

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE REGION

- ~ Wednesday, November 30, Ordination to the Diaconate of David Fitzsimmons and Shelagh Huston; and to the Priesthood, Will Ferrey and Ernest Morrow: Christ Church Cathedral, 4:30 pm
- ~ Saturday, December 3rd, The Annual Holly Tea and Bake Sale will be held at St. John the Divine, Courtenay.
- ~ **Synod** will be held on Jan.13, 14 and 15<sup>th</sup> in 2012.

~ DEADLINES FOR *Nimpkish News* volume 3 January 31st pre-Lent/Easter/spring edition April 23rd for a post Easter, pre-summer edition ... August 31 for Autumn edition) PLEASE: put these dates on your calendars now ..

*note: You can find your parish's website by going to the diocesan website and following the links. This is helpful if you want to check out another parish as well. Most sites have information re: contact, service times, etc.*

*Adapted from St. Peter, Campbell River web-site: Salvation Army Kettles*

Once again we have been invited to volunteer some of our time to stand at one of the Christmas Kettles (bubbles). This ministry has always been done very successfully in the past. It works well when done as a team so ask a friend or family member to join you. If you feel like singing Christmas Carols while standing with your bubble you are encouraged to do so. Ask a few friends to join you in the singing if you wish. The shift is set up in 2 hour segments. It would be nice for you, as volunteers if you signed up in teams of 2. To volunteer, contact the Christmas Kettle Volunteer Coordinator, The Salvation Army in your community.

### PARISHES in the REGION

St. Mark, Qualicum Beach	<a href="mailto:stmarkqb@bc.anglican.ca">stmarkqb@bc.anglican.ca</a>
St. John the Divine, Courtenay	<a href="mailto:patmos@shaw.ca">patmos@shaw.ca</a>
St. Peter, Comox	<a href="mailto:stpeterscomox@shawbiz.ca">stpeterscomox@shawbiz.ca</a>
+ Denman Island	
St. Peter, Campbell River	<a href="mailto:stpeterscampbellriver@shaw.ca">stpeterscampbellriver@shaw.ca</a>
+ Cortes Island	
St. Peter & St. Paul, Gold River (Anglican/United)	
Saint John Gualbert, Port McNeill/McNeill (Anglican/United)	<a href="mailto:gualbert@uniserve.com">gualbert@uniserve.com</a>
St. Columba, Port Hardy (Anglican/United)	<a href="mailto:columbac@uniserve.com">columbac@uniserve.com</a>
+ Saint Johns Ecumenical Church Port Alice	
Christ Church, Alert Bay	<a href="mailto:lmckoen@hotmail.com">lmckoen@hotmail.com</a>
+ St. Olaf, Quatsino.	

**Diocesan Web-Site** [www.bc.anglican.ca](http://www.bc.anglican.ca) for all the latest news within the Diocese.

*DAILY COLLECT for UNITY: Most gracious God, we humbly beseech thee for thy Holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth; in all truth, with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where anything is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen and confirm it; where it is in want, furnish it; where it is divided and rent asunder, make it whole again; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

# NIMPKISH NEWS

## NEWS from the ANGLICAN PARISHES in the NIMPKISH REGION

where we are called to be welcoming communities, inspiring people to follow Christ in everyday life, loving and serving God and one another.

*Anglican Diocese of British Columbia. The Right Rev. James Cowan, Bishop*

Archdeacon: The Venerable Alan Naylor	<a href="mailto:saintmarkqb@shawbiz.ca">saintmarkqb@shawbiz.ca</a>
Regional Dean: The Reverend Dr. Blair Haggart	<a href="mailto:crosskey@oberon.ark.com">crosskey@oberon.ark.com</a>

Volume3yr.B – Issue: 1 ~ Dec. 2011 Editor: the Rev. Elizabeth Fussell [ehkusam@shaw.ca](mailto:ehkusam@shaw.ca)

### DEACON'S digressions

Welcome to this edition of "Nimpkish News". This is the first issue of year B: Advent: the time we prepare to receive our Lord Jesus Christ into our lives yet again; the time to begin our cyclical journey through the Christian year. It is a glorious time: full of memories, promises, new energy, and renewed vision...

What is each parish doing in response to our Bishop's call to mission? What are we doing in our region in response to the call for outreach: giving/ministry beyond our own congregations? I think it is important we as individuals look "outward", but I also believe our parishes must be intentional about reaching out beyond our borders/beyond our comfort zones. The new year is upon us: now is a time for looking ahead and planning. Annual Vestry meetings will be held in January or February. Do you know what your parish is planning? Is doing?

Lest we get overwhelmed when we consider the world at large, sometimes it is good to be reminded that "small is good". In the latest "Project Report" from ACTS {Africa Community Technical Service}, David Moore writes: "As a YMCA worker placed in Mugeru, a settlement for Rwandese refugees on the eastern edge of Burundi ..... I encountered many desperate individuals during the course of my 3 year assignment in four refugee settlements and was often challenged by the seeming endlessness of the need. A hardening of the heart can happen as a way of not seeing the situation – adapting to one's own helplessness in the face of it."

He continued: "When I felt this happening to me, I made a decision to reach out to one or two families in a special way. I couldn't help everyone, even a little bit, but I could help a few in a big way..... This response, I believe, is what saved me from a subtle and gradual loss of humanity and allowed me to experience joy in the midst of what otherwise have crushed my tender 21 year old spirit ... .." This is part of the philosophy behind ACTS which attempts "to provide fresh drinking water to a community of say, 9,000 children, women, and men. A drop in the bucket when you consider the number of deaths due to contaminated drinking water world wide. In doing so, ACTS, with our help, has helped to fill 9,000 'buckets' three times a day every day. That means something" .. *fmi*: please go to [acts.ca](http://acts.ca)

I wish all of you a wonderful holy reflective Advent and Christmas season.

*Elizabeth*

**DEAR FRIENDS,**

Some time ago I was at a diocesan meeting at which a report was presented by representatives from a parish on Vancouver Island. Its title "*Parish Analysis*" gave a clue to its content. The first part was entitled "*Congregational Analysis: Who are we as a Community*" and it outlined the demographics, history, activities and major symbols within the parish. It also summarized the results of a parish wide survey which covered members' attitudes, hopes, and preferences. Put together that gave an interesting and revealing picture of a typical worshipping Anglican congregation.

But it was the second part of the report which interested me: "*Social Analysis: Whom are we called to love?*" Focusing on the town in which the parish was situated it painted an even more revealing picture of that parish within its surroundings. The sub titles will give an idea of what was in this part of the report: Our Economy; Our Children & Youth; Our Seniors; Our Homeless; Our Relationship with the Aboriginal People in our city; Our Relationship with Other Christian Denominations; Religion and our City; Our City's Challenges. Each section reported on interviews conducted with leaders and individuals in those areas, summarized statistics, and identified points of connection and points where there is distance between the church and that part of the city's life. It gave a really good picture of the parish through the eyes of its surrounding community and diverse population. Some of it was good news, much of it left lots for the parish to ponder!

As we continue our conversation in the diocese about Mission may I suggest

one step is for parishes to do something similar to the parish described above? How well do you know the city/town/village/ rural district in which your church is situated? When their residents look at your church what do they see? Looking at the church through the eyes of the 'unchurched' may lead us to some uncomfortable conclusions, but it may also lead us to places where we need to be.

May this Advent be a most blessed season for you, and may the joy of our celebration of the birth of our Lord and Saviour fill your hearts and homes.

*Alan*, Regional Archdeacon, Nimpkish

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

Just a short note from Diocesan Council as this fall we have had only 2 meetings since August – the third meeting will be later this week. Finances have been the center of our attention for many months now. I refer you all to the excellent article written by the Ven. Bruce Bryant- Scott re: finances in the last *Diocesan Post*. He does a good job of explaining of how we got to where we are now! Most disestablished churches are now on the real-estate market and there has been some activity. This meeting should clarify what we have managed to sell – nothing is final until the money is in hand!

The Diocesan Finance Officer, Harry Felsing will retire at the end of November. He has a job jar waiting for him!

The companion relationship with the church in the province of Myanmar comes to an end at the end of this year. The Bishop will write to Archbishop Stephan Than Myint Oo to express a desire regarding a future relationship and that it be more formal in its understandings.

*Marg Misener*,  
Nimpkish representative to Diocesan Council p. 2

**DEAR NIMPKISH REGIONAL FAMILY,**

It can hardly be said that our common life together as a region has been calm and quiet in the recent months. Many things have happened which have reminded us that our communities of faith are never stagnant. From a personnel standpoint we have seen some changes in our parishes. The Rev. Rob Hutcheson responded to God's call in making a move from the Tri-Ports where he served faithfully for nearly six years, to begin a new ministry among the people of St. Mary, Metchosen. St. John the Divine, Courtenay also saw some changes with their rector, The Rev. George Daley moving and beginning a new ministry in the United States. Our prayers go with them, and in particular the parishes as they begin the important work of discernment and explore how God may be calling them to be the church in this time and place. It is an exciting and challenging time.

We also have been busy in preparing for our upcoming Synod. With the plethora of changes that we have seen within the life of our diocese, this Synod, I'm sure, won't be void of interest or excitement. The questions we raise at that time, I believe, are similar to those raised among places that are in transition. We ask, for example, the deeper question of "how do we see ourselves as servants?" and "what gifts might we offer as church that may become signs of God's presence to others living in our midst"? We ask how we might be the embodiment of the wider-church in this our island home. This, I believe, is one of the reasons why, when Synod gathers, we do so to discern the will of Synod and not merely to offer and express our own needs and concerns that we may have from our

own individual parishes. This too is an exciting time and mixed with challenges.

Perhaps this why, amongst diocesan events and transitions, we can do so entering one of the most life-giving times of our liturgical year in Advent and Christmas. Here we can enter a place of quiet reflection, and resolution knowing that the God, with whom the long awaited chorus of Advent has echoed in times past, has indeed come, and has now chosen to make his dwelling place with humanity. This is God's gift to us - reminding us that we can encounter in our life, and find true sustenance in the promise that God dwells among us.

May we all experience this joy, and may it be that which grounds us, as we move forward as members of Christ's church in all that we do.

Love and Blessings Always,  
*Blair Haggart*, Regional Dean

*Addendum from St. John the Divine, Courtenay:*

Our Parish supports the Pregnancy Center, the Food Bank, The Soup kitchen (Local). And, overseas: The Operation Christmas Child, The Mother's Union's Alternative Gifts. The ACW just sent off bales of warm sweaters, baby clothes, afghans, toques, scarfs, mittens etc. to one of our northern, isolated outposts (this is in conjunction with all the ACWs in our diocese.) *The Reconnect tea* is another outreach locally to people no longer getting to church on a regular basis. Takes a bit of coordinating for drivers, vehicles and care givers.

*Vera*

## ST. JOHN THE DIVINE, COURTENAY

Father George Daley and his family have taken up a new post in Phoenix, Arizona. An emotional parish luncheon, October 19, expressed the feelings of many as good byes were said and good wishes extended. A new parishioner, expressed her feelings "I feel very sad, we were given such a warm greeting when we first came to St. John's that I felt I had found my church family."

Rev. Rodney Ives has accepted the position of interim minister. Taking over the Sunday School will be Tracy Wharram, Julia McLean and Andrew McCorquodale.

Spearheaded by the "Seedy Bunch" and with help from many volunteers, the *Christmas Poinsettia Sale* is once again exceeding expectations.

Individuals and groups have responded with enthusiasm to Linda Idris' request for *Operation Christmas Child*. St. John's has donated about 16 boxes.

The ladies of St. Peter's, Comox, invited the ladies of St. John's to a breakfast Saturday, November 5, 2011. It was a delicious breakfast, and a great time for companionship with old and new friends.

During October St. John's Guild held a book sale after the 10am service. Many books, CDs and pieces of jewelry were exchanged. The books remaining were donated to the Rotary Book Sale in Comox.

*The Reconnect Tea for Seniors* was held November 4. The hostesses reported that judging by the level of conversation and laughter, the event was once again a great success.

*The Restaurantours* met at the River City Café November 20 following the morning service. Shirley Richardson has been coordinating these get-togethers for the past

year. Unfortunately she is moving to Calgary in the new year. The Group is hoping for a volunteer to take Shirley's place.

*The Mother's Union* is offering "Alternative Gifts" for Christmas: an opportunity to share our plenty with those less fortunate. There are 12 choices, from Seeding Hope to Word Power at the cost of \$25-\$300.00. For information and forms contact Joan Anslow 250 334 3975 or Marion Matthews 250 334 4766.

*The Mother's Union* is also providing soup, buns and dessert after the 10am service November 27, 2011. Donations will be shared, half to *the Mother's Union* and half to the operation of the church.

*The Anglican Church Women (ACW)* will be providing coffee, muffins and oat cakes after the 10am Eucharist on *St. Andrew's Day*, November 30, 2011.

*The Annual Holly Tea and Bake Sale* will be held Saturday, December 3, 2011. Everyone is welcome to come and share a cup of tea and some Christmas goodies. Doors open at 2pm. Get there early if you want to stock up on Christmas fruit breads, cookies and your favorite squares.

To read and view some of our activities check out our Website: [stjohnthedivinecourtenay.bc.anglican.ca](http://stjohnthedivinecourtenay.bc.anglican.ca)

We have finally had some movement from the Parish Council with a questionnaire about Responses to the Bishop's letter. They are concentrating on the first part of his invitation, maybe more news later. I have heard that they did get a good response to the questionnaire.

Submitted by  
*Vera Jensen*

P.6

## SIMPLICITY-SPIRITUALITY OF PLAY-GODLY PLAY

September and house renovations underfoot create disruption to our daily rhythm. It is hard to listen to God amongst change, busyness, and different schedules. Despite earlier rising for prayer and scriptures we are often interrupted by the contractor.

It is difficult in our society to create balance and room for the Holy Spirit - the last week of September Sr Brenda SSJD came north for a Retreat Weekend at Telegraph Cove. Seven participants from the Churches of Alert Bay, Port Hardy, and Port McNeill joined with Sister Brenda and Oblates Doreen Davidson and Nancy Scott visiting from the Interior.

Friday evening after arrivals and settling in for the weekend, we gathered for fellowship and stone soup.

Our reflections led by Sr Brenda over the weekend were focussed on simplicity: inward (contentment, prayer); outward in our lives; and in our Churches.

Saturday was a silent day ; a beautiful autumn day with opportunity to walk by the sea and enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

We returned home rested, refreshed with much to ponder in our hearts. Oh yes and back to new siding and new windows - simplicity is sometimes hard work!

Mid October with the work on the house almost completed I headed south to the women's weekend at camp Shawnigan.

Play!! when do we allow play in our lives? do we as little children open our hearts to God in playfulness? in creativity ? in fun?

If God created the anteatr, certainly God has a sense of humor.

The gathering of women was very blessed by the leadership of the Rev June Maffin and

spiritual direction of the Rev Nancy Ford. Women from all over the Island came together to reflect on our lives; where God is in our lives to look at the beauty he has created especially in our unique selves; there was time to sing, to create beautiful works of art; to reflect, for quiet; for Bible study and conversation; and of course, time set aside for prayer and play with God.

When I returned home I shared this with ten of my friends - some who attend Church, some who do not; a gift to be simple, to laugh and to play. The first Sunday after returning home I participated in my first Children's Worship (Sunday School class) at our parish, Christ Church in Alert Bay.

Tanya McKoen our Children's Worship Director has provided the training and support for me to be part of the Children's Worship group with this excellent program: a time of wonder and learning for the children and for the teacher.

The program invites the children into a sacred space, led by the cross to a time to listen to the Holy stories and wonder about their meaning, then to take time for Godly play to create an expression of the story in their craft.

This Sunday there was a Baptism so the story curriculum was changed so the children could hear a story explaining Baptism. Some of the children were visitors for the Baptism of Lucas and Hannah and were uncertain about what was happening. But gathering around the Storyteller they immediately were mesmerized by the beauty of the story and full of wonder. I was and am so blessed to be part of this ministry for the children. Thank you Tanya for your leadership.

The colder days of fall are upon us. We continue to reflect on living simple lives and to ponder on time for play and balance in our lives.

And we are thankful to our whole Church family for helping us to grow in Christ, in our spiritual lives.

*Julie Foster*

\*\*\*\*\*

## At ST. MARK'S QUALICUM.....

This Fall we have attempted two new ways of reaching out to our local community.

1. **"Lunch & Learn."** We have organized a series of talks by representatives from government agencies which oversee programs for citizen assistance. For each session a different group in the parish provided a simple lunch, by donation, and proceeds were designated to an outreach project of their choice. The first session featured a speaker from Veterans' Affairs Canada, the second session featured a speaker from Service Canada (with emphasis on CPP, OAS, GIS and Survivors' Benefits); the third session will be held in January with a representative from VIHA speaking about home care and care homes in BC. To date we have had a mix of attendees from the parish and others from the community.

2. **"JazzVespers."** On November 27 we will hold our first service. This is targeted outwards to jazz lovers in the community as well as parishioners. Musicians from within the parish as well others who perform locally have come together with music in the tradition of the Spirituals as well as other well known sacred music played in the style of jazz. Meditation on a scripture passage and night prayers will round out the service.

Is this mission? We are not sure, but we feel that if we can touch people in a place which is special to them, either something they love or something that troubles them, and present an inviting face which radiates the Gospel, then some may come seeking to know more. *Alan*

**ACTS News** - Young leader from Comox - making a difference! 18-year-old from Comox Valley is one of eight young leaders from BC making a difference locally and globally **Anika Barlow** from the Comox Valley is one of eight leaders under the age of 30 from all over BC, who are being recognized by the BC Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC) as global citizens and models of civic engagement.

*You and I -*

*We meet as strangers, each carrying a mystery within us. I cannot say who you are.*

*I may never know you completely.*

*But I trust that you are a person in your own right, possessed of a beauty and value that are the Earth's richest treasures.*

*So I make this promise to you:*

*I will impose no identities upon you: but will invite you to become yourself without shame or fear.*

*I will hold open a space for you in the world and allow your right to fill it with an authentic vocation and purpose. For as long as your search takes, you have my loyalty.*

*- Author Unknown*

From the Anglican [Refugee Sponsorship Manual](#)

*From the web site St. Mark's Qualicum*

### **Outreach Ministries:**

- **"Grandmothers to Grandmothers"** seeks to raise awareness and mobilize support in Canada for Africa's grandmothers. At St. Mark's various projects are periodically undertaken to support this cause.

- **"The B.C. Mission Boat"** works amongst the isolated communities of the British Columbia coast. Members of the congregation volunteer their time with this organization on a regular basis.

- **"Precious Jewels Ministry"** works in the Philippines with families in need, and HIV/AIDS grief counselling. Members of St. Mark's supports this work with their giving and some members of the congregation have also volunteered their time to work with the team in Manila.

## REFUGEES: WHAT'S OUR STATUS?

I haven't heard a lot from parishes about refugee sponsorships. I hope that is oversight rather than lack of involvement. Having said that, however, I realize the process can be long and complicated.

The Comox Valley Refugee Committee, under the umbrella of Comox United Church, is in the process of waiting for a family of 5 to arrive, and investigating the possibility of sponsoring a second family of 9! How do we as Christians fit into this?

The committee is an interesting ecumenical mix with representatives from a number of different denominations. In one month, the committee raised the \$30,000 needed to sponsor the first family PLUS an additional \$20,000 which has encouraged us to investigate sponsoring a **second** refugee family. This we are doing.

Now, however, comes the hook: we need more people to provide the necessary support system for the second family. Experience has taught me that the successful refugee experience depends upon "after care". We need people to be available to support English language acquisition, cultural exposure etc.

With enough people involved, success is much more likely. The last refugee family sponsored by the parishes of St. John the Divine, Courtenay and St. Peter's, Comox now owns their own house and business! The son is well employed, is married and has a child; the daughter is employed and well adjusted. It is a wonderful success story.

But it took a lot of us to help that happen! Today, we have people committed to assist the committee's first family to adjust and integrate into our Valley; now we need folks willing to assist the second family.

Briefly, for those who have not been involved before: *"Private sponsors submit the Undertaking for a Refugee Family. The Canadian visa office abroad will process the refugee's application and determine whether that family meets the eligibility criteria and satisfies admissibility requirements for resettlement to Canada. Private sponsors (us) commit to supporting sponsored refugees for the duration of the sponsorship period which is usually 12 months upon arrival in Canada."* (hence the \$30,000 up front) *fmi go to: [rstp.ca](http://rstp.ca)*

If your parish is not involved in sponsoring a family, you might like to contribute to this one OR go to the Diocesan website, click on "Resources" then, "Refugee Committee" and find the [Refugee Sponsorship Manual](#)

In a project this extensive, it is really important that there be accountability and careful handling of all financial matters. Our umbrella organization is Comox United Church. All donation receipts will come from there; so cheques should be made out to "Comox United Church Refugee fund" .. You can send them directly to  
Comox United Church  
250 Dr Beach Comox, BC V9M 1P9

or to me and I will deliver them.

The Rev. Elizabeth Fussell  
1293 Kye Bay Rd Comox, BC V9M 3T6

At least one church I know made a substantial contribution on behalf of the whole congregation as part of its regular mission outreach.

As this new year begins, new budgets are being developed. I hope every parish has a substantial line for "beyond the parish" or "mission to others" or something similar .. In tough economic times it is sometimes difficult to move beyond the maintenance mentality. As Christians in Canada, we have so much. We cannot afford to use our gifts to serve only ourselves.

Happy New Year .. And please get in touch with me if you can help our new refugee family.

*Elizabeth*