St. Paul's Circular

February, 2016

Volume 11 Issue 1 - "roads"

A Road Oft Travelled by David Sinclair

Among the knick-knacks of our home is a music box (surmounted by a rooster, the heraldic emblem of the Clan Sinclair) that plays the old John Denver tune "Country Roads". As I think of the many paths trod to bring me to sharing the ministry of St. Paul's Cathedral, Kamloops, few were travelled more or had more significance to my life than the six miles between my childhood home and the city of Kingston, Ontario.

Sometimes I have thought of myself as a "Roads Scholar" because my work, as a surveyor with the Ontario Department of Highways, supported my undergraduate University education at Queen's. The influence of the road from home to Kingston started much earlier: high school at KCVI, hockey at the old Jock Harty Arena and the Kingston Community Centre, baseball at the Cricket Field, but most significantly choir at St. George's Cathedral.

That experience as a boy chorister (mother was really a saint over this, since she did all the driving) made me fall in love with the liturgy. After my voice dropped from treble to tenor (now decidedly bass) a missionary venture by a priest who became an early mentor sent busses along that trail to bring people who were building new homes in the developing suburbs to the Parish where I would be baptized and confirmed, and where my vocation to the priesthood was formed.

I've had a part in building some roads, and travelling many, but few have influenced my life more than that little stretch from Collins Bay to Kingston. Unpaved as I first recall it, as a child I would run to look if I heard a car, it is now simply a busy street, annexed by the city and called by its ancient name, Bath Road. With the death of my brother-in-law just before Christmas, we can't be sure any of the family will remain in the old village, but I will drive that road again just for nostalgia's sake. Its curves and hills, and indeed its bumps might well be a symbol of all life's journey, for when taken with God (with apologies to another David) I will fear nothing, for God's rod and staff always comfort and strengthen me. David Sinclair

Cariboo Roads with Bishop Jim Part of my Faith Journey by Bob Hunter

It all started for me in 1992 following Jim's election as Bishop of Cariboo. He had asked me to stay on as Chancellor of the Diocese, a position I had been appointed to by Bishop John Snowden. Hubert King QC had served as Chancellor for some 35 years before me. Both John and Hubert were Jim's good friends.

Jo-Mary and I moved from Vancouver to Kamloops in 1963 and joined St. Paul's Cathedral soon after. So, what is it about the "Cariboo roads" which has contributed to my faith journey? The answer is that these roads are part of the geography of this area now known as the Anglican Parishes of the Interior (APCI), and we traveled them. They connect the area from the north to the south, Prince George, Quesnel, Williams Lake, 100 Mile House and Ashcroft on Highway 97; from Prince George to McBride, Valemount, Barriere, Kamloops and Monte Creek; and east to west from Merritt and Shulus to Lytton and Lillooet on Highways 1, 8, 12 and 99.

It was traveling these roads through Cariboo with Bishop Jim during the 1990s, that I refer to as the growth of my faith journey - the subject of this story. Tied into it are the meals, motels, hotels and coffee shops along the way. More significantly are the people of these communities and particularly, the members of our parishes. The meetings, social times, church services and sermons (!), the bonds between parishioners and between them and Bishop Jim, both individually and collectively.

Jim was a special person, though, he never believed that. He listened carefully; you knew you had his attention. His message of faith, told in so many ways, helped us grow our own faith.

He was our pastor, our teacher and our bishop. We particularly remember:

His faith
His teachings
His time for us
His love.

He will be missed.

Bob Hunter

A Prayer for Lent

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation, to you be glory and praise for ever.

In the darkness of our sin you have shone in our hearts to give the light of knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Open our eyes to acknowledge your presence, that freed from misery of sin and shame we may grow into your likeness from glory to glory.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Blessed be God for ever.

Church House Publishing.

The Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior

The Right Reverend Barbara Andrews Bishop Suffragan to the Metropolitan 360 Nicola Street Kamloops BC V2C 2P5

January 9, 2016

To Be Read on January 10, 2016

The Wardens and People St Paul's Cathedral 360 Nicola Street Kamloops, BC VC 2P5 Canon Dwight Oatway Finance Officer 360 Nicola Street Kamloops, BC V2C 2P5

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to announce – on the unanimous recommendation of the Personnel Commission - that I have appointed The Rev. Ken Gray, as Dean of the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior and Rector of St Paul's Cathedral.

Ken comes to you following 27 years of ordained ministry with the Anglican Church. He served in the Yukon, the Diocese of BC and the Diocese of Kootenay. Ken comes to us now having served the past 10 years as Rector and Priest of Church of Advent in Colwood, BC. Ken will bring a unique set of gifts and skills to his ministry amongst us and I know that you will welcome him as part of the St. Paul's family with enthusiasm.

Ken will take up his duties on April 1, 2016, as your full time priest. I will look forward to being with you to conduct the Celebration of New Ministry.

Finally, I want to thank the Personnel Commission. They have done a wonderful ministry on behalf of the parish from the leadership given in developing the profile of the parish and community, to the work of interviewing leading to Ken's appointment. J on Buckle has been an outstanding chair. After some months of meetings, he and the members of the Commission can now step down from their duties — with my profound gratitude.



The Rev. Ken Gray. Photo supplied by APCI.

Blessings,

The Rt. Rev Barbara Andrews Bishop Suffragan

The St. Paul's Circular is the parish newsletter of St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral, Kamloops, BC. Four issues are published annually: Lent/Easter; Pentecost; Fall; Advent/Christmas. Our aim is to glorify God by sharing stories about the ministries of our parish, both within and beyond our physical boundaries. The editorial board currently includes Miriam Baskin, Ray Beal, Mary Dove, Claire Tosoff and Chuck Kalnin.

Bishop Jim Cruickshank, 1936~2015



The memorial service at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver.

It was with great sadness that we learned that our dear Bishop Jim died on December 30th.

In her letter announcing Bishop Jim's death, Bishop Barbara wrote, "When Bishop Jim was elected Bishop of Cariboo in 1991, one of the first comments he made in his nomination papers was his appreciation for the statement of leadership qualities people expect of their new Bishop and he

writes how deeply moved he was by the final statement 'willingness to love the people of Cariboo and to be loved by them in return.' Bishop Jim loved the people of Cariboo and they returned that love to him." A memorial service was held for Bishop Jim, Saturday, January 16th, at Christ Church Anglican Cathe-

dral, Vancouver. Several friends from the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior (APCI) travelled to Vancouver for the service. Some who attended have reported just how deeply moving and loving that the service was.

A memorial service will also be held at St. Paul's Cathedral, February 12th, at 11:00 a.m. On a date yet to be determined during the summer, a service of internment will be held at St. Mary's, Sorrento.



Jason Cruickshank and Bishop Barbara. Photos: Rae Long.

A Bishop Jim Legacy Fund

To honour Bishop Jim's legacy as Bishop of Cariboo and his ministry throughout the church, a "Legacy Fund in memory of Bishop Jim Cruickshank," has been set up within the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior (APCI) Investment Fund. Donations can be made to the APCI office, clearly marked for the Memory of Bishop Jim. Tax receipts will be issued for all donations.

Ninety per cent (90%) of the annual income and realized capital gains will be used to support the work of APCI's Bishop, through the Bishop's Discretionary Fund or projects approved by the Administration Committee.

After consulting with Bishop Jim's family, the focus of these funds are to be used for healing and reconciliation of Indigenous peoples, for the LGBT community in the Central Interior, for youth and youth events and people to attend Sorrento Centre, for clergy needs at times of illness or family struggles and for education for the laity and theology students. Disbursements from this fund require that discretion be given to the Bishop. Requests for funding should be made to the Bishop. Requests needing Administration Committee support will be presented to them by the Bishop.

Adapted from "Bishop Barbara's Bulletin, January 7, 2016.

Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path, and leave a trail.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1803-1882,

A Bishop Jim Story Book

When a beloved member dies, families gather to tell stories and to share them with one another. We are all being invited to write our stories of Bishop Jim which will be published in a booklet. The booklet will be shared with Bishop Jim's family and with the wider church family. Some of the stories will also be published in the Easter 2016 issue of the LINK.

For inclusion in the LINK and the booklet for the memorial service on February 12th, please submit your stories to apcibishop@shaw.ca by January 28th. Stories will continue to be collected until the end of March to be included in a final booklet. High resolution pictures along with your stories would be welcomed - or just send in a picture.

Adapted from "Bishop Barbara's Bulletin", dated January 7, 2016.

Wherever I might go, Lord . . .

Yours, Lord, is the Glory in everything I see; a country scene, mountain stream, sunrise, sunset, rain and snow.

Yours, Lord, is the Glory wherever I might go.

Yours, Lord, is the Glory in everything I hear; a roaring sea, bumblebee, laughter, loving, tender poem.

Yours, Lord, is the Glory wherever I might go.

Yours, Lord, is the Glory in everything I feel; a special place, warm embrace, accepted, helped to become whole.

Author unknown.



'Road' in the Mountains

Okay, physically it's not a road - just a tiny path really. It does, though, lead to the Mid-mountain Chapel at Sun Peaks and is travelled by many skiers on their way to worship Sundays during ski season. The congregation is from around the world. There may be just a few or a chapel full, worshipping as part of the

ministry coordinated by Dwight Oatway and a team of Anglicans.

Recently, Jon Buckle took his camera along with him, and now shares these images with us.



Searching for a Rector and Dean

by Jon Buckle

When Bishop Barbara asked if we would serve on a committee to look for and select a new Rector and Dean for St. Paul's, many of us likely wondered if we were qualified for the task or had the time required to effectively serve . . . but we each said yes and so began a nine month journey that would be a time of learning, growth, new relationships and trust.

The development of a parish profile sounded straight forward, but the process, as we soon discovered, was as important as the end result. We needed to ensure that who we said we were as the community of St. Paul's Cathedral reflected the depth and breadth of our ministries and programs. Ultimately we wanted to ensure that all the groups and individuals that make up the Cathedral parish had an opportunity to be heard and to weigh in on what they hoped for in a new incumbent.

Each committee member took on one or more of St. Paul's many groups and ministries and in the process discovered more about what each did, their hopes and their challenges, and how a new rector might best support their ministry. Also during this process, some committee members mentioned how they got to know some fellow parishioners they hadn't known before.

The St. Paul's Rector and Dean position was posted in July and extended into September. Each applicant was provided with the parish profile to get a clear picture of who we, as the Cathedral parish of St. Paul's, were and what were our hopes for the new Rector.

Bishop Barbara reviewed the applications and short listed three applicants for our consideration. In late November, the Committee had long distance

computer screen interviews with each. All of the candidates presented well, and each exhibited unique gifts that they could bring to St Paul's and the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior (APCI).

Ultimately, after much consideration, prayer and reflection, The Rev. Ken Gray, Rector of the Church of the Advent, Colwood, BC, was invited for an in person interview, and subsequently was offered the position, which he accepted. Ken will commence his ministry with us at the beginning of April.

The Search Committee would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the St. Paul's community for the tremendous input, prayers and encouragement over the last nine months. We would ask for your continued prayer, welcome and support for Ken and his wife Kathie in this time of transition.

Jon Buckle (chair), Kathryn Brisco, Tammy Davis, Jenn Cane, Lee Emery, Joan Lukow, Jo-Mary Hunter, Dwight Oatway, Brian Krushel

A Prayer for Easter

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the deep waters of death you brought your people to new birth by raising your Son to life in triumph. Through him dark death has been destroys and radiant life is everywhere restored.

As you call us out of darkness into his marvelous light may our lives reflect his glory and our lips repeat the endless song.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Blessed be God for ever.

Church House Publishing.

Friendship Friday learns about RAFT & Refugees



On January 22nd, 47 people gathered in the parish hall for Friendship Friday and to listen to our guest speakers, Martha and Tricia, who represented Refugees and Friends Together (RAFT).

It was a wonderful story about how RAFT and the people of Kamloops are welcoming Syrian refugees to the area.

After the talk, those in attendance enjoyed a very tasty lunch. Photos: Rae Long.



Resources for Lent & Easter

by Elizabeth Kavanagh

Slowly the days are lengthening and our thoughts are turning to warmer days, sunnier skies, and getting out into the garden. There is a new selection of books featuring Lent and Easter on the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior (APCI) cart for your enjoyment and enlightenment. These books are available to everyone. The cart is located in the parish hall on Sunday mornings and outside the Sacristy the rest of the week.

To borrow a book remove the pink card from the front of the book, sign your name, phone number, and the date you took the book, and place the card in the envelope provided. To return a book remove the pink card from the envelope and replace it in the front of the book.

Ordinary Time Art - Phase Two



In October and November, the Sanctuary was the site for an art exhibit with the theme of *Ordinary Time*. Phase two of the exhibit Happened in January and February. Various parish artists had created images relating to the Church's season of *Ordinary Time*. The artwork explored the holy in the everyday and everywhere.

We were invited to view these images and consider life between the highs and the lows, by reflecting on how it is that we find God in such spaces.

What is straight? A line can be straight, or a street, but the human heart, oh, no, it's curved like a road through mountains.

Tennessee Williams, American playwright, 1911-1983.

Groups at St. Paul's

There are numerous St. Paul's ministries and groups. Many of them meet quietly (or not) on a regular basis - some where in the facility.

Several young adults continue to meet regularly for fellowship and to share a meal. In this "selfie" are some of the young adults who attended a recent

gathering. Photo supplied by Melissa Green.





The bible study group consists of parishioners who gather at noon every Wednesday to study the lectionary readings.

Verna Albright,

Giné Rose, and Lynn Watrich were the first to arrive for a recent study, being led that day by David Sinclair.

Photo: Chuck Kalnin.

Roads, Maps and the Spiritual Journey by Lee Emery

"I'm headed off down that long lonesome highway." I will occasionally say this as a way of bidding farewell to my friends whom I've spent time with. Yet my route home is usually neither long nor lonely. I may have picked this expression up off a folksong from the past. Roads, routes and journeys have always held some fascination for me, and they seem somehow embedded in our cultural matrix.

Expressions, such as "All roads lead to Rome" and ballads such as "I get my Kicks on Route 66", "By the Time I Get to Phoenix" and "I've Been Everywhere" not to mention poems such as Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken" and a plethora of films that take place on "the road", reflect how roads are endemic to our lives as humans.

Ancient history seems to suggest this connection that we have to roads has been with us for a long time. Archaeologists studying aerial photographs of the Colorado Plateau have discovered a network of roads connecting the pueblos of the Anasazi people of the southwest. These paths were essential for trade and the exchange of information, helping to insure survival. In the same time period that these amazing pueblos were flourishing, Marco Polo was travelling along the Silk Road on the other side of the world.

Roads bring people and their ideas, inventions and cultures together. Ironically, the implications of this have been both wonderful and tragic.

Inexorably connected with my enchantment of roads and journeys is a love of maps. I spend hours poring over road maps and atlases. If a book has neglected to include a map corresponding to the narrative I'm reading, I get one of my own to follow along. The advent of Google Earth has added a further dimension in my ability to navigate a story I'm reading or to heighten my wanderlust. Two of the most magical and appreciated gifts I ever received have been atlases. My parents gave me a Rand McNally atlas when I was in grade five, and as I was an avid stamp collector at that age, I could find the location of the countries whose stamps I was putting in my stamp album. June, my wife, gave me the National Geographic Atlas a few years ago, and a day doesn't go by without my referring to it.

I often open my North American road atlas at random to some province or state and wonder what a particular road would be like to drive, cycle or walk down. On two occasions my curiosity got the better of me, and I actually acted on this, once flying to Arkansas and once driving to California, both times with my bike. Thus, I found out firsthand what

the roads, landscape and towns were like in these places.

Alas, a map for the spiritual journey, at least for me, has been elusive. Over the years I have consulted with what I thought were guides and maps to a spiritual awakening and destination only to find I kept getting lost. Fellow travelers along the road were of some help, but it always seemed I was going somewhere they weren't. The spiritual journey can be long and lonesome. Recently, from a novel I was reading, I came across the sentence, "It was human to err, and doubt was part of the journey."

Through living with my errors and doubts, I have discovered that, for me, faith is the map I have been seeking and which will guide me forward to that place of knowing and peace. I'm finding that navigating by faith is anything but long and lonesome. A faith based community has long helped and guided pilgrims, such as me, along their travels. The road of faith is delightfully crowded and busy, but this in no way is impeding my progress towards my individual and unique destiny; it only makes the trip more interesting, delightful and insightful.

I am now able to slow down, to spontaneously explore a side road, to be awed by a serendipitous moment of grace and to enjoy the scenery knowing I'll eventually arrive.

The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, And sorry I could not travel both And be one traveler, long I stood And looked down one as far as I could To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair, And having perhaps the better claim, Because it was grassy and wanted wear; Though as for that the passing there Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay In leaves no step had trodden black. Oh, I kept the first for another day! Yet knowing how way leads on to way, I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh Somewhere ages and ages hence: Two roads diverged in a wood, and I ---I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference.

Roads of Wonder

by Melissa Green



An unexpected, uncertain, surprising, exciting and possibly worrisome journey led Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem where Jesus was born. I imagine that those initial feelings continued in the early years of Jesus' life. Those early days of learning how to be parents, encountering both joy and fear in a new way, anticipating who their child would become – knowing that he was called by God as a beloved child of God: God's son.

I imagine the early years of parenting continued with a spectrum of emotions. In the midst of Jesus' pre-teen years, we receive the story of Jesus staying behind in the temple of Jerusalem after his parents had left. He was found "sitting among the teachers, listening to them and putting questions to them". Surely fear had surrounded Mary and Joseph on their journey, followed by a deep relief upon discovering his whereabouts. Of course, this is not the end of the story. Mary and Joseph would have continued to feel a variety of emotions as Jesus became an adult and went off to teach, as he followed God's call and journeyed down the road of death into new life.

The road that has led me to today has a few direct parallels to the above: it's been a spectrum of emotions as the familiar and the new have come into my life over and over again. I'm sure many of you can relate. It's been filled with a caring family and it has had teachers and mentors who have welcomed me into their lives and invited me to ask questions and listen and observe. It's unfailingly had the presence of God who continues to seek me out and call me by name. Even when you can't remember this or feel it, I know that it is true.

On Christmas Eve, our young people shared the story of Jesus' birth with us at the 4:00 p.m. family service. This story, too, is about the "road", the journey that took Mary and Joseph and so many others to witness the birth of this Holy Child.

This year, the story included questions throughout the narration, from the "*Wonderer*" - questions that invited us into the story, into our own wondering:

- I wonder what the manger sounded like? I wonder what it smelled like? I wonder if Mary and Joseph were afraid?
- I wonder what it was like to hear all of those angels singing?
- I wonder when you've been that joyful in your life?
- I wonder which part of the story you like the most?

I wonder what St. Paul's looks like when teaching, tending and mentoring happens in our midst? I wonder what it looks like when we are supported on the roads and paths of our journey as a community

and as individuals? I wonder what we need to be able to remember that God continues to seek us out and call us by name? I wonder if we remember that we are beloved children of God?

Ministry with our young people at St. Paul's continues to be a gift - a gift filled with wonder and joy. It's a journey that we are part of just by showing up!



Photos: Melissa Green.

A Prayer for Children

Loving God, your Son told his disciples to become like little children. Lead us to work for the welfare and protection of all young people. May we respect their dignity that they may flourish in life, following the example of the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Church of England.

A Prayer for Families

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Church of England.

World Day of Prayer in Canada

The World Day of Prayer (WDP) began in the 19th Century when Christian women of Canada and the United States started to be involved in missions at home and in other parts of the world. Since 1812, women have encouraged one another to engage in personal prayer and take leadership in communal prayer within their mission auxiliaries and associations. Presbyterian women in the United States then called for a national day of prayer in 1887, and Anglican women in Canada established a national day of corporate intercessions for mission in 1895.

On October 19, 1918, Presbyterian women in Canada called together representatives of five Women's Missionary Boards – Anglican, Baptist, Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian – "to promote the spreading of Christ's kingdom through united prayer and action." That first inter-church meeting gave birth to the Interim Committee on the Federation of the Women's Missionary Society Boards of Canada, which organized a national and inter denominational day of prayer on January 9, 1920.

In 1922, the Canadian committee agreed to use the same theme and day for the Day of Prayer as U.S. women. This annual event became the Women's World Day of Prayer in 1927. The Canadian committee changed its name to become the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC) and now includes representatives from eleven church partners. WICC continues to coordinate the WDP in Canada and to speak to issues that concern women of faith across the country.

Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada.

Funding Initiatives by WICC by Joy Gothard

Donations to the World Day of Prayer (WDP) enables WICC, their Canadian coordinator, to fund a variety of programs and initiatives in Canada and around the world which speak to the Council's areas of focus and priority: justice, women's issues, ecumenism and the growth of women's spirituality.

In fact, well over half a million dollars, from WDP offerings over the past several years, has been granted by WICC to 160 organizations for projects that benefit women and children around the world and here in Canada. In 2014, Ask Wellness received \$1000 and in 2013, New Life Mission's Dental Clinic Angel Fund received \$5,000 from these grants. More information is available at: www.WICC.org

World Day of Prayer March 4, 2016

"Receive children. Receive me."

Each year, women from a particular culture write a service that is observed world-wide on a particular day of prayer, by Christian women of many traditions and cultures. This year's service was written by women from Cuba.

The national flower of Cuba is the white butterfly jasmine. Cuban women have used the flower, not only as an adornment for their hair, but also to transmit messages during liberation wars, and as a sign of their being Cuban. There can be no better emblem for the 2016 World Day of Prayer service written by the World Day of Prayer committee of Cuba. The service transmits their witness and experience of being Cuban and Christian, even when their faith meant isolation within the country they love.

On March 4th, Christians in more than 170 countries and in 2,000 communities across Canada will gather to learn about, pray for, and celebrate Cuba - in solidarity with the women of Cuba through the World Day of Prayer. Please join us and attend a World Day of Prayer service.

In Kamloops, the services will be:

St. Paul's Cathedral at 1:00 p.m. 360 Nicola Street, downtown

St. Vianney Church at 7:00 p.m. 2826 Bank Road, Westsyde

During the service at St. Paul's, Sandra Sugden will give a reflection and Gail Ovington will provide the music. Fellowship and light refreshments will follow the service. All are invited to come and support efforts towards justice, peace, healing and wholeness.

Adapted from a media release from the Kamloops organizing committee, and from the World Day of Prayer International Committee website.

Prayer for those Cold and Homeless

God of compassion, your love for humanity was revealed in Jesus, whose earthly life began in the poverty of a stable and ended in the pain and isolation of the cross: we hold before you those who are homeless and cold especially in this bitter weather.

Draw near and comfort them in spirit and bless those who work to provide them with shelter, food and friendship.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Monthly Outreach Designations for 2016

Each year, the Peace and Justice group recommends to Cathedral Committee six local outreach ministries to support through prayer, education and donations from our members. Unless otherwise directed on envelopes or by your direct deposit instructions, your monthly Outreach donations will be directed to these important ministries. Since we strive for a balance between local and global ministries, the local groups are complemented by the outreach focus of the Primates World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) which engages in Anglican global mission.

When donors identify where they wish their Outreach to go, those funds are directed accordingly. When the Outreach is 'unidentified' or given without instruction, it goes to the Outreach designated for the month in which the donation is made. At the right are the Outreach designations for 2016.

Information about these organizations is shared monthly in the pew bulletin and on the Peace and Justice bulletin board. Thank you for generously supporting the needs of the community.

Monthly Outreach Designations

January Out of the Cold February PWRDF

March RAFT (Refugees and

Friends Together)

April PWRDF

May Boys and Girls Club

June PWRDF

July ASK Wellness (Aids

Society of Kamloops)

August PWRDF

September Elizabeth Fry Society

October PWRDF

November YMCA Women's Shelter December Clergy Discretionary

Out of the Cold by Bud Forbes

We have recently finished our third month running the Out of the Cold shelter. It's been an incredible start. By the end of the second month, December 31st, our numbers were much higher than last year, with 729 guests visiting the shelter (545 men and 184 women), and with 451 staying over night (354 men and 97 women). We have been at the max for beds some nights, with 34 staying over. Since we don't have enough beds for everyone, some just put their heads on the table in the dinning room and went to sleep. At least it was warm.

Our volunteer base continues to grow. So far, we have 93 volunteers registered, 19 from the St. Paul's community. However, we are very short of volunteers for the midnight to six-thirty shift.

The shift captains do a great job keeping things under control. The extra numbers have put an increased load on our cooking and morning cleanup crews. Jo-Lynn Forbes and Reid Albright have been making lots of soup. We have been getting supplies from the Food Bank every two weeks; the Salvation Army drops off bread and buns every Wednesday morning. We received a donation of 24 pillows from the Royal Inland Hospital. Financial donations continue to come in. We are in good shape financially. We continue to get great support for the St. Paul's community and from the Kamloops community in general. For more information, please contact Bud Forbes.

Not all those who wander are lost. J.R. R. Tolkien, 1892-1973.

Syrian Refugee Relief Donations

The government's deadline of matching funds to agencies providing relief to Syrians refugees living in surrounding countries, to February 29, 2016. Funds raised by PWRDF will help meet basic humanitarian needs of people affected by the conflict in Syria, including shelter, food, health care and water and will also provide protection and education for conflict-affected people in Syria and for refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

PWRDF responds to the needs of displaced Syrians through the ACT Alliance, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and its long-time partner Refuge Egypt in Cairo. The ACT Alliance appeal for 2016 is a continuation of the 2015 appeal and PWRDF has approved \$300,000 from designated donations for the 2016 appeal. Thanks to the generosity of Anglicans in Canada, PWRDF has received close to \$490,000 for the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis.

Donations can be made:

On-line: at http://pwrdf.org/donate

By phone with credit card: Jennifer Brown at 416-924-9192 ext. 355; or 1-866-308-7973. Please do not send credit card numbers by email or fax.

By mail with cheques: payable to PWRDF and noted as Syrian Relief on the memo line); to PWRDF, Anglican Church of Canada, 80 Hayden Street Toronto, Ontario M4Y 3G2.

Anglicans in Canada are praying, acting and giving to those affected by this crisis. Thank you for supporting PWRDF's relief efforts.

Following Jesus into a Life of Generosity by Richard Felton

In Mark 8:27-38, we witness another example of Jesus's disciples not quite getting it. It should be somewhat comforting to us when we realize that even the original twelve often did not understand what was going on. They thought they were very special and that Jesus was going to catapult them to a righteous victory and Jesus in this Gospel and in other teachings had to burst their balloon to remind them that their road wasn't going to be easy. In fact, it was going to end very badly for most of them, Jesus included. At least from an earthly viewpoint.

Jesus says, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?"

I want to make two points. The first is that while we want it all, we can't be followers of Jesus and followers of power, money, entitlement, and status. The second is generosity is the way we enter into a connection with the divine.

My friend Dave Toycen, who recently retired as president of World Vision Canada writes in his book, "The Power of Generosity", "Money brings stability because everyone needs it and wants it. Money is a resource that provides food, shelter and clothing. It's a human construct that gives order to the exchange of things that we value. In our capitalist world, it's the only way to get on and get along. But there is a difference between a rightful place in our lives and one that dominates, becomes obsessive."

Toycen continues, "On the one hand it serves the intent of those who use it as a tool and on the other hand it brings some baggage because of what it stands for. Money gets worshipped, as something in itself will bring satisfaction and fulfillment. The tool suddenly becomes the prized possession instead of a step in a process that leads to a fulfilled life. The choice faces everyone. The Bible says you cannot serve God and money. Whether you believe in God or not, the statement is making a point that you cannot have a transcendent value in your life while still holding money if equal importance. You have to make a choice. Your ultimate value will come in conflict with your desire to gain and hold money at all costs."

In responding to a question about how much money was enough, David Rockefeller famously said, "Just a little bit more." We have to let go of that belief that all will be well if we have just a little bit more. I believe the way to do that is to embrace

a generosity in all things. Generosity in friendships. Generosity in spirit. Generosity in forgiveness. Generosity in volunteering. Generosity with money.

After saving Israel, then punishing Israel; after floods and rainbows; after sending prophets and sages, God finally offers something even greater- a child who grows into an adult to offer a new divine vision to all of God's children. He is the One who ultimately challenges the authority, heals the sick, speaks up for the poor and oppressed, lifts up generosity in all aspects of life and ultimately gives himself is the example God calls us to examine, understand and hopefully follow.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu in his book, "In God's Hands" says, "This is a God who intervenes on our behalf, not because we deserve it, but because God's love is freely given. It is grace. It is not earned; it cannot be earned. It does not need to be earned." To live into the divine, we have to accept that grace and pass it on.

Again, from Dave Toycen, "I believe we have to make a choice between people being encouraged in their lives or being discouraged. And that matters for both spiritual and moral reasons to me. The idea that everyone should be left alone to hope for the best is grossly inadequate. I have experienced the personal joy and uplift when someone goes out of his or her way to be generous and caring. If I am generous to someone, that person will likely be generous to someone else. There is an argument to be made that the universe was created to operate this way."

We are called to be more generous, more forgiving, more gracious as we strive to follow Jesus and live up to the standard of God. We will fall short, of course. But we will move closer to the people God intends us to be when we give joyfully and generously. What a difference such joyful generosity would make in our community, our church and ourselves. Amen.

Adapted from "Following Jesus into Life of Generosity", posted on TENS, September 13, 2015; Richard Felton is the Executive Director of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS).

Questions to Ponder

Where do you see God's abundance?

How might we benefit from God's abundance while still caring for Creation?

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count cost.

Ignatius of Loyola, 1491-1556.

Stewardship and Creation Stories by David Sinclair

Why do we regard stewardship as something to address annually? Stewardship is a gift - a task set by the Creator - to care for the world. However, the two creation stories set out the relationship between humanity and Earth in slightly different ways.

Genesis 1 puts God's intent in this form: "God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

Genesis 2 (which is probably older) puts it more succinctly: "Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed . . . the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it."

The contrast between the stories draws our attention to what might be the core of a problem. We have taken the idea of 'dominion' to suggest we are in charge. The idea of tilling and keeping the garden emphasizes that we are responsible for everything the world produces.

Here is a more modern rendering for these ancient stories. God speaks, "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on its face." God created human beings godlike, reflecting God's nature. God creating them male and female, blessing them, "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible for the fish in the sea, for the birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on Earth." Then God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and, taking the man he had just made, set him down in the Garden of Eden to work the ground and keep it in order.

What connection is there between biblical translation and the immediate purpose of the 'annual stewardship drive'? Why do we ask people to pledge regular offerings for the work of the Church? I believe it is because God is still creating, and we, who follow the way of God revealed in Jesus, are part of the plan to restore the world to its original purpose and intent, as the refrain in the old text said of each day, "and God saw everything that he made, and behold, it was good." (King James version)

Adapted from David's stewardship letter to St. Paul's, Kamloops, November, 2015.

From the Treasurer's Desk Summary of Revenue and Expense for the twelve months ending December 31, 2015

	Actual	Budget
Revenue Offering Rental Income Other Income Total Revenue	\$222,707 40,505 33,295 \$296,507	\$232,596 41,100 <u>36,832</u> \$310,528
Expense Salaries & Benefits	\$125,615	\$152,878
Premises & Office Programs & Other Christian Sharing	36,773 48,878 70,681	35,915 55,268 <u>73,524</u>
Total Expenses Operating Surplus	\$281,947 \$ 14,560	<u>\$317,585</u> <u>\$-7,057.</u>

Sharing Resources by Alison McKinnon and Verna Albright

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it." (Psalm 24:1)

As stewards, we are asked to share the resources God has given us, by giving generously of time, talent and financial resources. Our baptismal vows guide us, as we become the hands and feet of Christ in the world. We are asked to look after others as well as ourselves. The need is great for many in our community. Some of our ministries to them are Out of the Cold, the Thrift Shop and feeding those who are hungry. We have salaries and expenses to pay, our beloved building is aging and requires upkeep. Twenty-six percent (26%) of our giving goes to the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior (APCI) to help support its ministries and those of the national church. We also support a number of other local, national and international programs.

We ask you to prayerfully consider what you can give back yo our Lord, as all we have comes from Him. Please be as generous as you can with your gifts of prayer, time, gifts and financial support for the glory of God.

Adapted from the Warden's' Stewardship letter, November, 2015.

In the covenant after the flood, God made a commitment not to destroy the Earth. Because of our love for God and our desire to be the image of God, a reciprocal covenant from us is an important act. Lovingly caring and nurturing health within all of God's creation is an outstanding act of stewardship.

Luke Gasho, Christian environmentalist.

Roads as Seasons

by Jo-Anne Maurits

So many roads I have walked have led me to the woman I am. Roads are more than just a pathway to a destination. They also hold the story of the people who walk them. They are part of the transformative nuances of a life lived. I often walk carrying with me a pen, my journal, my camera, a bottle of water, and a trickle of words said and unsaid dancing through my mind. I walk rapturously with my heart open in wonder. I walk in a dream-like state, thinking of superlative adjective after adjective, a successive seasonal litany. Roads carve a pathway through the seasons.

It is from walking so many roads that I first gained my sense of each of the four seasons as having a very real personality. Winter wears silver frosted jewels and skates with rosy cheeks. Spring is a greening girl with cherry blossoms in her hair and nesting baby birds in her hands. Summer dances barefoot in a golden frenzy of buttercups. Autumn dons new school shoes and scrunches crisp orange and red leaves in an apple-scented wind. Cool mornings ride on the hot air balloon of Indian summer afternoons. My arms take turns in wool and skin.

Yesterday I went for a walk. There were melting pools of snow everywhere and for the first time in months my body felt an inkling of spring. It registered in my legs, my brain, my heart. The snow had separated into bone-shaped islands and tufts of grasses peeked out everywhere. I knew I was weary of the winter crust on my world, but I hadn't realized quite how much until I felt the glad leap in my heart. The dance of an awakening spring; slowly releasing the soil, stretching the spiraling buds . . . transforming the breath of winter, not just in nature, but in we human beings, too.

There is over a thousand years between me and Chinese poet Wang Wei, and yet we have shared the same sorrows, shared the same small delights. In the eighth century he wrote these words:

As the sun sets, the wild wind stirs among the willow trees; The luminescence of the clouds seeps into the willing tracks of our footprints.

Prayer from the Laguna Pueblo

I add my breath to your breath that our days be long on the Earth, that the days of our people may be long, that we shall be as one person, that we may finish our road together.

Author unknown. There are times when I feel isolated, lonely, separated from universal impact, and grand, unfettered joy. When I want to restore my sense of equilibrium, of peace, of God, I walk. As I walk the many roads I become aware of the beautiful intimacy of the boundless realm between the human and the sacred. I recognize the holy which is an essential part of each of us.

Roads embrace our fragility. It is a paradox; perhaps, that the only way to really be fully alive is to open your heart to all the roads your life contains . . . the sad and poignant and hurting, too. My heart often feels wrung, as if all the grief and joys of my life are stirring together in one large lump in my throat. We all make our mark on the roads we walk, and those steps are a footprint of our hunger. For me, they fill my 'willing tracks' with God.

January 25, 2016.

The Holy Way by Maggi Dawn

"A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way." (Isaiah 35:8)

To modem ears, a highway in the desert may not sound like good news. We are glad of motorways when we need to get somewhere, but if you have ever crawled round the M25 on a Friday afternoon or languished in gridlocked highways around Los Angeles, a highway in the desert is the stuff of nightmares.

What did Isaiah have in mind? Not all exiles returned to Judah, but first a large group, and later some smaller groups really did walk some 800 miles home through the desert to Jerusalem. In contrast to the 40 years of Exodus, with their circuitous wanderings, Isaiah paints a picture of a safe, straight way home, where the withering of the land we read about yesterday (Isaiah 33:9) is reversed. It is a way through the desert laid about with oases of water to save them from the confusion of mirage and beating sun; an immense pilgrimage on which no traveler would go astray; a road along which they would sing all the way home.

Troubled neither by the standstill of gridlock nor by wandering around in circles, the road home after a long, lonely exile is a way forward not backwards, a way towards a future and a hope, a way towards rediscovered identity and recovered dignity. This is the Holy Way, the highway God makes in the desert.

Maggi Dawn is a professor at Yale Divinity School.

Cariboo Images - the Road and the Diocese by Chuck Kalnin



St. Saviours Anglican Church in Barkerville. Photos: Chuck Kalnin.

The Cariboo Wagon Road was a project initiated in 1860 by James Douglas, Governor of the Colony of British Columbia. It stretched from Fort Yale through some extremely hazardous canyon territory, ending in Barkerville. It was indeed a great feat of engineering. The Road has also been known as the Great North Road and the Queen's Highway.

The terms, Cariboo Road, Cariboo Trail and Old Cariboo Road, can refer to a toll road built by a private contractor, during the 1860s. This Road or Trail started in Lillooet, travelling to Williams Lake, then on to Richfield and Barkerville in the goldfields along Williams Creek. The mile-house names in the Cariboo, e.g. 100 Mile House, are derived from measurements taken from the *Mile '0'* of this Cariboo Road, which lies at the bend of Main Street in Lillooet.

Cariboo Road has significant meaning for many Anglicans in the Interior of BC. It meanders through many communities that lie within this region, which were incorporated in 1941 into the Diocese of Cariboo, within the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and the Yukon.

Historic St. Saviours Church sits at the end of this road in Barkerville. It indicated Anglican presence in the region, then and now. The Rev. James Reynard built the church and held the first worship service there, September 18, 1870. St. Saviours is now part of the Barkerville National Historical Site. It is often used as a music venue. During the summer, one can attend services led by a seminary student employed by the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior (APCI) as the student portrays the Rev. Raynard in period costume.

The Cariboo Road might be seen as being symbolic that this region was and remains pioneer in nature. As the Diocese of Cariboo ceased to function, December31, 2001, the former parishes became APCI which still exists as a group of distant yet connected communities. A sense of family certainly remains today, as does one of a pioneer spirit.



A replica stagecoach in 2015 carries tourists through a section of historic Hat Creek Ranch, just north of Cache Creek, BC. The Ranch was a regular stopover along the Cariboo Trail.

The Forgotten Trail by Bud Forbes

Twisting and winding through the forest wide Like a long snake slithering through the grass Many years ago you carried people on their journeys To find their homes along the country side.

But now it's over and your tales untold And nature has again returned to stake her claim On what was hers before the white man came To cut his traces through the forest mold.

Here and there some old utensil lies Camouflaged by the growing grasses And all along the flowers grow in masses Spreading their beauty under the open skies.

Among the trees the little breezes sail
And every bird sings a happy tune
And Nature's creatures have not sealed the tomb
Of this long forgotten trail.

It's the way that you ride the trail that counts.

Dale Evans, singer and film star, 1912-2001.

Joan Lukow becomes an Associate of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine

During an 8:00 a.m. Eucharist, January 10th, at St, George's Anglican Church, Joan Lukow became an Associate of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine (SSJD).

Joan we offer you congratulations and best wishes.

To the right, Joan is shown with Bishop Barbara and the Rev. Isabel Healy-Morrow (also an Associate of SSJD).



Photo: Reid Albright.

Shrove Tuesday

pancake supper Tuesday, February 9th 5:00 p.m. in the parish hall by a suggested donation of \$5.00

Ash Wednesday

Imposition of Ashes Wednesday, February 10th 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 20th
Liturgy of the palms & Eucharist
10:00 a.m. in the Cathedral

watch for details

Holy Week at St. Paul's

Maundy Thursday, March 24th

Foot Washing & Holy Eucharist 7:00 p.m. in the Cathedral

Good Friday, March 25th

Meditations on the Cross & the Passion of Our Lord 10:00 a.m. in the Cathedral

Easter Sunday, March 27th

Sunrise Eucharist, 5:00 a.m. the beach off Schubert Drive Holy Communion, 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel Holy Eucharist, 10:00 a.m. in the Cathedral

watch for details

February Faith Lecture

"You have Kept the Best Wine until Now" The Rev. Canon David Sinclair

February 21st at 7:00 p.m. in the Cathedral

The Rev. Canon David Sinclair has been part of the clergy team at St. Paul's Cathedral since September, 2015. David is a passionate about life-long learning and about opportunities for ministry in the later stages of life. During mid-life, David completed studies at the Toronto School of Theology (1991) which focused on spirituality later in life.

watch for details

2016 Lenten Lectures

To Everything There is a Season. The Autumn of Life can be Glorious!

Thursdays during Lent

lectures at 12:15 p.m. in the Cathedral light lunch follows in the parish hall

February 11 Growing Older: Crisis or **David Lidster** Opportunity? February 18 Jane Gingrich **Light Years** February 25 **Ivy Thomas** Living Your Legacy Finding Forgiveness & Spiritual March 3 Lee Emery **Actualization Late in Life** March 10 Jo-Mary Hunter May I Hold Your Hand? Hospice Care March 17 Sandra Sugden My Mother, My Daughter & Me

watch for details

St. Paul's Thrift Shop

Open Fridays 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Come Visit - Fill a Need Find a Treasure

CLOTHING - SHOES - LINENS MUSIC - BOOKS - MAGAZINES YARN - MATERIAL - CRAFTS KITCHEN ITEMS - POTTERY PICTURES - JEWELRY - TOYS KNICK-KNACKS - PUZZLES GAMES - GREETING CARDS

Your donations are appreciated and may be left in the foyer of the upper parish hall during office hours.

Please take the time to toss clothing in your washer and dryer. Please wash the pots, pans and dishes.

			Upcomin	ng Special Dates	
February	9	Tuesday	5:00 p.m.	Shrove Tuesday pancakes	Parish Hall
•	10	Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Imposition of Ashes	Chapel
	10	Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Imposition of Ashes	Chapel
	11	Thursday	12:15 p.m.	Lenten Lecture: David Lidster	Cathedral
	12	Friday	11:00 a.m.	Memorial Service for Bishop Jim	Cathedral
	14	Sunday	after service	Annual Vestry Meeting	Parish Hall
	18	Thursday	12:15 p.m.	Lenten Lecture: Jane Gingrich	Cathedral
	20	Saturday	6:00 p.m.	Parish Dinner: Theme of Love	Parish Hall
	21	Sunday	7:00 p.m.	Lecture: "Best Wine Kept till Now" The Rev. Canon David Sinclair	Cathedral
	25	Thursday	12:15 p.m.	Lenten Lecture: Ivy Thomas	Cathedral
March	3	Thursday	12:15 p.m.	Lenten Lecture: Lee Emery	Cathedral
	4	Friday	1:00 p.m.	World Day of Prayer Service	Cathedral
	4	Friday	7:00 p.m.	World Day of Prayer Service	St. John Vianney
	10	Thursday	12:15 p.m.	Lenten Lecture: Jo-Mary Hunter	Cathedral
	17	Thursday	12:15 p.m.	Lenten Lecture: Sandra Sugden	Cathedral
20 20 24 25 27 27	20	Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday Communion	Cathedral
	20	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Liturgy of Palms & Holy Eucharist	Cathedral
		Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Foot Washing & Holy Eucharist	Cathedral
	Friday	10:00 a.m.	The Passion of our Lord & Meditations on the Cross	Cathedral	
	27	Sunday	5:00 a.m.	Easter Sunrise Eucharist	Schubert Drive
	27	Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Easter Holy Communion	Chapel
	27	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Easter Holy Eucharist	Cathedral
			Dates ar	nd times may change.	

Opportunities for Ministry

The Hands in the Dirt Gang: We will be growing veggies to share again this summer. If you can join us, please do so. For more information, please speak with Miriam Baskins, Jo-Lynn Forbes or Chuck Kalnin.

Out of the Cold: St. Paul's winter shelter operates every Sunday and Wednesday night. To volunteer please contact Christine Jeffery at 250-318-0236.

Soup Ministry: The need for frozen soup continues. Please consider making some for our hungry neighbours. Please no spices or large chunks, mark as to type of soup and date made, and bring to the Cathedral Office. Thank you.

Interesting Internet . . .

ASK Wellness: information and news about the AIDS Society of Kamloops (ASK). https://www.google.ca/

Church of England: information, prayers, resources and more. https://www.churchofengland.org/

Sisterhood of St. John the Divine (SSJD): news and information about SSJD. www.ssjd.ca/

Women's Inter-church Council of Canada (WICC): news and information about WICC and WDP. www.WICC.ca

World Day of Prayer WDP): information and news for the 2016 WDP. www.worlddayofprayer.net/

Chuck's Chatter (cont'd. from page 16):

This, however, might not be easy. Philanthropist, Soledad O'Brian, said, "I've learned that fear limits you and your vision. It serves as blunders to what may be just a few steps down the road for you. The journey is valuable, but believing in your talents, your abilities, your self-worth can empower you to walk down an even brighter path. Transforming fear into freedom - how great is that?"

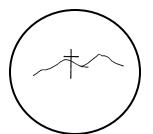
For me, this is all about one's spiritual walk - about faith. Like others, I have experienced struggles along this road. There have been challenges and even my faith seemed to wane at times. When this happens, God will respond, usually with a variety of resources. God does so for me, usually with resources that materialize in the form of friends who gather and lift me up over my obstacles.

Gospel singer, Andrae Crouch, has commented, "The message is that I was reminding myself and informing others of the fact that God has always been good to me. No matter what you're going through, God is always with us. Life is journey."

As each of us seek God, may the roads - wherever they might lead - be full of adventure and discovery. May we all continue to grow in faith. Thanks be to God.

When you come to a fork in the road, take it.

Yogi Berra, baseball player & manager, 1925-2015.



St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral

Parish Founded 1884

360 Nicola Street, Kamloops, B.C. V2C 2P5 phone: 250 372 3912

e-mail: stpaulscathedral@shawbiz.ca

joyful - rooted - responsive - hospitable

Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Barbara Andrews
Interim Priest: The Rev. Canon David Sinclair
Honourary Assistant: The Rev. Canon Sandra Sugden
The Rev. Canon Tom Sugden
The Rev. Vilter Canon Sandra Sugden

Honourary Assistant: The Rev. Viktor Gundel Rector's Warden: Alison McKinnon

People's Warden:
Youth Coordinator:

Verna Albright
Melissa Green

Music Directors: Heather & Norris Berg

Office Coordinator: Claire Tosoff

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next issue submission deadline May 4, 2016

next issue theme: dancing with God

Chuck's chatter . . .

Sometimes it's the journey that teaches you a lot about your destination.

Drake, Canadian rapper.

Road: (noun) 1. a wide way leading from one place to another, especially one specially prepared for use by vehicles; 2. a series of events or a course of action that will lead to a particular outcome.

With such parameters, is it any wonder so many roads exist! We have country roads, roads to town, roads to success, the Spice Road, the railroad, the low road, the high road and more. There are road phrases too: the end of the road, hit the road, one for the road, the road less travelled.

Roads generally lead us to a place, physically, emotionally, spiritually, etc. Where might this place be? American author, H. Jackson Brown, Jr. had this to say, "People take different roads seeking fulfillment and happiness." He also cautioned, "Just because they're not on your road doesn't mean they've gotten lost." He's saying that destinations are not limited, but, late novelist, Oliver Goldsmith, warns, "Life is a journey that must be traveled no matter how bad the roads and accommodation."

These comments shouldn't deter us. Chinese writer, Lu Xun, said "Hope cannot be said to exist, nor can it be said not to exist. It is just like roads across the earth. For actually the earth had no roads to begin with, but when many pass one way, a road is made." Many paths are indeed available. Japanese novelist, Ryu Murakami: "Every one of a hundred thousand cities around the world had its own special sunset and its worth going there just once, if only to see the sun go down." Cartoon character, Calvin, drawn by Bill Watterson, summarized this in some words said to his stuffed toy tiger, "It's a magical world Hobbes, ole buddy . . . Let's go exploring!"

Might traveling roads be the way we are to live life? Are we meant to discover where roads lead and what they reveal? If we go down roads, might we also discover ourselves - who we are meant to be?

Buddha has told us, "Life is a journey, the universe an inn." However, itineraries need not be complicated. We are not limited; we need only to be patient. American writer, Stephen Wright, said, "Everywhere is walking distance, if you have the time." Chinese philosopher, Lao Tzu uttered these related words, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." Nor do our travels need exotic destinations. The late Swiss geologist, Louis Agassiz, once said, "I spent the summer traveling; I got half-way across my back yard."

The meaning of roads for us also might be that of our life's journey in a less physical sense. This road often is seen as having numerous challenges and obstacles. Side roads might split off to who knows where. Often roads are rough filled with rocks, ruts and holes. Roads have edges too, with their own set of dangers. While on such roads, one has to remain safe and on the right road. Dag Hammarskjold, the late Secretary General of the United Nations, once warned, "Never look down to test the ground before taking your next step; only he who keeps his eye fixed on the far horizon will find the right road." (See page 15.)

St. Paul's Worship Services

Sunday 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion Sunday 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Wednesday 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion