the Cedar Hill area in Saanich and dates back to the beginning of the Parish of St. Luke, Cedar Hill.

In 1861 the first Cedar Hill congregation felt their prayers were answered when Mr. Anthony Elliott returned from the Cariboo Gold Rush. Hearing of the church's need, he gave St. Luke's seven acres: one acre for the church and churchyard, with the rest for the Parson's Glebe (to augment his stipend through keeping a cow and a few pigs). The first recorded burial in St. Luke's churchyard took place in 1886. However, it seems likely that parishioners had been buried there during the previous twenty-five years.

As we researched the history of the churchyard and those buried in it, we realized that St. Luke's churchyard is more than



a St. Luke's resource. It is a community resource. While we have held cleanups of the churchyard in the past, this year we decided to invite the community to participate. We were able to obtain some good, free press coverage in the Times-Colonist and the Saanich News.

We held Cemetery Cleanups on the 3rd Saturday morning of the month from April to August. The cleanups were held from 9:00 – 11:30 am and we made



Before and after photos of the cleanup

Photos: Barb Prescott

sure to stop during the morning for refreshments and a chance to chat.

Attendance at the cleanups

varied from 10 people, all St. Luke's parishioners, before we started advertising to 25 people one month when we received particularly good press coverage. That month 11 of the people were our parishioners while

14 were community members. Through these cleanup mornings, we've made some new connections to descendants of

people buried in the churchyard.

Many people in the community as well as those who attend other Anglican churches have connections to people buried at St. Luke's. Keeping an historic cemetery tidy is a big undertaking but involving the community has helped us make real progress. Please see the before and after pictures to see the results of our work. We still have lots of work ahead but that will have to wait until next year's cleanups. For us at St. Luke's, inviting the community to our cleanups has been another way to reach out to those around us and to welcome them to be involved with us in a different way.

Watch St. Luke's website (www.stlukesvictoria.ca) for information about Cemetery Cleanup mornings starting next spring.

Barb Prescott is Deputy Rector's Warden at St. Luke's Parish, Cedar Hill, Victoria

Living our Baptismal Vows: Safeguarding Creation

Submitted by
the Selkirk Region

In 2013 a new promise was added to our baptismal covenant based on the fifth Mark of Mission. We are now asked, "Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?" We respond by saying, "I will, with God's help."

We all know that living the promises is far more complicated than we might guess. It's refreshing when we find that our promises, our actions and the needs of the world around us (and its inhabitants) align.

Many of us have noticed that there has been a proliferation of severe allergies in the last few decades. We have learned to ask, "do you have any allergies?" when inviting people to dinner and even when preparing coffee hour and communion. We offer gluten free options and are careful about tree nuts, peanuts, sesame and dairy. And even then, we realize that there are many more allergens and health risks people navigate every day.

One health hazard that has come to light in recent years has to do with scented products used for soaps, cleaning products, lotions, shampoos, etc. While, in the Medieval Ages, going to church might require a dousing of perfume or incense to help cover the scent of the *great unwashed*, today's challenge is on the opposite end of the spectrum as the *great washed* now sport many toxic chemicals added to their personal cleansing products, often without knowing it.

We learn more all the time, but one realization is that not only are the toxic chemicals bad for breathing, but they are also not good for our water systems, our plants, our ground or us.

It is always a challenge to make the church a welcoming place without placing Thou Shall Not signs everywhere. The Church of the Advent uses wording that is both educational and welcoming:

The Church of the Advent is a NO SMOKING environment. We also ask congregants to limit the use of fragrances. Thanks for your cooperation.

The Church of the Advent through the Anglican Diocese of BC is committed to creating and maintaining a safe community in every respect including our ministry with vulnerable persons such as children, seniors and persons with special challenges.

The way we clean and the products we use in our church buildings and at home can also help make things safer for those with allergies. Cleaning and deodorizing with vinegar, baking soda and salt is inexpensive and effective. A mixture of salt and vinegar works well for cleaning surfaces and 1 tablespoon of vinegar boiled with a cup of water will neutralize unpleasant smells. When buying soap and hygiene products look for "fragrance free" or "free and clear" on the label and invest in some microfibre cloths which maximize water's natural cleansing capacity.

As we all seek to faithfully live out our baptismal promises, these

are some of the public ways we bear witness to our care for creation and one another.

The Five Marks of Mission are:

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

To teach, baptize and nurture new believers

To respond to human need by loving service

To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

(Bonds of Affection-1984 ACC-6 p49, Mission in a Broken World-1990 ACC-8 p101)

BCYAYM

(British Columbia and Yukon
Anglican Youth Movement)

Annual conference for young people aged 12-25

St. Paul's Cathedral, Kamloops, BC
October 9-12

Conference theme: Wayfinding: The Art of Knowing Who You Are

Theme speaker: Dan Hines

Transportation to and from the conference is provided
Cost: \$180

Registration is available online:
<https://bcyaym.wordpress.com/fall-conference-2015-registration/>

Principal Accompanist Pianist

St Philip-by-the-Sea,
Lantzville

St. Philip-by-the-Sea Church is a friendly church, with a wide range of musical interests. We are looking to fill the paid position of **Principal Accompanist/Pianist**. Responsibilities include planning the music with the priest and other musicians, and playing the piano at each Sunday service.

If you are interested, or know of anyone that may be interested, please contact the Rev. David Chillman at stphilclergy@shaw.ca or by phone at 250-390-3641.

The Contemplative Society

The Wisdom Path

Contemplative Practice and Evolving Consciousness

A Weekend With Matthew Wright

November 20-November 22, 2015
Shawnigan Lake, BC, Canada



The Rev. Matthew Wright, M.Div. is an ordained Episcopal priest, a Sufi dervish of the Mevlevi Order, and an initiate in the Ramakrishna Order of Vedanta.

November 20-22, 2015
Begins Friday mid-afternoon, departing Sunday after lunch to - from

Located at Camp Pringle - Shawnigan Lake, BC
Cost \$275 per person - includes accommodation and meals. Scholarships may be available.

"Wise and gracious beyond his years, Matthew Wright is already being widely recognized as one of the most gifted spiritual leaders of the next generation of Christianity. I am honoured to claim him as my student and colleague."

— Cynthia Bourgeault

For more information and to register, please visit contemplative.org or contact admin@contemplative.org / 250-381-9650

Plans for Mount Douglas Housing moving ahead

Peter Daniel

The Mount Douglas Seniors Housing Society has recently re-submitted its proposal for the rezoning of its property at 1550 Arrow Road, Saanich to the Municipality of Saanich. This has included the changes and recommendations made by the municipal staff in reviewing the initial proposal. Saanich Staff were most helpful and supportive of this initiative recognizing the need for more affordable housing in the District.

The plans are presently being reviewed by Saanich Advisory Boards and it is expected that the rezoning will move to public hearing later this calendar year. It is anticipated that construction will commence in the spring of 2016.

In preparation for the rezoning public hearing, the Society has had two meetings with residents and neighbours and continues advocacy with them.



Concept drawing of the new building

In preparation for development, some areas of the site have been cleared of undergrowth. Additional hedging has been planted on property boundaries to soften the impact of construction and development.

The plan is for the property to be redeveloped in two phases.

Phase 1 is a new 100 unit residential building to provide additional affordable housing for seniors while retaining the existing 80 unit building. This first phase will contain both one bedroom and bachelor residential units as well as providing substantial amenity space. Phase 2

planned in the next 10-30 years will replace the existing 80 unit building with a new building of 140 units. On completion of Phase 2, the project will have provided 240 affordable homes on this 4 acre site.

This is truly affordable housing. Efficiencies and cost con-

tainment are priorities for the Society. Work continues with consultants and professionals in the construction industry to ensure that budgets are both realistic and achievable. At present, monthly rents including some utilities average under \$450 per month.

The Society has secured some loan funding at beneficial rates and terms for pre-development financing from Van City Savings and CMHC. Both are strong supporters of this project to provide affordable housing.

No Government Funding is being provided for this project.

It is on land initially granted to the Society by the Anglican Church Women 40 years ago for affordable housing for seniors and supported by the Anglican Diocese of BC.

Please see the Society's web site at Mount Douglas Court on the Internet, and clicking on "future development plans..

Social Justice Matters!

Clara Plamondon

In response to the Diocesan visioning process this past year, Bishop McMenamie has established three committees to focus on various aspects of the priorities identified through the vision consultation and Synod.

One of these committees, called Social Justice Matters, is under the direction of co-chairs Brian Rendell and the Rev. Nancy Ford. While the work of this committee is still in its infancy, it has already identified the need for creative ways to offer support, resources and educational tools for parishes and individuals on various topics of social justice.

With the recent call for a Federal election in October the committee felt this might be a great place to start. One way to raise awareness and to encourage meaningful conversations

on important social justice issues, such as poverty and homelessness, would be to offer tools that would include ways to engage with candidates at an all-candidates forum, or social justice questions that could be used by individuals or groups as they meet with candidates and discern how they will vote.

The topic of social justice is an excellent way to engage with the larger community on relevant issues that are important to folks throughout our islands. Parishes can look forward to receiving an excellent resource package that will be sent out this Fall. Remember...social justice matters!

Submitted by the Rev. Clara Plamondon on behalf of the Social Justice Matters Committee.

A FLY ON THE WALL at Diocesan Council

Ian Alexander

Diocesan Council doesn't usually meet in the summer, but did so on August 27, principally to prepare for the sitting of Synod that will be held in Nanaimo on September 12. The report and recommendations of the Vision Fulfillment Journey Team will be presented at this sitting.

Council, in its role as "the Synod between Synods," has been closely involved throughout the consultations and work leading up to this presentation, and has made a number of recommendations and suggestions to the team.

At this most recent review, Council members expressed general satisfaction and even excitement at the way the proposals are coming together in the form of ten directions / commitments for the diocese in the coming years. They were especially inspired by the increased emphasis on "engaging God's world." They acknowledged that the financial decisions involved are challenging, but agreed that we are called upon to exercise "prophetic leadership." (A full report on the decisions of Synod will appear in the November edition of the *Post*.)

This meeting of Council took place at the Cathedral, and was an opportunity for members to meet the new Dean of Columbia, the Very Rev. Ansley Tucker. Dean Tucker was actually born in Victoria, so this appointment (as the first female Dean in the

Cathedral's 150-year history) is a kind of homecoming. Before coming to the Island, Dean Tucker spent approximately a decade each at two other large urban parishes: the Church of the Redeemer in Toronto and Christ Church, Elbow Park in Calgary.

A highlight of each month's Council meeting is the "slide show" the Bishop brings us of photos from where he's been throughout the diocese since the previous meeting. On this occasion, he spoke about several important highlights of the summer months, including the ordinations that took place at the Cathedral in late June, and a pastoral trip he made to Tofino, Ucluelet, Port Hardy, Port McNeill and Alert Bay in early July. The Bishop told us about work he has been doing with National Indigenous Bishop Mark McDonald, the Rev. Dr. Martin Brokenleg and Elder Alec Nelson around an experimental Indigenous Discernment Process for First Nations postulants. He also spoke about changes coming in the diocesan Safe Church (or "Sanctuary") program, to both streamline it and ensure that it is faith- and scripture-based.

The Bishop also described a recent meeting with about a dozen external stakeholders from government, business, the arts, social service and public safety agencies, who responded

positively to an overview presentation on the Diocesan Vision. He challenged us to do more to focus outward on the needs of the world, to infuse a spiritual dimension into discussion of important public issues, to provide "prophetic leadership," to build a "communion of empowerment," and to move from charity to advocacy.

This was the first Diocesan Council meeting which Stephen Martin attended in his new capacity as Diocesan Executive Officer. Stephen was formerly Diocesan Treasurer.

New volunteers for the position of Diocesan Treasurer are now being sought. An accounting designation is a prerequisite. The Treasurer takes a high-level strategic overview of the diocese's financial affairs, working with the Finance Officer.

Murray Crowther has just retired from the position of Finance Officer; in his absence, the Bishop thanked him for his hard work, which has significantly improved the clarity and transparency of our financial management and reporting processes. The search is underway for Murray's successor.

The new position of full-time Communications Officer is also currently being posted.

Ian Alexander is Rector's Warden of Christ Church Cathedral and an elected member of Diocesan Council.



WOMEN'S FALL WEEKEND CAMP PRINGLE OCTOBER 16 -18

"MY INNER SONG"



Pat Nichol
Facilitator



Rev. Clara Plamondon
Spiritual Director



Diane Bell
Leader of Music

Cost \$150.00 (\$50 cancellation fee)
Registration deadline October 7

Registration forms may be obtained from your parish office or Brenda Dhaene, 2291 Calais Road, Duncan, BC V9L 5V2 email: birish@shaw.ca telephone: 250 748-7183



Photo: Submitted

St. Paul's Nanaimo Centre for Ministry underway

Archdeacon Brian Evans wrote the following note on September 3 regarding the accompanying picture. "The footings are all in. This week the contractor continues with the installation of the forms for the walls for the lower level. Next week they will pour the walls. According to the contractor we are still on schedule for a mid-summer completion in 2016.

As with any construction project in the heart of a city there is always interest from the public. The opportunities afforded the parish to share the ministry plan behind this project increases daily. This is all Good News."

Relationships Matter: Sacred Circle 2015

Lon Towstego

The "Relationships Matter" is a team of people gathered together after Bishop Logan invited Sister Brenda Jenner and me to co-chair one of three groups responding to the earliest words of our Diocesan Vision. We gather with the people who have joined us so far; Lindsay Baigent, The Rev. Dr. Martin Brokenleg, Don Wilson, Victor Flett Jr., Walter Adams, The Rev. Will Ferry and Matthew Cook. We are charged with studying "Reconciliation and Beyond", our relationship with First Nations People.

We are specifically to look for ways to de-colonize our church in the here and now and in the future. We are looking at language and vocabulary choices, symbolisms, liturgies, church design and architecture, governance, education, sacred sites and more. We are grateful for support, input and resources that many people, First Nations and otherwise, are offering us. One goal is ultimately to have an Ambassador from each parish. We recognize that many parishes have deep relationships and involvement now in what we are trying to bring about.

We have spent time recently looking at a document called "A New Agape". It was written in and around the time of General

Synod 2001. We have paid particular attention to challenges that it made for the future - a time we now live in. It is interesting and humbling to look at it in 2015 and ask: What has gone well? What has gone less well? And most importantly, how does it speak to the next chapters of our common story? What is the prophetic message for us to hear?

One of the tremendous responses to the New Agape is the Sacred Circle Gatherings of Indigenous Anglicans. The eighth gathering took place in Port Elgin, Ontario, August 16-22.

The Rev. Rob Hutchison and Victor Flett Sr. from our diocese were both there. I understand that both will share their stories in parishes and other diocesan events.

Victor shared in the parish of St. Peter and St Paul, Esquimalt, on Sunday August 30. A few key points that he pointed us to are the opening and closing addresses by the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, our Primate and messages by Bishop Mark McDonald, our National Indigenous Bishop. He shared about amazing, passion filled worship and profound Bible Study experience.

Mr. Flett spoke with passion regarding the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He chal-

lenged us not to simply close the book and moving on, but to study and embrace the 94 calls to action that Justice Sinclair's final charge had in it. He pointed to one specific call regarding the church and the need to continue in parishes and as a diocese with educational opportunities that groups such as Aboriginal Neighbors and others offer.

One of Bishop Mark's talks was specifically on the Doctrine of Discovery. I offer you links to all the talks:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ygk3X5Xjjh4>

<http://www.anglican.ca/im/sacredcircles/sc2015/>

The Ven. Lon Towstego is Co-Chair of Relationships Matter and Rector of the Parish of St. Peter and St. Paul, Victoria.

Thank you!

for firefighters
for their courage
their dedication
for their long hours
in flaring heat
thank you for keeping
people safe
during the long drought
thank you for rain
and for loving us

Joanna M. Weston



A Good News Story Newborn and Child Health Program

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) announced in July a new joint program with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD). PWRDF will contribute \$2,654,612 over five years towards the \$17,697,412 project that will focus on maternal and child health in 350 villages in Burundi, Mozambique, Rwanda and Tanzania.

"PWRDF is deeply satisfied that DFATD has approved an ambitious proposal to scale up the work that we are presently doing with them in three countries — Burundi, Mozambique and Tanzania — and adding Rwanda. At the three-year mark in our current DFATD programs, we are seeing many of the five-year results we were aiming at, due to our partnership with strong local partner organizations who know their countries, their cultures and their people," said Adele Finney, Executive Director of PWRDF. "As we accompany partners, and they accompany vulnerable people making lasting changes in their communities, we see more mothers and babies living and thriving through pregnancy, childbirth and the first years of life. We see siblings, fathers and families growing their own food with confidence."



The program will reach 3,545,315 women of reproductive age, newborns, and children under 5, and include post-natal care for women, vaccinations, vitamin A and enough good, healthy food for children to grow to their potential. Health workers and birth attendants will be trained to dispense accurate advice on ante- and post-natal care, promote healthy habits, provide basic health care, identify high risk pregnancies, and make referrals to government-run medical facilities. Health centres will be equipped with essential equipment, and dispensaries, nurses' houses, and expectant mothers' houses will be built. Rapid and affordable transportation to medical facilities, including bicycle and motorcycle ambulances will be provided. The project will provide improved access to clean water and nutritious food - the basics of good health. Village leadership and local communities will be mobilized and equipped to continue the work, and to ensure gender rights.

PWRDF is proud of its more than 40-year working relationship with DFATD, and looks forward to continuing to work together with partners, including Village Health Works in Burundi, the Anglican Diocese of Masasi in Tanzania, the Association of Community Health (EHALE) in Mozambique, and Inshuti Mu Buzima (Partners in Health) in Rwanda, to improve the lives of mothers and children throughout their respective regions.

Reprinted from <http://pwrdf.org/>, by Simon Chambers, July 8, 2015

Geoff Strong is the Diocesan Representative for PWRDF on Vancouver Island. If you wish more information or have Geoff come and give a presentation on PWRDF, please contact him directly at geoff.strong@shaw.ca or 250-710-8011.

Diana Butler-Bass

An historian with a hand on the pulse of contemporary religious culture



October 16 & 17
at

St. John the Divine
1611 Quadra St, Victoria
Office: 250-383-7169

Dr. Butler-Bass is an author, lecturer, and independent scholar, specializing in religion and culture. Coming to us after giving the keynote address to the Parliament of Religions, she will speak about contemporary religion and her new book *Grounded: God, the World, and a Spiritual Revolution*.

Friday Presentation: **Grounded: Finding God in the World** 7.30 - 9.00 pm

Saturday Workshops: **God in a Post-Religious Time**
9.00 - 10.30 am & 11.00 am - 12.30 pm

Tickets: \$35/session or \$95.00/ 3 sessions
(Saturday brown bag lunch included)

Purchase tickets before event from the church office



3821A Cedar Hill X Road, Victoria, BC
(At the Old Rectory of St. Luke's Church, Cedar Hill)
We offer affordable Christian counselling for many different concerns, including relationships, grief and loss, spiritual direction, trauma, anxiety/depression, and many more.
Contact us at:
250-472-2851 or info@southislandcentre.ca
Visit our New website at:
www.southislandcentre.ca



Sanctuary Program Workshop Schedule Autumn/Winter, 2015-2016

03 October
Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria, 1-250-383-2714
St. Paul, Nanaimo, 1-250-753-2523

17 October
St. George, Cadboro Bay, 1-250-472-2090
St. Columba, Tofino, 1-250-725-3286

24 October
St. Dunstan, Victoria 1-250-472-1172
St. Barnabas, Victoria 1-250-595-4324

07 November
Open

14 November
St. Mark, Qualicum Beach, 1-250-752-5414
St. George, Cadboro Bay, 1-250-472-2090

21 November
St. Peter/St. Paul, Esquimalt, 1-250-386-6833

28 November
St. Peter, Campbell River, 1-250-286-1613

05 December
Trinity Anglican/Lutheran, Port Alberni 1-250-724-4921
St. Peter, Pender Island 1-250-629-3634

09 January
Open

16 January
St. Mary, Metchosin, 1-250-474-4119

23 January
St. Peter, Comox, 1-250-339-2925

30 January
All Saints-By-The-Sea, Salt Spring Island, 1-250-537-2171

February, onwards
Open

If your church has not been included, and if you wish a workshop to be scheduled for your parish, please e-mail the Canon Pastor, the Rev. Sheila Flynn, at canonpastor@bc.anglican.ca to add your parish to the schedule. You are free to attend a Sanctuary Program workshop in a neighbouring parish if one is not offered in your home parish. Please register for the workshops by phoning the office of the parish where you wish to attend the workshop.



Holly Bazaar
Saturday, November 14
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Lunch served
11:00 am - 1:30 pm
\$8.00 per person



The Parish of St. Peter and St. Paul
1379 Esquimalt Road
250-386-6833
www.stpeterandpaul.ca

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
at Christ Church Cathedral

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4
DURING THE 9:15AM SERVICE

Celebrating the Feast of St. Francis,
Patron Saint of Animals

Bring your pet for a special blessing

"Your Diocesan Cathedral"

Quadra @ Rockland
Victoria BC
250.383.2714
www.christchurchcathedral.bc.ca

**Living well
at the end of life**

Please join us for a series
of free talks at St. Matthias.

Topics will include:

- End of life and palliative care
- Advance care planning
- Faith practices surrounding death, burial and mourning
- Family matters in death and grief

The first talk will address support services in the Victoria area, palliative care options, and dying at home:

Saturday, October 3, 2015
2 to 4 pm at St. Matthias Church
Corner of Richardson and Richmond, Victoria, B.C.

For more information please visit:
WEB: stmatthiasvictoria.com
FACEBOOK: www.fb.com/stmatthiasvictoria
OR CALL 250-598-2833

St Matthias
ANGLICAN CHURCH
An active, inclusive community of faith

Sunday Serenade

SUNDAY AFTERNOON
2:30 P.M.

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
1973 Cultra Ave. @ East Saanich Rd., Saanichton

Oct. 25, 2015 Pacific Fleet Dixie
(Naden Band Dixieland)

Dec. 13, 2015 Cookeilidh Celtic Band & Dancers

Feb. 7, 2016 Three Worlds
(Brad Prevedoros & friends)

Apr. 3, 2016 Greater Victoria Police Chorus

TICKETS: \$15
Children 12 and under free

Tickets/information
250-652-5392 sueandjohn@shaw.ca or
250-652-1611 stmarys.saanichton@shaw.ca
Tickets available at the door



RECYCLE YOUR POST
SHARE IT WITH A FRIEND

West Shore Community Book Bonanza

Church of the Advent
510 Mount View Ave.
(at Sooke Road in Colwood)
250-474 3031
office@colwoodanglican.ca



Saturday, October 3
9.00 am - 3.00 pm

Pre Sales available Friday, October 2
6.00 - 8.00 pm \$5/person

HUNDREDS OF FICTION AND NON-FICTION BOOKS
DVDs, videos, CDs, audio-tapes, records and sheet music
Money raised is used to fund Anglican Christian ministry and service throughout our community, our country, and our world. Your support is greatly appreciated.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR
CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

510 Mount View Avenue
(off Sooke Road, opposite Colwood School)

Saturday, NOVEMBER 21, 2015
10 to 3

Great gift ideas!
Crafts galore! Treasures & more!
Home Baking, jams, jellies, & Christmas goodies!

Lunch & Afternoon Tea, starting at 11:00 a.m.

More info? Call 250-474-3031

We hope to see you there!

Christ Church Cathedral

Christmas Bazaar
LUNCHEON & SILENT AUCTION!
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21,
12-3pm
at Christ Church Cathedral School
912 Vancouver St

"The City's Cathedral"

Quadra@Rockland, Victoria, BC
www.christchurchcathedral.bc.ca

TURKEY, THE AEGEAN ISLANDS, AND THE EARLY CHRISTIANS

September 20 to October 8, 2016

A 19-day program with attention to the person of St. Paul, his message and mission, and the emergence of the early Christian community.

A Program of Pilgrimage and discovery

For a detailed Itinerary, costs and a Registration Package contact:
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