

The

Contract

Saint Paul's

Nanaimo, B.C.

*Keeping your home
in contact with your parish*

Easter 2019

Rector: The Venerable Clara Plamondon

Clara's+ Corner ...

Just in case you hadn't noticed: Easter is just around the corner.

I was thinking about how we tell the story about the Resurrection. It's not easy trying to explain something that doesn't make sense; that cannot be proved by the usual scientific methods we might want to rely on.

We can point to examples in nature of how something can die and then something different emerges – like a seed buried in the earth and emerging as a new plant capable of producing fruit. We might look at the life span of a butterfly and how it slowly transforms from larvae and eventually to a beautiful butterfly.

None of these examples quite get to the heart of how Christ gave up his life on a cross, was buried and now is alive again. The stone has been rolled away and Jesus is no longer dead. It is an amazing story and well...it really is a mystery. We can't fully explain how these things happened. All we can do is believe and have faith, and rely on the eye witness accounts that we turn to in the ancient stories of the Scriptures.

I have this strong memory of a long ago Easter when I was a young child. Our family custom was to have an Easter egg hunt on Easter morning. My sister and I would eagerly wake up with great

excitement knowing that we would get to search for Easter eggs from the Easter bunny. It wasn't as if we had a strong belief in the Easter bunny – but it was part of our family tradition. As it happened one Easter, when we woke up my Mom called us to hurry up and get dressed because she wanted to show us something pretty amazing. So we quickly dressed and joined her outside where we discovered rabbit tracks in the snow. I remember standing in awe and thinking...wow! How did that happen? Maybe there really is an Easter bunny!

Our family laughs about it now, but at the time, my Mom wisely didn't squelch our child-like wonder at the mystery of how our Easter eggs and chocolates arrived at our home that year. It was a mystery and it added something to the experience and wonder of things that are not always easily explained. Mom would later also add the story of another mysterious and wondrous story of how Jesus rose from the dead. That too caused us to wonder and be curious.

Perhaps there is something to be said about the mystery and wonder of God. We may not have all the answers, but we still marvel and rejoice at what God has done!

Let's not lose that child-like delight and wonder of this most amazing season! Who knows what God might have in store for us? You never know!

Rev. Clara+

THE WARDEN'S CORNER

Since mid-December when Rev. Clara made the announcement that she was going to appoint me as her Rector's Warden, it has been a learning process as I observed Boyd and Janice in their roles as outgoing Wardens.

I take my hat off to them for the wonderful job that the two of them did, especially during the time when we had no incumbent and they were involved on the Consultation team. They are in need of some very well deserved quiet time to decompress. Again, JOB WELL DONE!

This is an honour and privilege to write to you for the very first time as your Rector's Warden. As I write this Tony and I are just completing our first month on the job, so to speak. It has been a month of orientation, filled with some interesting first challenges.

During one of our first walkthroughs when closing the church after a service, we identified a problem with a fire door, where the closing mechanism was installed incorrectly. We are having the locksmith repair this issue.

Shortly after the first Sunday in Lent, we lost power to a circuit in the Sanctuary, and the cause of the outage could not be found; so the electricians needed to re-wire the circuit completely.

Recently, we had the last remaining copper down spout stolen from the northeast corner of the church building and it will need to be replaced.

Just over one week ago, Tony and I had the opportunity to attend our first Parish Council meeting as Wardens. This coming year, we have a young and vibrant council and I know that they will be full of enthusiasm to express their new ideas which will lead St Paul's into the surrounding community. I am looking forward to working with each one of them.

As Wardens we are currently involved with Rev. Clara and Janice Valecourt in the interviewing process to hire candidates for the two clerical positions in our church office.

I want to express my gratitude to Rev. Clara for the confidence that she has placed in me by appointing me to this position. Also, the parishioners of St. Paul have been most generous in their support of my appointment, I am overwhelmed. I will certainly do my utmost to support Rev. Clara and you, my family of St. Paul.

Currently, we are past the mid-point of Lent. Have a prayerful Holy Week and many blessing to everyone for a Happy Easter.

To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive.
Robert Louis Stevenson

Don Gillett,
Rector's Warden

FAITH, FAMILY & FELLOWSHIP

We are pleased to display our revised committee name, 'Faith, Family and Fellowship, a name that we feel reflects the current philosophy of St. Paul's.

We welcome parishioners who would like to assist us in either 'helper' or 'committee member' roles as we foster fellowship and faith within and around Nanaimo's St. Paul's church.

The next supper event is the Maundy Thursday pot luck supper on Thursday April 18th, at 5:30 p.m. so feel free to put on your thinking caps for something simple and appetizing that you might be able to bring to share with others.

This will again be in the spirit of a 'true pot-luck' whereby we welcome you to attend and bring family and friends and whatever food item you would like to share. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex so that we have an approximate idea of numbers.

Sue McDonald
Chairperson

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER



The last Financial Statement available is to the end of February 2019.

Total Income for 2 months	\$ 36,267.62
Total Outgo for 2 months	<u>48,493.87</u>
	\$ (12,226.25)
Balance fwd. Jan. 1/19	<u>(36,103.61)</u>
Balance (deficit)	<u>\$ (48,329.86)</u>

We passed the budget for 2019 in February. Our Open and Envelope offerings for February were already almost \$4,000.00 under budget. We ended the month with a deficit of \$12,226.25, before bringing forward the accumulated deficit of \$36,103.61. However, it is early in the year, and some of our other Income sources (such as Festivals and Fund Raising) have yet to appear.

Although I know we continue to be vigilant about our spending, we occasionally get dealt an unexpected curve ball. Some of you may be aware that we have been hit by vandals a couple of times in the past year or so, who have taken our copper down spouts off the church for “resale”. This recently happened again, to the last copper one we had left. However, this time they twisted it off and did damage quite high up on the building. So, replacement (with non-copper metal) will involve the use of scaffolding, and the estimate for repair is just under \$3,000.00. That puts our Repair and Maintenance budget over the top already!

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 calling the Church Office (250-753-2523).

Sue Gueulette,
Treasurer

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

This month the ACW is hosting a delicious High Tea and Fashion Show on Saturday April 27th from 1-3 pm. The tea includes homemade currant scones, delicious fancy sandwiches, delectable dessert squares and all the tea (or coffee) you can drink.

Thanks to Alison Walsh our posters and tickets are ready. Tickets cost \$20.00 each and are available at the office or between or after the 10:30 services for the next three weeks. Treat yourself or someone you treasure, to a lovely afternoon tea, gorgeous fashion show from Damsel's and excellent Silent Auction.

The proceeds from this Tea will be divided among several community causes. For example, in past years the ACW donated to the Diocese of the Arctic, St. Paul's Fund for the Needy, Samaritan House, Precious Jewels Ministry, PWRDF, and St. Paul's General Fund.

If you would like to get involved with the fashion show being a kitchen helper, baker, server, set-up or clean-up crew, please contact Marilyn Browning (250) 585-6857.

As always, ACW welcomes new members and if you would like to attend our Monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month, we meet in the St. Matthew's room at 12:30pm with a bag lunch and then the formal meeting begins at 1:00pm.

The next meeting will be devoted to a report about the ACW Diocese of BC Faith and Fellowship Gathering, and the final detail of our High Tea.

Our May 1st meeting will also feature parishioner Donna-Lee Criss, who will give us a presentation about her trip to India.

Time to get out my best hat and my white gloves because ... *High Tea's in Fashion.*

Marilyn Browning,
ACW President

HIGH TEA'S IN FASHION

ACW HIGH TEA & FASHION SHOW

Saturday, April 27th

1:00 - 3:00

Tickets : \$20.00*

The tea includes:

Homemade currant scones
Delicious fancy sandwiches
Delectable dessert squares
Coffee & Assorted Teas.

Treat yourself or someone you treasure,
to a lovely afternoon tea,
gorgeous fashion show from Damsel's
and excellent Silent Auction.

*Tickets are available from the church office
or following the 10:30am service.



NOTES OF THANKS

St. Paul's parishioners,

The Reaching Out committee would like to thank our parishioners, friends, family, and volunteers who came out to support our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

All proceeds will go to the Tumaini Children's Education Fund in Kagera, Tanzania.

St. Paul's parishioners,

Just a brief note to say 'Thank You' for the participation in the Photo Directory project.

Thanks also to those who assisted in so many ways.

We are continuing toward the 'editorial section' of the project and will offer further updates as we make progress.

Thank you all again.

Janice Valecourt, Sandra Leigh, Sue MacDonald

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

Curious about EfM?

Meet some local students, mentors and graduates and learn more. See the materials and experience a sample of what happens in EfM.

Date & Time: Wednesday, May 1st 7:00 p.m.

Venue: St. Matthew Room.

For more information, please call Rev. Cathie Hall at 250-668-3701.

Flowers for Easter ..

The Altar Guild is making its annual appeal in purchasing flowers for decorating the church for our Easter celebration.

Please place your contribution in the box in the Narthex.

Decorating takes place on Saturday, April 20th at 10a.m. All hands are welcome!

Sue Gueulette,
Altar Guild President

Parish Happenings

Newcomers

Albert & Margaret Stones

EASTER PRAYER VIGIL

Once again we will be given the opportunity to keep watch with our Saviour during His last hours.

Watching with Him whether we pray, read, reflect, listen to music, sing - whatever - is always a blessing. The vigil will begin after the Maundy Thursday service at 9:00pm and end on Holy Saturday at 10:00am.

All shifts can be one, two or three hours.

Please note there is a change in the format this year. Since it is becoming increasingly difficult for parishioners to come out in the middle of the night and since the Church has to be locked at all times, we have decided that if you still wish to take part in the Vigil, you may participate intentionally, in your own home at your chosen time.

For more information or to choose your time, call Marjorie I. Adams at 250-754-2171 or the Church Office in the morning.

Sign-up Information Sheets will be available in the Narthex, Tuesday April 9th. They will be clearly marked VIGIL - CHURCH and VIGIL - HOME.

Ideally when keeping the watch in the Church, it is preferable to have two people.

Marjorie Adams

Tony's footnotes ...

Most readers will be aware that this is my final Contact article as Parish Administrator.

I'm sure that the announcement in January of my retirement as Parish Administrator took many parishioners by surprise so I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words.

When I was first appointed as Parish Administrator in December 2009, I really didn't know what to expect in terms of workload or the variety of work that I would be asked to undertake.

Looking back on that first 12 months I really didn't know if I was coming or going but I stuck at it and with God's help and the help of those around me, we were able to make a success of it.

It's true to say that the workload has increased quite substantially over the years. Most of these changes have been gradual, evolutionary you might say, but nevertheless the church office is quite a different place now than it was back when I began this journey.

The most significant change is, of course, our wonderful new facility which we moved into in September 2016, having been housed temporarily at 80 Chapel Street from April 2015. On moving into the new facility, I soon discovered that the additional rooms available to rent and an increase in demand from the local community, meant that the position of Parish Administrator was becoming more than one person could comfortably manage along with everything else that the job entailed.

Never having been one to shirk a challenge though, I knew that it was important to provide some continuity through Fr. Brian's retirement, the interim ministry of Ven. Alan Naylor and Rev. Clara's first year as Rector of St. Paul's.

Timing is very important and I truly hope that the timing of my departure is good for St. Paul's. I wholeheartedly believe that in Rev. Clara this parish is in very capable hands. We have some wonderful volunteers, not only in the church office but everywhere within the parish, and equally importantly we have some very enthusiastic newcomers to our church. I would like to congratulate my successors in their appointment as Parish Administrator and Facility Co-ordinator, respectively, and wish them both the very best for the future.

I would also like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to all of the people that have helped me perform the role of Parish Administrator, and in particular Sue Gueulette, Caroline Grimmer & Heather Lester for making my job a lot easier and helping me to maintain my sanity!

Notable mentions must be given to the following office volunteers, past & present: Joy Adams Bauer, Sue Anderson, Ray Arsenault, Dee Boyd, Rod Brown, David Gidlow, Don Gillett, Sandra MacKinnon, Paul Mayner, Maureen Risley, Joyce Roth, Dr. Bob Swain, Alison Walsh. I truly appreciate everything that you did to help me over the years.

Thank you to the counters (past & present), who come in on alternate Mondays to count & deposit the Sunday collections: Ross & Marilynne Mark, Ken McNicoll & Manly Price, Allen Cunningham & John Collison-Baker, Carol Shaw & Deanna Miller. Thanks also to our Envelope Secretaries, Les Annesley & Allen Cunningham, and Reviewers, Bill McCullough & Grace Ellen Capiere for their efforts during my time at St. Paul's.

I will miss the daily routine, especially the most important aspect of life in the church office ... the 10 o'clock tea ceremony! I once tried to

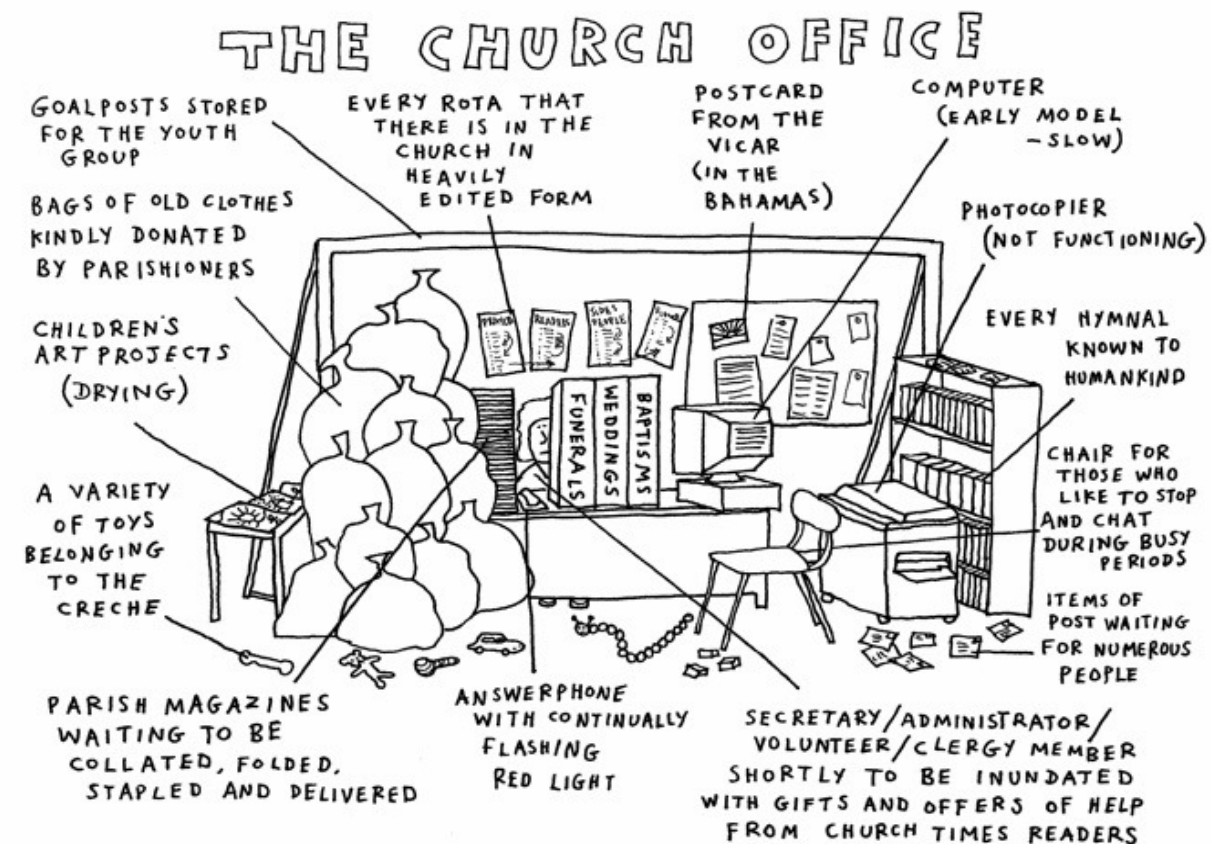
figure out approximately how many pots of tea I made over the 9 years, 4 months and I reckon it has to be close to 10,000 based on an average of 4 pots per day. If you didn't already know, I'm sure you have realised that drinking tea is something that I take very seriously, so don't be too surprised if I drop in from time to time to make sure that standards are being maintained!

Just one final thought ... none of this would have been possible had I not been selected from the list of applicants for the Parish Administrator position back in November 2009. I would, therefore, like to say a heartfelt thank you to Fr. Brian Evans, Evan Mitchell and Kathie Day for believing in me & giving me the opportunity to serve St. Paul's Anglican Church.

It has been an absolute honour & privilege.

Sincerely,
Tony

p.s. There's been so many changes over the years I can't quite remember what the church office was like in the old days. It was something like this, wasn't it?



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