

# grapevine

ST. STEPHEN'S  
NEWSLETTER

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## A Message from our Priest

For this Easter newsletter, Gary shares an excerpt from N.T. Wright's book *Surprised by Hope*, pgs. 256-7:

"... my biggest problem starts on Easter Monday. I regard it as absurd and unjustifiable that we should spend forty days keeping Lent, pondering what it means, preaching about self-denial, being at least a little gloomy, and then bringing it all to a peak with Holy Week, which in turn climaxes in Maundy Thursday and Good Friday... and then, after a rather odd Holy Saturday, we have a single day of celebration.

"All right, the Sundays after Easter still lie within the Easter season. We still have Easter readings and hymns during them. But Easter week itself ought not to be the time when all the clergy sigh with relief and go on holiday. It ought to be an eight-day festival, with champagne served after morning prayer or even before, with lots of alleluias and extra hymns and spectacular anthems. Is it any wonder people find it hard to believe in the resurrection of Jesus if we don't throw our hats in the air? Is it any wonder we find it hard to live the resurrection if we don't do it exuberantly in our liturgies? Is it any wonder the world doesn't take much notice if Easter is celebrated as simply the one-day happy ending tacked on to forty days of fasting and gloom? It's long overdue that we took a hard

look at how we keep Easter in church, at home, in our personal lives, right through the system. And if it means rethinking some cherished habits, well, maybe it's time to wake up. That always comes as a surprise.

"And while we're about it, we might write some more good Easter hymns and take care to choose the many good ones already written that celebrate what Easter

really is rather than treating it as simply our ticket to a blissful life hereafter. Interestingly, most of the good Easter hymns turn out to be from the early church and most of the bad ones from the nineteenth century. But we should be taking steps to celebrate Easter in creative new ways: in art, literature, children's games, poetry, music, dance, festivals, bells, special concerts, anything that comes to mind. This is our greatest festival. Take Christmas away, in biblical terms you lose two chapters at the front of Matthew and Luke, nothing else. Take Easter

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away, and you don't have a New Testament; you don't have Christianity; as Paul says, you are still in your sins. We shouldn't allow the secular world, with its schedules and habits and parareligious events, its cute Easter bunnies to blow us off course. This is our greatest day. We should put the flags out."

*The Reverend Gary Hamblin*

## A Word from your Wardens

As we start another year in our parish life, we would like to thank all of you who took part in the Annual Vestry meeting in February. It was great to see the church hall was almost full! As we move on, we are happy to welcome some new faces to Parish Council: Audrey Watson and John Hayfron, both members at large, and Anna Choi, who is our youth delegate to Synod (see full list of members in this newsletter). At our first meeting in March with the new group, we made arrangements for a Parish Council Retreat, which took place April 5th. Our day was facilitated by Ruth Monette from the Diocese, a very skilled facilitator. We spent some time getting to know our new members as well as delving into discussing financial goals for the coming year, team and group dynamics, building maintenance, and stewardship ideas, as well as learning about a model, "Gather, Transform, Send." Ruth walked us through a discussion on some things that St. Stephen is currently doing in each of these areas and where we would like to go in the future. All in all, it was a wonderfully inspiring day which I know you will hear about in the coming months.

It is time for the Order of the Diocese Awards once again. This year we have had three worthy candidates nominated: Bobbie Carter, Peg Rockcliffe and Janet Pavlakovic. We wish all three of you

luck, but in the eyes of St. Stephen's you have already won! (Or we could say ... WE have won, having you three devoted, hardworking, and spiritual folks in our midst!)

We are almost through the season of Lent, and Holy Week is just around the corner. If you have been taking part in "Our Lenten Journey," a study session being led by Gary, you will no doubt agree what an interesting session it has been. It has provided a great opportunity to reflect on one's own spiritual journey and to pause and think about our relationship with God. Thank you Gary (and Cynthia and Bob in Gary's absence) for leading us in this discussion.

**How wonderful it is to see new folks joining our Parish family. If you are new to St. Stephen's and have not officially met your wardens, please make a point of introducing yourself.**

How wonderful it is to see new folks joining our Parish family. If you are new to St. Stephen's and have not officially met Desiree and/or Val (your wardens) please make a point of introducing yourself. We are always on the lookout for new people but sometimes we miss you.

Also, please remember that Parish Council meetings are open to all. You do not have to be on the council to attend and take part in discussions. However, you do have to be an official member to vote. Our next meeting is April 14th at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Hope to see you there!

*Desiree Gore-Lindemere and Valerie Krause*

*Thoughts on spring and Easter,  
shared by Audrey Watson*

### At Play

What better sights on Easter Day  
Than baby rabbits at their play?  
Rabbits short and rabbits tall,  
Rabbits large and rabbits small.  
In and out of burrows round,  
Up and down the hill they bound,  
Their white tails bobbing in the sun,  
As if to say, "Come join the fun."  
If they could I'm sure they'd sing,  
So happy that, at last, it's spring;  
Let's all give thanks  
for days so sunny,  
With the joy of a new-born bunny!

- B.G.

### Easter Joy

Out over rooftops  
Glad church bells are ringing;  
In thick, greening hedges  
The small birds are singing;  
While brown hares and rabbits,  
With woolly lambs frolicking  
Add to our joy in their play.

The primrose glows shyly,  
Each celandine's glossy;  
In gardens and woodlands  
Small green buds are sprouting;  
With nature around us  
A new life proclaiming,  
Let's celebrate Easter today!

- M.S.

## St. Stephen the Martyr’s Introducing your PARISH COUNCIL 2014 .... Lenten Journey 2014

**T**wenty-three participants, nine of them active members of our faith community for only one year or less, have participated in a ‘Lenten Journey’ during March and April this year. The ‘Journey’ has been an adventure, exploring ‘The Anglican Way’ through two weekly discussion groups facilitated by the Reverend Gary Hamblin and Joy Hamblin, with the back- up facilitation of Bob Rusch and Cynthia Collins.

***“The ‘Journey’ has been an adventure, exploring ‘The Anglican Way’***

The goal of this series, developed by Dr. Elmer Joy for the Diocese of New Westminster, is to “deepen one’s relationship with God in Christ, encourage honest inquiry, deepen our understanding of our Anglican community; and to prepare the people of God for healthy service in the church and in the world.” The series includes 7 topics: ‘Who are we? – What is an Anglican?’; ‘Joining the Family – Baptism’; ‘Our Weekly Bread – the Eucharist’; ‘Prayer and Worship’; ‘Every-Member Ministry – Evangelism’; ‘The Agape Meal – Love Feast’; and ‘Being Missional in Our Neighbourhood’.

The series will conclude with a Maundy Thursday Table Eucharist and Stripping of the Sanctuary in preparation for Good Friday. Some of the spontaneous comments of participants have been: “Wow – I didn’t know that!”, “I love the honest and open discussion”, “I have so much to learn”, and “Now I understand why I am an Anglican!”

Gary Hamblin

Priest-In-Charge	The Rev. Gary Hamblin	604-838-8638
Wardens	Valerie Krause	604-469-2273
	Desiree Gore-Lindemere	778-330-4250
Treasurer	Bob Rusch	604-420-9476
Secretary	Elaine Renforth	604-939-0079
Lay Delegate	Colleen Butterley	604-552-3614
	Heather Doherty	604-720-5312
Alternate Lay Delegate	Desiree Gore-Lindemere	778-330-4250
	Janet Pavlakovic	604-421-3317
Youth Delegate	Anna Choi	778-223-6247
Stewardship Chair	[position unfilled]	
Members at Large	Bobbie Carter	604-461-1152
	Cynthia Collins	604-526-0439
	June Garrett	604-298-6531
	John Hayfron	604-464-4074
Church School Rep.	Audrey Watson	
	Betty Schellenberg	604-939-5516

(ex officio)

*Parish Council meets about once a month, usually on a Monday evening at 7 p.m., in the Parish Hall. All parishioners are welcome to attend and contribute to the discussion as non-voters. Meeting minutes are posted in the Parish Hall.*

## Our (Re)New(ed) Building Committee

I would like to introduce the members of your Building Committee: Andy Holisky, Colleen Butterley, Joan Hobson, Val Krause, Bobbie Carter, Gary Hamblin, and Elaine Renforth (Chair).

We held our first formal meeting in March 2014 and the minutes have been posted in the Hall. Please take a moment to read them. These minutes will let you know what has happened and what we hope will happen in the future of St. Stephen's.

If you get a chance, check out the Lower Garden—it has been renewed, with new ties replacing the rotten ones, and has been power-washed. This area is not used very much, but it is an

excellent space for quiet reflection or perhaps a cup of tea with a friend.

We have a quote and a plan to replace all the countertops in the kitchen and the ladies' washroom. Some of the funds donated by St. Margaret's will go towards this project. No date has been set for this renovation to start, but we are hoping to have it completed before the Spring Tea on May 31st.

Looking towards spring, maybe you would like to donate some plants (or money to buy plants) to enhance the beautiful ceramic outdoor planters. If so, please speak to Colleen Butterley. She will certainly be glad to help you with this project.

For other plans in the works now and in the future, please refer to the

## Spring Tea

The St. Stephen's Spring Tea will be May 31st, 2014, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The tea includes sandwiches, goodies, and tea or coffee, as well as a ticket for the door-prize draw. There will be larger plates available for those wanting a more substantial lunch. Prices are \$5.50 and \$7.50. Also available for sale will be homemade goodies, crafts and some other unique gift items.

minutes. We welcome any and all input from members of the Parish.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Elaine Renforth*

## Singing Out: The Willan Choir and a Trip to Nanoose Bay

On March 30th all members of the Willan Choir who were willing and able took the ferry over to Nanoose Bay near Nanaimo. Our mission was to arrive at St. Mary's Anglican Church in time to do a rehearsal and warm-up for a one-hour concert at 2:00 pm. This performance was at the request of Patricia Plumley, who is the director of the Willan Choir, to provide a fundraiser for local charities such as the Food Bank.

Thirty of us, about one-third of the whole choir, made the journey. This year for the first time the oldest member of the choir, 97-year-old Helen, did not accompany us. The program consisted of two works, which we had performed with the West Coast Orchestra earlier in March at Christ Church Cathedral and the Centennial Theatre in North Vancouver.

The larger and more challenging work was Camille Saint-Saens' REQUIEM Opus 54 with eight movements, including the much-loved "Sanctus" and "Agnus Dei." Haydn's "Te Deum Laudamus" was the second and shorter work. We rose to the occasion and sang out, in spite of not having the accompaniment of the orchestra and the four soloists that are called for in the score. The audience consisted of members of the church congregation and people from the community. We were very well received and honoured with a small reception after the concert. This bi-annual performance of the choir in the lovely Church of St. Mary usually marks the end of our year of singing and fellowship. So an end-of-year party at the choir director's house tops off the trip before we disperse for the summer.

During the Choir's year of intense and hard-working weekly practices from September to March, plus the total of

four performances at Christmas and Easter, there is usually not enough time to just sit and talk. So the time spent on the ferry to and from Nanaimo provides opportunities for choir members to chat and get to know one another. The choir is a community choir, sponsored by the Music Department of Vancouver Community College. We have been members of the choir—named after Healy Willan, a prominent Canadian Anglican composer (with hymns in our Common Praise hymnbook)—for the past 5 of its 40 years.

The participants in St. Stephen's Lenten Journey sessions will understand what we mean when we say the whole year, and especially the trip to Nanoose Bay, is a wonderful "missional" time—a time to swap stories on our various life journeys!

*Gary & Joy Hamblin*

## CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT: A Logo for St. Stephen's

This creative opportunity is open to everyone in the parish and beyond.

### Logo Criteria:

1. Must connect in some way to our Parish motto: "Looking Up, Reaching Out".
2. Must be clean and simple (not busy and complicated).
3. Should follow the theme of our new church banner (located at the back of the sanctuary, near the front doors of the church) by using the royal blue colour and a dove symbol in some way.
4. May have letters or symbols, but no words. Note: our Parish motto ("Looking Up, Reaching Out") may be placed underneath or above it for our branding purposes at a later date.
5. Submissions will be accepted in any format, but digital format is preferred.

The winner will be awarded a \$25 cash prize!

### Contest Rules:

1. The closing date for all submissions will be Friday, May 9, 2014.
2. Enter as many times as you like. There is no entry fee.
3. All submissions are to be sent to [cmbutterley@gmail.com](mailto:cmbutterley@gmail.com) or handed in to the parish office by closing (1:30 P.M.) on Friday, May 9th.
4. All submissions will be reviewed and adjudicated by Parish Council at its May 12th meeting. The council has the right to reject any and all submissions, if none are deemed suitable, or may request that an artist modify his/her submission.

Good Luck!

## SUNDAY-SCHOOL NEWS:

### He's Got the Whole World in His Hands!

**O**n four Sundays in January, February, and March, while our parents and friends were sitting calmly in the St. Stephen's pews, those of us in the Sunday-School were travelling far and wide around the globe! Using our special yellow passports, and with the help of friendly tour guides, we travelled to Haiti, Zimbabwe, Korea, and India.

#### Haiti - our tour guide Colleen

Butterley took us to the hospital where she worked for two weeks with her son Kevin. We saw pictures of the piles of rubble from the big earthquake of 2010. We visited a church with no roof, and saw the people dressed in their best clothes, the keyboard that was used for the music, and the chickens that walked around during the service. And we had a snack of banana chips. We also learned to say "Jesus Loves Me" in Creole, the language of Haiti. Jezi renmen mwen!

**Zimbabwe** – this time our tour guide was Marvis Munopo, with the help of Kudzai and Mazvita. We visited the village where Marvis's mother lives, and saw the beautiful homes made of mud bricks and straw. We also saw houses in the city, and the school kids in their beautiful uniforms. Kudzai and Mazvita showed us how to make the Zimbabwean flag out of elastic bands! We also learned a great new song – "Do not Throw Away Garbage Everywhere," which we can sing in the Shona language too ("Musarase marara pese pese"). After that we were thirsty, and so we enjoyed a drink something like Orange Crush, but made from Zimbabwean oranges. Best of all, we learned that "Jesu anondida!"

**Korea** – Anna Choi took us to Korea, with the help of our Sunday-

school teacher Kwang-Ok Ha. We learned that Korea is 1/10th the size of British Columbia, but has more people than Canada living in it! We visited a very large, very full church, where the procession of servers and priests was very long. We learned to say "I love you Jesus," which works better in Korean than "Jesus loves me." Sarang-Hae Yo Yesu-Nim! We saw how the Korean flag has symbols for the sky (spring), moon (winter), earth (summer), and sun (autumn). And then Anna put us to work – she showed us how to make an origami star. We enjoyed the chocolate covered pretzel treat that Ha gave each of us.

**India** – Vimal Aaron took us to the south-east part of India, his home city of Chennai (formerly called Madras). There we saw the very large and beautiful Christian church, and learned about how his family became Christians (most of the city residents belong to the Hindu religion). We found out that it is very rainy in October and November, the monsoon time, and very hot in May and June, when the school kids have their summer holidays. We also learned that if you go to the tip of the Indian peninsula, you can see the place where the waters of the Arabian Sea, the Indian Ocean, and the Bay of Bengal all join together. We found it interesting that Beulah and Vimal met each other through an arranged marriage. Vimal also taught us how to say "Yesu unnai naesikirar!"

Thank-you to our tour guides for sharing what life is like in another part of the world!

*Betty Schellenberg*  
*Children's Ministry Co-ordinator*

# Easter Services

April 17	Maundy Thursday	6:00 pm	Table Eucharist and Stripping of the Sanctuary
April 18	Good Friday	<i>At St. Timothy Anglican Church 4550 Kitchener St., Burnaby</i>	
		10:30 am	Refreshments
		11:00 am	Good Friday Stations of the Cross (child-friendly)
April 19	Holy Saturday	7:00 pm	Easter Vigil
April 20	 <i>aster</i>	10:00 am	Baptism and Holy Eucharist

*Please note that there will be no service at St. Stephen's on Good Friday.*

## Easter Egg Hunt

You are invited to a St. Stephen's Community Easter Egg Hunt  
Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., rain or shine!

We will meet in the Church Hall.  
Simple refreshments will be provided.