

*The*

# Contact

**Saint Paul's**

Nanaimo, B.C.

*Keeping your home  
in contact with your parish*

**December 2018**

**Rector: The Venerable Clara Plamondon**

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## **Clara's+ Corner ...**

*"We are already in the presence of God. What is absent is our awareness."*

Richard Rohr

December 2nd marks the beginning of yet another new year in our Church calendar. It begins with the season of Advent – an often-difficult season to understand in the midst of the frenzy of getting ready for Christmas.

I'd like to think that our "getting ready" for Christmas is in fact the season of Advent, but often we are commandeered by early Christmas movies in late October, decorations and Christmas ads in every storefront window and on-line. We have this invisible clock that suddenly kicks into gear and we find ourselves pulling out the Christmas lights and rummaging in the back of the storage room looking for all the ornaments, the dusty creche and the allusive tree stand. And then there are the dog-eared recipes for Great-Grandma's shortbread cookies tucked into that well-used cookbook, and the list goes on.

Perhaps the activities of getting ready or preparing for Christmas might be understood as outward signs of a spiritual reality. The word "Advent" means "coming". Advent is a season of preparation, waiting with expectation for something that is yet to come. We come together to remember the story – the story that began long ago with people like Mary and Elizabeth, John the Baptist and the Angel Gabriel. Each of them in their own way announcing

that the Messiah was coming, much like the prophets before them. Of course, the birth of Christ happened long ago, yet we continue to celebrate and remember this important event.

We are also acutely aware of the longing of what the Messiah came to accomplish. Jesus promised to return in the fullness of time to restore all things and to make all things new. In the busyness of our lives, the chaos of our world and the frantic energy of getting ready for Christmas could easily cloud our thoughts preventing us from remembering that God is already present with us, working in and through each of us in profound ways. The challenge in this season of Advent is to make space in our hectic lives, to listen to that still small voice reminding us of God's presence; to cultivate a spiritual discipline of awareness.

As we begin this holy season of Advent, I invite all of us to enter into a season of waiting, of preparing the way for the advent of our Lord. We might ask ourselves, what are we waiting for? What are the deepest longings of our hearts? How does this relate to our understanding of who the Messiah is? How will we walk this journey of Advent with prayerful intention so that we can in fact be spiritually ready for the coming of our Lord?

Blessings to each of you as we enter this holy season of waiting and watching.

In Christ's service,

*Rev. Clara*

## THE WARDEN'S CORNER

With the Christmas season almost upon us, it is a busy time for the parish with the Advent Series which begins on November 28th, the Hospice Society "Gathering to Remember" on December 2nd and the Carol Service on December 9th.

Each year St. Paul supports *Hamperville*, a program which helps those less fortunate during Christmas time. Loaves & Fishes, which runs the program, was started many years ago by parishioners at St. Paul's and is a tradition that we can be proud of.

The Reverend Cathie Hall filled in for Reverend Clara during her time away from the parish. Rev. Cathie is a new member of St. Paul's and has recently moved to Nanaimo, so on behalf of all of us we extend a warm traditional St. Paul's welcome.

In the October Contact I had mentioned that the security gate at the far end of the hall was being installed. This work has now been completed. Please note that this is an Emergency Exit only and is not to be used for any other purpose.

As a reminder to groups or individuals using the facilities:

Please turn the temperature down, turn the lights off and close the door when you leave a meeting room and remove any garbage that has accumulated.

When using the Hall and Kitchen:

Sweep the floor and wipe up any fluids that may have been spilled and put the chairs and tables away in Storage Room G. Tables are to be placed in the special cart, and if the cart is full the tables may be placed along side and the chairs are to be placed on the dollies provided.

When leaving, please turn the heat down, turn the lights off and remove the garbage.

On behalf of Carol and myself, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. Our prayers will be with those who are traveling during the holidays.

*Don't be close be available.*  
Fr. John Hegel

Boyd Shaw,  
Rector's Warden

## NOTES FROM THE TREASURER



The last Financial Statement available is to the end of October 2018.

Total Income for 10 months	\$ 208,673.32
Total Outgo for 10 months	<u>239,751.07</u>
	\$ ( 31,077.75)
Balance fwd. Jan. 1/18	<u>( 24,761.97)</u>
<b>Balance (deficit)</b>	<b>\$ ( 55,839.72)</b>

We actually had a small surplus (\$1,114.65) for the month of October, thanks to our Harvest offerings of \$4,600.00. Our Open & Envelope offerings were under the budget we passed for 2018 by \$22,953.47. We are also under our October 2017 total offerings by \$10,647.51. It is hard to put any kind of positive spin on these numbers. We have to be thankful that we have the Project Account to cover the deficit. The proceeds from the recent Marketplace should make our November numbers a little better.

We must continue to be vigilant about our expenses and encourage everyone to keep their offerings up to date. It would help such a great deal if we could get more people to sign up for Direct Deposit.

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

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## Anglican Church Women

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### **Dorcas Bundling**

On October 29th eighteen volunteers spent 6 hours sorting and bundling a total of seventeen 4 and 6 cubic foot boxes weighing approx 1,000 pounds which were to be shipped to seven parishes in the Diocese of Caledonia. The five of us who travelled from St Paul's were amazed at the volume and variety of the items that were donated by parishes within the Diocese, as well as friends and other groups that rallied to the needs of the Dorcas Ministry. A special thank you to all the members of our parish for your generosity of clothing and monetary gifts which was put to good use in purchasing winter wear, boots, pajamas and underwear to provide comfort and warmth for families in need.

### **Nanaimo Hospice Society**

On Sunday December 2nd the Nanaimo Hospice Society is holding their annual "Gathering to Remember" at 2:30 p.m. There will be coffee, tea and delicious goodies in the hall afterwards.

### **Christmas Pot-luck lunch**

Please note that the Christmas Pot-luck lunch has been rescheduled to Wednesday December 12th starting at 1 p.m.

All are welcome to attend and enjoy some social time together. A brief meeting will follow the lunch so that we may conduct Elections of new officers for 2019. Ladies, please mark your calendar and plan on staying for the short meeting after lunch.

As my term as President winds down for another year, a special thank you to Marilyn and Norma, Diane and Sue for doing your elected jobs with cheerfulness and efficiency. I couldn't have asked for a better team to work with.

Merry Christmas to all.

*Carol Shaw,*  
ACW President

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## PWRDF REPORT

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While we are busy at this time of year thinking about family, decorations, baking & waistlines, gifts and travel arrangements -- please stop for a moment and think about the PWRDF guide "World of Gifts". I thought you might like to hear the good news story of 2017 regarding the generosity of Anglicans in Canada.

Thanks to generous individuals and group donors, 8,473 items were purchased from PWRDF's 2017 World of Gifts guide, raising \$403,000 for PWRDF projects around the world. That was a marked increase from 2016's total of \$210,000. Gifts were purchased by 2,312 individuals (753 for the first time) and 164 churches (16 for the first time).

Both in 2016 & 2017, goats were the top seller with 2,640 billies and nannies being purchased in support of our All Mothers and Children Count program (an increase of about 287% from 2016's 681 goats). These gifts of livestock have the power to improve a family's health by providing nutrition and a source of income. And when a goat produces its first offspring, the kids (goats often breed twins) are donated to another family, so the program is sustainable and life-changing.

A copy of the 2018 PWRDF guide "World of Gifts" is tacked on the bulletin board near the stairs to the balcony and hall. Also, watch for a copy in the December issue of the Anglican Journal. It is also available online at

<https://pwrdf.org/get-involved/shop-pwrdfs-world-of-gifts/> or by calling 1-866-308-7973.

*Janice Valecourt*  
PWRDF Representative



## FUN, FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Heather Lester and Marilyn Browning served over 300 small bags of Halloween treats to the excited children on their walkabout through town on Saturday October 27th. Thanks to all who donated the goodies. We couldn't do it without your gifts.

On Remembrance Day, the team, assisted by 3 young Nanaimo Ambassadors, as well as John Browne (MC), served hot dogs and hot chocolate to the children who participated in the parade, as well as coffee for their parents and leaders. Thanks to the Legion who contributed the food and to others who assisted in the hall and kitchen.

The annual Christmas pot luck dinner will be held on Sunday, December 9th. This will be another 'true' pot-luck and a sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex. A warm, festive welcome to parishioners and their guests.

*Kathie Day, Sue McDonald*  
Co-chairs

## 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 suitably marked envelope in the collection plate.

Note: These donations are tax deductible.

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

## ALTAR FLOWERS

The main altar is available for flowers on:

- May 5th 2019
- June 16th 2019

Contact Colleen Johnston on 250-753-2528

## *Christmas at St. Paul's*

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

Sunday, December 9<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 9<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**

Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

8:00 am Holy Communion

10:30 am Holy Eucharist

Sunday School & Nursery

### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

8:00 am Holy Communion

10:30 am Holy Eucharist

Sunday School & Nursery

### **Christmas Eve**

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

4:00 pm Holy Eucharist with  
Children's Story

10:00 pm Candlelight Service

### **Christmas Day**

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

10:00 am Holy Communion with  
Carols

## *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.

# A HUGE THANK YOU!!!

2018 Marketplace Report

What a super day we had on November 24th.

The rain held off for the morning and lots of happy people came to St. Paul's to shop at our Christmas Marketplace and partake of our fabulous lunch.

Thank you so much to all who helped make the event a success:

- our stall conveners and helpers;
- the kitchen crew;
- our waiters and Matre D' ;
- our flower arrangers and our decorator;
- our money men;
- our guides and door folk;
- all who donated items and baked their specialties;
- and all who shopped and bid at the Silent Auction.

The fellowship was special. While our final figures are not in yet, it looks as if we will clear at least \$8,000.

Next year will be the 40th Anniversary of this annual event. We hope to form a 40th Anniversary Committee to make things extra special.

Be sure to let us know if you are interested in being part of the planning!

*Patricia Sheen, Heather Lester,  
Marilyn Browning & Sue Gueulette,*  
Marketplace Committee



NOTES OF  
THANKS ...

*Dear St. Paul's Congregation,*

*Thanks to all of you for your support and presence on my 90th Birthday Celebration on Sunday, November 4th. I don't have to ask you to "be a friend" - all of you are.*

*In appreciation,  
Manly Price*

## *Parish Happenings*

### **In Memoriam**

Allan Essery  
Charles Essery

### **Newcomers**

Fred Woodward  
Gerry Yeomans

## **Christmas Office Hours**

The Church Office will be closed from December 25th to 28th inclusive.

In case of emergency, please contact:

The Venerable Clara Plamondon at 250-466-4611

## **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.

## **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 28th.

## Tony's footnotes ...

### Business first this time ...

The Worship Schedule is now available for December & January. Electronic copies have been sent to those of you with e-mail addresses. Hard copies are available in the mail-slots for those of you not using e-mail.

Please make sure you pick them up.  
Thank you.

### And now for a few jokes ...

Q. What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa?

A. A rebel without a Claus.

Q. Why does Santa Claus go down the chimney on Christmas Eve?

A. Because it soot's him.

Q. What nationality is Santa Claus?

A. North Polish.

Q. Why do birds fly south for the winter ?

A. Because it's too far to walk.

Q. Where does a snowman keep his money?

A. In a snow bank.

Q. How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?

A. Deep pan, crisp and even!

Q. What do elves eat for breakfast?

A. Frosted Flakes!

Q. What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

A. It's Christmas, Eve!

Q. What is the best Christmas present in the world?

A. A broken drum, you just can't beat it!

Q. Where do snowmen go to dance?

A. A snowball.

Q. Why does Santa Claus like to work in the garden?

A. Because he like to hoe, hoe, hoe!

Q. How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?

A. Nothing, it was on the house!

Q. What do reindeer say before telling a joke?

A. This one will sleigh you !

Q. What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar?

A. He got 25 days!

Q. What Christmas carol is a favourite of parents?

A. Silent Night.

... And this years favourite

Q. What's the most common wine for Christmas dinner?

A. "Mom ... I don't like sprouts" <ouch!>

Have a wonderful Christmas!

One last item ...

