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# Contact

Saint Paul's

Nanaimo, B.C.

*Keeping your home  
in contact with your parish*

**December 2017**

**Interim Priest In Charge: The Venerable Alan Naylor**

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## From the Rector's Niche...

Dear St. Paul's Family,

A few weeks ago, did you practice "Drop, Cover and Hold On"? It was the Great BC Shake-Out – our annual earthquake preparedness drill. As the headline in a local newspaper read: *"Personal preparedness is the key to dealing with any emergency. Surviving a disaster takes planning."* It's always heartening to read about our regional emergency services conducting exercises and testing their ability to respond to situations, from weather related disasters to fires to earthquakes to major accidents.

As excellent as those professional services are, we are continually reminded that each person and household also needs to take some responsibility for themselves and to plan for emergencies. Basic supplies of food and water, evacuation routes, first aid kit, blankets and batteries are some of the items we all should have in a safe place and kept fresh. Diana and I have a couple of large bags at our back door, and whenever there is a major earthquake or calamity somewhere in the world, we both rush to refresh our evacuation kit! In this way we hope to lessen the severity of an emergency on ourselves, be in a position to help a neighbour, and most importantly reduce our dependence on thinly stretched public emergency services.

These early days of December have us preparing once again in a different way as we look forward to celebrating Christmas. This time of preparation for Christmas, which we call Advent, is a kind of

emergency preparedness in the sense of getting ready for the unexpected. Not that there is any thing in Christmas itself that represents an emergency or a surprise. On the contrary it is a time of great joy and reassurance of God's care and compassion for the human condition shown in God's willingness to enter his own creation and take on the same human flesh with which we have been created.

However, in this season of getting ready for that celebration, perhaps we could keep our view wider for a little while longer, before we zero in on the holy child in a manger in first century Bethlehem. This is a time for us to see that the Christmas event is but one occasion on which God has mightily intervened into the dimensions of creation. As the prophet Isaiah put it: *"When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past, no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him."*

We are asked to see that the birth of Jesus of Nazareth was an answer to that cry. That in it there was a tearing open of the heavens - literally an earth shattering event. We are asked also to see that it was but one instance of God breaking into creation, and that Christ comes to us in many ways, at many times. Especially through each other and particularly in the meeting of each other's needs. And then, to see Christmas as a rehearsal of sorts, an emergency preparedness drill one might say, for what Jesus promised is yet to come – his final coming again in glory.

So, at all times, but also in these winter months as we check our emergency kits to help us through power outages or other calamities, may we also do a check-up on our spiritual preparedness kits. Jesus himself said: “*What I say to you I say to all – keep awake – be watchful, be ready.*”

From our home to yours, a very happy and blessed Christmas!

*Alan*

## From the Deacon ...

We are at the beginning of some new seasons in our Church life – Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. It is the time of year when we will probably hear more music and certainly music that we have known for a long time.

How does this affect people with Dementia or Alzheimer’s? Well, it could cause them to *come to life*, as it were. It might give us reasons to perhaps think that Dementia is all a put on. I can tell you that it is not a put on or an act. Music being sung, played, or heard in your loved ones past can trigger memories and cause them to become more *alive*. Music quite often reaches those corners of their minds that have “disappeared”, so I encourage you to take them to children’s concerts, and choir concerts - they will enjoy it! While present with your spouse, friend or family member, you may receive a joy that you have not had or felt for a while. Figuring out what kind of music they liked or what they remember is one way of reaching out to someone with Dementia/Alzheimer year round. I know that some of our Care Facilities hold music sessions, so go with them and encourage them. It is a joy to be with them at this time.

So as you begin to celebrate what Christ has given us, remember this - No one can take Christ out of Christmas unless you or I give it away. Being Christ in our world today has its challenges, showing Christ in our world today is much easier.

Remember to love your neighbour as yourself and share a smile, a kind word, and look to see where Christ is in our World, Neighbourhood, and in our Families.

A blessed Advent, Christmas and Epiphany to each and everyone of you.

*Reverend Lynn Cawthra,*  
Deacon

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## ***THE WARDEN’S CORNER***

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It hardly seems possible that we are already coming to the end of the year. It has been an eventful one!

I would like to express my gratitude to the members of St. Paul for taking on challenging new roles within the church family as we search for a new rector. With the leadership shown by the Venerable Alan Naylor, there has been a minimum of ‘bumps’ as we proceed along this new road. My gratitude is also extended to Boyd Shaw, Bishop’s Warden, for assisting me in carrying out my duties as warden – he has been a stalwart mentor.

St. Paul’s advertisement for the rector’s position has been posted for the past month. The next stage of our journey will start when the Bishop’s Consultation Team is called upon to begin the process of reading, reviewing, ‘vetting’ the applications. While we await this new beginning for St. Paul, we enter the season of Advent – a watchful and waiting time for the birth of a new way of thinking, for a new way of living in community, for a new and loving Lord.

Archdeacon Alan Naylor will be leading an Advent study immediately following the Wednesday Eucharist from 11:45am-12.30pm. The study will be presented as short talks and quiet times for reflection on the four songs in the Infancy Narrative of the Gospel of Luke. We are all welcome to attend just the service, or the talk, or both beginning Wednesday, December 13, 20, 27 and January 3rd.

Please keep our St. Paul’s family in your hearts and prayers this month as you celebrate a ***Merry Christmas*** and a ***Happy New Year***.

*Janice Valecourt,*  
People’s Warden

## NOTES FROM THE TREASURER



## LUNA NEEDS YOUR HELP!!



Well, poor Luna the Cow is getting thinner by the day as very few seem to be feeding her. While she prefers a diet of Loonies, she is willing to give Loose Change a try again.

She will be in the Narthex for a few more weeks. Please spare her what you can!

*Farmer Sue*

## Happenings Around the Buildings and Grounds

Advent has come upon us. Thanks to Les Annesley for helping with the banner changing in the Church and Narthex. It was wonderful having the Remembrance banner hanging in the Narthex in November. The banner was begun by the late Gwen Oaten and ably finished by Grace-Ellen Capier.

The outdoor blue Advent lights have been put in the rhododendron bushes, thank you Wayne.

Most of the leaves are off the trees now, many thanks to Lee Grimmer and Wayne Randles for their diligence raking, blowing, and bagging the leaves. Lee has taken many bags of leaves to compost.

Our food cooler in the kitchen is running quietly and keeping the constant temperature around 4 degrees C. Archie Johnstone's ordered, installed and tested the new cooling unit. Many thanks to Boyd Shaw for overseeing this project.

The Verger's new parking space sign is now installed thanks to Brian Humber.

Gallazins was called to repair two locks that failed.

As the radiator in the family room is extremely HOT, it needs to be shielded so that no one can actually touch the radiator. This will be done as soon as possible.

*Caroline Grimmer,*  
Building and Grounds

The last Financial Statement available is to the end of October 2017.

Total Income for 10 months	\$ 217,892.63
Total Outgo for 10 months	<u>247,916.48</u>
	\$ (30,023.86)
Balance fwd. Jan. 1/17	<u>(16,509.98)</u>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ (46,533.83)</b>

Our overall financial picture improved in October.

Open and Envelope offerings are still below our 2017 budget, by \$12,300.00. We actually had a surplus for the month of \$6,000.00, *after* we paid our outstanding assessment for September.

November should also be a good month, with the income from the Marketplace. December usually sees a good response from our Christmas offerings.

While I do not think we will clear the deficit completely by the end of the year, I believe it will be significantly reduced.

A bright note is that **offerings are still up** (by \$12,461.62) over this time last year, which means our parishioners are increasing their givings. For this we give thanks and rejoice.

Full copies of the Financial Statements may be found on the bulletin boards in the Narthex and hall. If you have any questions, I will do my best to answer them. I can be reached by email at [sue\\_gue@telus.net](mailto:sue_gue@telus.net), or by telephone at 250-758-6674.

*Sue Gueulette,*  
Treasurer

## FUN, FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

On October 1st the annual Harvest Pot Luck luncheon, a 'true' pot luck, was very well attended. It was amazing what wonderful dishes appeared without people having to specify what they were bringing. Marilyn Browning and the team decorated the hall in a lovely fall theme. Thanks to everyone who was able to attend.

On October 28th we joined the Nanaimo downtown businesses in welcoming many children for Halloween treats at the church steps. Our costume clad committee members handed out little treat bags that also included brief information about St. Paul's.

Remembrance Day lunch for children marching in parade. (in partnership with the Legion) Twelve dozen hotdogs and cups of hot chocolate were served, between the children who were fed first, then adults who were allowed to eat. Two Miss Nanaimo Ambassadors plus their chaperone handed out the hot dogs. We valued their goodwill and volunteer assistance.

The annual Christmas Pot Luck supper will be held on Sunday, December 10th at 5 pm. This will also be a 'true' pot luck supper before the evening's service of lessons and carols.

FFF Committee Members: Les Annesley, Kathie Day, Mary Jackson, Heather Lester, Alison Lowry, Kathy McRae, Sue McDonald, Carol Shaw, Marilyn Browning, Jan Monkman.

A very special thank you to Les Annesley for his many years of service to this committee as he moves on to other church commitments.

*Kathie Day, Sue McDonald*  
Co-chairs

### ALTAR FLOWERS

The main altar is available for flowers on:

- July 1st 2018

Contact Colleen Johnston 250-753-2528

## PWRDF CHRISTMAS GIFTS & CARDS

### World of Gifts 2017

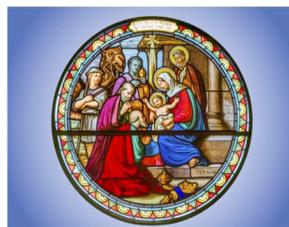


Look for the 2017 World of Gifts guide which will be distributed in the December issue of the *Anglican Journal*.

As an individual or family project, you can purchase gifts to support PWRDF, Indigenous Ministries and Global Relations projects around the world anytime

at our secure [pwrdf.org/worldofgifts](http://pwrdf.org/worldofgifts) website, by filling out the order form in the guide, or by calling 1-866-308-7973 during business hours.

### PWRDF Christmas Cards 2017



I have 2 packages left of the Three Kings design. Each pack contains 12 cards and envelopes. Cards are 5" x 7". A minimum donation of \$20 per pack of 12 cards is recommended.

*Janice Valecourt*  
PWRDF Representative

## HAMPERVILLE

Once again we will be supporting the Salvation Army / Loaves & Fishes *Hamperville* program. All donations of food or gifts will be redirected to the Hamperville program. Monetary contributions towards the program may also be made.

If you wish to contribute, please put the amount in your envelope and mark "Hamperville" on the second line, or place a suitable marked envelope in the collection plate.

Note: These donations are tax deductible.

Let's all help the Spirit of Christmas glow a little brighter!

## *Christmas at St. Paul's*

### **Christmas Pot-Luck Supper**

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm

Come and share a simple meal with your Parish Family. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

### **Service of Christmas Lessons & Carols**

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm

Come and listen to the familiar story and sing some of your favourite Christmas Carols.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

8:00 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am Holy Eucharist  
Sunday School & Nursery

### **Christmas Eve**

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

8:00 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am Holy Eucharist  
Sunday School & Nursery  
4:00 pm Holy Eucharist with  
Children's Story  
10:00 pm Candlelight Service

### **Christmas Day**

Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am Holy Communion with  
Carols

## **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MEDITATIONS**

Short talks and quiet times for reflection on the four songs in the Infancy Narrative of the Gospel of Luke.

11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. immediately following the Wednesday Eucharist.

December 13 - The Song of Mary  
December 20 - The Song of Zechariah  
December 27 - The Song of the Angels  
January 3 - The Song of Simeon

All are welcome to attend just the service, or the talk, or both.

### **Christmas Office Hours**

The Church Office will be closed from December 28th to January 1st inclusive.

In case of emergency, please contact:  
The Venerable Alan Naylor at 250-752-2882

Please note: The regular Wednesday morning service **will** be held on December 27th as usual, followed by the Advent meditation.

## *Christmas Poinsettias*

The Altar Guild wishes to encourage anyone who gives a financial donation for the purchase of these special plants to do so in memory of someone special to them.

The names of those remembered will be listed in the Christmas bulletins.

*Sue Gueulette*  
Altar Guild

### **BIRTHDAY LIST**

As you will have noticed, every Sunday we publish a list of upcoming birthdays in the bulletin. We are going to be updating the list shortly to include newcomers to St. Paul's over the past year. If you are wondering why your name has not been listed, please give us a call and we'll gladly add you to the list.



**NOTES OF THANKS ...**

*To everyone at St. Paul's,*

*This is just a small token of my gratitude for all the help & support we received this past summer after my Dad passed away .*

*Fr. Brian led us during our darkest hours & helped us work through the grief. He navigated all the steps during those initial days & weeks and was an immense pillar of strength & support.*

*Thank you to everyone who helped us all - we are so grateful.*

*Elizabeth Harris, Chris McKinney,  
Emmett, Liam & Harrison*

*I would like to thank my St. Paul's family and the Ven. Alan Naylor for your kind words, thoughts, prayers, cards, and flowers from ACW on the death of my mother Anna Humphreys on Oct. 28, in Thunder Bay, Ontario. It is much appreciated.*

*Sincerely,  
Norma Humphreys*

*Greetings to my friends at St. Paul's & thank you for the lovely card while in hospital, and for the visits - it was a joy to have you come.*

*It's been a while but I feel that I am on the up now.*

*God bless,  
Gwynne Russell*

*Parish Happenings*

**Baptisms**

Quinn Eleanor Becker  
26 November 2017

**Newcomers**

Lloyd Swanson

A short poem ...

**Pioneers**

We do not know who'll come after us,  
We only know those before,  
But how I love their useful lives,  
The fruit they bore,  
How I admire the light they brought  
In times darker than ours.

Jean Parkin

**A HUGE THANK YOU!!!**

The Christmas Marketplace for 2017 is already beginning to fade in memory. Many of the tired feet and sore backs are healing, and we are reveling in the fact that it was all a great success. When the dust has settled, we will have raised about \$8,500.00 for the Operating Account.

A big THANK YOU from the Committee to everyone who donated their time and talents, and spent their treasure (and encouraged their friends to do the same). The fellowship was great, and the profits to our Operating budget help keep us as a visible sign of God's presence in the downtown community.

*Patricia Sheen, Heather Lester,  
Marilyn Browning & Sue Gueulette,*  
Conveners.

**NEXT CONTACT DEADLINE**

Please note: We do not publish the CONTACT in January, so the next deadline will be for the February issue, and will be Monday, January 23rd.