

SPIRIT

MAGAZINE

...spirit of adventure...



At its core, adventure is an attitude of embracing the new and challenging, finding excitement in the possibility of failure, and achieving a sense of accomplishment that makes you "wiser about yourself".

WINTER EDITION
2026

Issue 1



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Winter-Issue 1

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Monchak

Notes From the Editor

Where did the fall go? It was a busy one! The seasons of Advent and Christmas have come and gone. We prepared for and celebrated the birth of Jesus. Our three grandsons and granddaughter, our "little people," who visit Rick and me often, are fascinated by the felt figures which once again made their appearance this year. When our kids were little, these same felt figures, stitched over three decades ago, made their journey in our dining room following the star from the buffet, along the windowsill, and across the table toward the creche (under the rubber tree). What an adventure! Jesus and Mary arrive first and welcome the birth of baby Jesus. The same cast of characters who visit the baby Jesus, make their journey, with the help of our little people, sometimes arriving a little early but always in the right order; a shepherd and his two sheep, followed by the three kings and the camel, bearing gifts. All are placed in a tight circle around the manger before going on their way. And now, the entourage is tucked away again until we begin the season of Advent and Christmas once again. We are now in the season of Epiphany which ends on Shrove Tuesday, February 17, when we will celebrate with a Pancake Supper. And before you know it we will be observing the season of Lent!

What a time of celebration, all important because of the birth of a baby and, they are "on the calendar!" I started thinking about the Gregorian Calendar, the Church calendar, Fall and Winter, and how busy we were at St. Peter. If I made a list of everything that has come and gone so far, I would surely miss an important event. So, it would be better to just say, read this issue of Spirit!

There are informative reports on "Why I Give" and "In the Spirit of Adventure" and articles of reflection. In these articles three words became the focus: Time, Talent, and Treasure. And a fourth: Travel. Many of your adventures had to do with some kind of travel!

Thank you from both Trina and me, for your wonderful stories, articles and reports. You are the spirit of adventure!

Jane

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Stephanie's Stories

REV. STEPHANIE WOOD



Psalm 56:3-4
*when I am afraid,
I put my trust in you.
In God, whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I am not afraid;
what can flesh do to me?*

If we can look at courage as a place of befriending fear and trust at the same time, we no longer have to rely on pretending to be strong when we are scared. Acknowledging fear and walking with it is an invitation to find a sense of Godly presence being with us, no matter what.

Courage looks and feels different every day. There are times when having courage means being focused on taking one breath to get you to the next breath. Other times, it is voicing your truth, despite being nervous about the reaction.

Some of my most courageous moments were not ones in which I felt bold and fearless. They were ones when I felt vulnerable and sick to my stomach. I felt as if I was opening myself up to either rejection, or the unknown, or judgment. There was fear and plenty of insecurities. Yet, to move from one moment to the next moment with the hope that God's grace and love would be holding me allowed me to be vulnerable. During this upcoming Lententide I invite us to rest in God's love as we examine ourselves. Let us take courage in getting in touch with our authentic selves and emotions, which is exactly where our loving God resides.



We see God's glory
all around,
What once was lost
has now been found.

Can you believe it? We are already a quarter of the way through the 21st Century. The Y2K scare seems like only a week or so ago. However, when I stop to think about it, a lot has happened over those twenty-five years. Lots of change has happened in our world. We have artificial intelligence, Pandemic scares, social media, ongoing reconciliation and escalating trade wars to name just a few. I will leave it to the readers of this to determine which changes are positive and which are negative.

Unfortunately, one thing that hasn't changed is how we support the operation of our church. We do lots of great things in our church, both within our church community and in the world outside. Our rector, Stephanie, is highly visible in the community providing pastoral care and spiritual guidance. Our building provides a space at very low cost to groups that help the community. Our church members are involved in supporting our community.

The fly in the ointment is that in this very secular society we live in, we don't have the funds to continue doing this sustainably in the long run.

The overwhelming bulk of the funds that support St. Peter come from the generosity of our members who make voluntary donations on a regular basis. The remaining funding comes from fund-raising activities and building rentals. There is no investment income from bequests; there is no rich church in Toronto sending missionary funds. And the bills to keep operating continue to roll in.

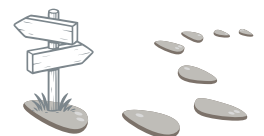
Stewardship was the theme in October, and we are continuing this theme into 2026. This is a good time to look at ourselves, have some ongoing discussion and consider our options going forward. Hopefully, we can move to a more sustainable way of supporting our activities as a Christian community that, I believe, is needed more and more in our very fractured and turbulent world.

Tony Smith, Rector's Warden



**Tony and Rev. Stephanie
delivering Food Bank donations**

Warden's Words



The Spirit of Finance

HOLLY FINN

The fog hangs over the Passage as I sit here in my home office. The sun is shining however, and that just makes everything better. As it has been a while since we have had a Spirit Magazine, I am going to incorporate some summer stuff into my report.

Michael and I had a great spring and summer with lots of family and boating/fishing trips. As a result of all of that, I found myself a bit out of the loop as far as what was going on at the church. I came into the church office as often as I could to get things caught up and bills paid but didn't get a chance to take a hard look at our finances.

We had an unexpected expense thrust upon us when a Canada Post employee drove into our streetlight in the parking lot back in the spring. The good news is that, after much back and forth between George and the Insurance Company, we were able to recoup the costs of that accident back into our bank account by the end of December.

We had a great concern in the fall regarding as to whether or not the City was going to start charging us property tax. Thanks to Rick Monchak, we have an exemption which will take us to 2027 (I think). We need to keep the possibility of a future tax bill in the back of our minds though.

We had an amazing last quarter thanks to the Christmas Market, Salmon Dinner, Ukrainian take-out (our wonderful ACW in action). Our net income (loss) to the end of December 2025 was (\$18,851.65) which includes a \$1681.77 GST adjustment write-off.



This summer...home away from home

I learned at a Treasurer's Day in the Spring how to mitigate that and it will not be on our income statement in the new year. We paid a huge amount in the early months of 2025 for salting and snow removal - you rent out the property, you need to keep the parking lot clean and safe. This is a requirement of our insurance.

Rick Monchak has been diving into our finances and the two of us will speak to them at the AGM. Meanwhile, please remember that Stewardship is not only about money. It is about using your time, and talents to help grow the church. What are your talents? How much time can you give your church? We need you to step up.



“ Property Taxes— a close call for St. Peter



Every two years, the City reviews all non-profit organizations and charities who own land and building to determine if they should be given an exemption from paying property taxes, called a permissive tax exemption (PTE). While the church building is exempted from property taxes by provincial statute, the land including the parking lot may be taxed. Exemptions may be granted for some of or all of the property taxes. For churches, historically it has been a certainty they would receive a 100% exemption. In 2025, this certainty ended...

New to the PTE application was the following question: Is at least 50% of the parking lot and land used 4 out of 7 days a week on average? If the answer to this question is no, the maximum PTE is reduced to 50%. For St. Peter, this would mean a property tax bill for the next two years of \$7,700/year. After meeting with City staff, despite the question, the focus seemed to only be on the parking lot. Like most churches, our parking lot is more than 50% full on Sunday but not 4 out of 7 days a week. We submitted our application and answered "no" to the above question. After the first and second reading of the PTE bylaw, St. Peter was granted only a 50% exemption. And then, we were saved.

The contractor building the new pool across the street approached us. They needed parking for their subcontractors. Monday to Friday. Up to 40 vehicles. For 18+ months. No problem. With the excellent help of City staff, we were able to amend our PTE application. A few days later, at the third reading for the PTE bylaw, St. Peter received a 100% permissive tax exemption. Nice. But there is more good news.

The church will receive \$1,000/month for use of the parking lot. The contractors will use the paved spaces that are closest to Pinecrest Street and the gravel area adjacent to the community garden. They have already started using the parking lot. So far, so good.

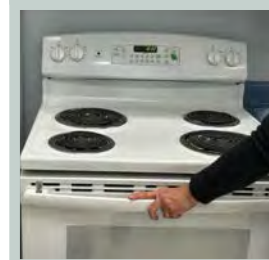
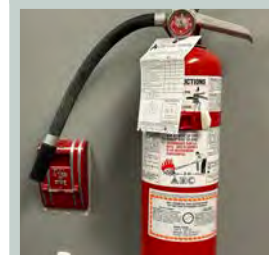
Rick Monchak, Deputy Warden



BUILDING MATTERS

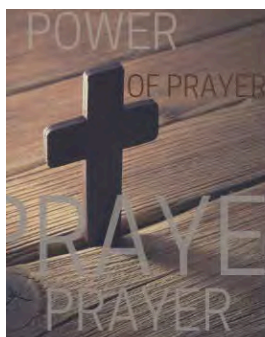
GEORGE WAGNER

1. Replacement of the parking lot light and lamp post destroyed by Canada Post in January was completed in July and is functioning well. The replacement parking lot acceptable usage sign relocated to the signpost at the entrance to the parking lot.
2. The kitchen Bunn Coffee Maker was refurbished with new gaskets to eliminate an internal leak.
3. The annual fire equipment inspection including Fire Extinguishers, Heat Detectors, Pull Stations, Emergency Lights and Alarm System and Bells was completed by CR Fire in early September. No issues were found with the function of the equipment tested. We have been given notification the spare parts are no longer available for the Fire Alarm Panel and that it should be replaced with an updated unit at some point in the future.
4. The oven door handles were repaired on the oven closest to the outside kitchen door.



New flags were hung above the church entry door in early October replacing a flag that had faded.

PRAYER MINISTRY

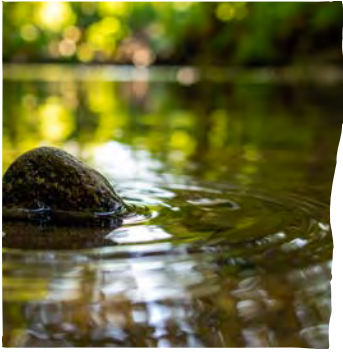


Prayer Chain Requests

Let the Prayer Chain know if you have a prayer concern. You may contact the church at 250-286-1613 or email the office at prayerchain@stpeterscampellriver.com. There is also a box in the Narthex where you may leave a prayer message. Prayers will be offered for one month, if you wish longer, please contact the Prayer Chain.



PRAYER MINISTRY, continued...



Healing Support Group

Everyone is welcome to attend our Monthly Healing Support Group, especially if you would like prayer for your health concerns for someone you know who is ill. We will be discussing ways to cope with illness from a spiritual viewpoint with a different emphasis each month.

Meeting dates 2026: Feb 15; Mar 15; April 19; May 17; June 21; Aug 16; Sept 20; Oct 18; Nov 15; Dec 13 Blue Christmas service

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Salvation Army Kettle

Tuesday-December 2, 2025

2 hour shifts 10-6 in pairs

Superstore-Discovery Harbour Shopping Mall

The ringing of the Salvation Army bell is not just a sound of a bell.... it's the sound of curing hunger, the sound of Christmas to a child in need, the sound of a safe place for our neighbors to sleep. It is the sound of help, hope and comfort to our neighbors when they need it most during the holidays and beyond.

The 2025 Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Campaign in Canada, which ran from late November through December 24, raised \$22.7 million to support, food, shelter, and clothing for those in need.

Food Bank Donation

"Supporting our community is at the heart of what we do. St. Peter Anglican Church is always grateful to our congregation for their generous donations of food and funds that help support Campbell River Food Bank."





Monday Morning Coffee Hour

You are invited to meet in person for Monday Morning Coffee Hour at St. Peter Anglican Church. All you need is yourself and a travel mug of coffee. We meet in St. Matthew's room. Also, for those who are unable to attend in person, or you want to join us from home, we have a Zoom link. Meeting ID: 81205874273.

Every Monday from 10 to 11 am is the time to gather, chat and share 'what's happening'. No reservations required – just drop by "in person".



Chat & Chill Hospitality Morning

New members always welcome to drop in every Friday from 10 to noon. They meet in St. Matthew's room. Coffee, tea and conversation are the 'order of the day'. This group is well known for its support of many church fundraising events. In 2025 they made and sold turkey pot pies, perogies, and baked for the Christmas market – cakes, shortbread, jams, jellies and much more...the list is long!

In December they made Christmas Bags with their own funds and inside were a pair of gloves, heavy socks and chocolate. They delivered the gift bags to the the Mental Health Safe Injection site. All recipients were extremely grateful. Also to the unhoused community shower facility, they provided shampoo, body wash, soap, hair conditioner, perfume and toothpaste!



Fridge Magnets created by J. Jennnings

Mindfulness Meditation Practice

The mindfulness group meets at 3:30 pm every Wednesday in the library (or outside on nice summer afternoons). They meditate for about 40 minutes using meditations from different traditions. New members are always welcome. Do drop in and see if mindfulness is helpful for you.



What's Been Happening?

JOY Club

The JOY Club (Just Old Youth) came about by a discussion one day after mindfulness. The members of mindfulness wanted to provide an opportunity to get together and enjoy something fun. Each month an activity is planned by Pam Hedderson and Jane Clarke. It started last June with a Games Afternoon in the hall. This event was followed by a scavenger hunt and a chance to take in God's beauty at Miracle Beach and a buffet of snacks in July. Since then, we have enjoyed ice cream on the pier in August; toured three parishioner's gardens which ended with tea and cream biscuits in September; and visited Holly Hills Farm to meet the year-old wallabies, a few alpacas,



a couple of horses and donkeys, and a bunch of chickens and bunnies in October. In early November, the club was back inside to have a craft afternoon. And in January 2026 we enjoyed a potluck supper.

A variety of parishioners and friends meet at each of the events that have been organized. There is no sign-up required, just come! All are welcome...in this place!



What's Been Happening?, continued

Mindfulness Group Goes to Quadra

In early September, the mindfulness group took a trip to Heather Kellerhals' farm on Quadra Island. After a short ferry trip, we met Heather and followed her along Quadra's narrow roads to the farm. Heather's property includes her home, her daughter's home, plus an old schoolhouse. We were just in time for lunch which we enjoyed on the deck with its lovely view of Hyacinth Bay and Rebecca Spit. After lunch we shared poetry upon which we reflected. Heather also offered a tour of her large garden. To get to the garden we walked through an arboretum of eastern hardwoods and coniferous trees, planted by Heather. Beautiful! The huge, fenced garden includes an orchard, berries, and vegetables. Heather offered apples from her trees. We had a quick trip back to the ferry and were one of the last cars on the boat! Many thanks to Heather for sharing her wonderful property with us.



What's Been Happening?,

continued...

Salmon Dinner Fundraiser

Over fifty people enjoyed a beautiful salmon dinner on a Saturday night in the middle of October. Baked salmon with lemon and onion was served with small roasted potatoes, peas and a refreshing coleslaw which included apple. Dinner tickets included 2 glasses of wine. Dessert was a variety of home baked pies. Many thanks to Lois and her team for preparing this dinner.

Along with the dinner there was a silent auction with a variety of donated items and services. Thanks to all who contributed to this event. It was a very successful 'balance the 2025 church budget' event.



North Island Regional Meeting October 4, 2025



Coffee and fellowship started at 9:30 a.m. and Archdeacon Elizabeth Northcott welcomed all.

OPENING BIBLE STUDY – Archdeacon Elizabeth Northcott

Based on Isaiah 40:31: "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength." Group discussion about what "renew" means to us. (e.g. have hope, wait on the Lord, walk not faint, be strengthened)

WHERE ARE WE NOW? – Led by Rev. Kristen Evenden, Parksville.

Group discussion about our own parishes. Our hopes, priorities, goals and resources within our communities. She asked who has paid admin/clergy. How many at services. Who uses BAS/BCP. Paid musicians. We can be a small congregation but powerful. We all experience joys and sorrows, setbacks and challenges. We shared and discussed outreach programs at our churches.

What's Been Happening?,

continued...

North Island Regional Meeting

THE FUTURE WILL NOT BE LIKE THE PAST – Led by Bishop Anna

Anna drew a picture of the ocean waterline and what can fall below the surface (people, dynamics, informal leadership) and what can be above the surface (formal leadership, structure, processes). We don't want to sink; we want to swim. "Elements of an Organizational System" was handed out.

Anna and the participants discussed this further: culture, environment, climate, strategy, connections

- Change needs to happen.
- "Visioning days" are important. Looking at the future, not the past. We cannot go back, only forward.
- Be optimistic, have a desire, be resilient, be creative, set goals. "We will not rise to the level of our goals; we will fall to the level of our systems."

A quote by James Clear- Atomic Habits.


We discussed youth in our churches. It is now called Children's Ministry – not Sunday school. We discussed ways to have them active and participate within the service.

The meeting closed at 3:00 with prayer and a blessing.

In summary it was wonderful to meet many other leaders from across the North Island. We shared our challenges, hopes and dreams for our parishes. We discussed starting a regional support site of sharing news and information amongst the north island parishes.

TONY AND PAULINE




"GUARD RAILS,
NOT
ROADBLOCKS"



What's Been Happening?,

continued...

Ukrainian Take-out Dinner



Ти дивовижна! That's Ukrainian for 'you are amazing'!

A special menu was provided at the 'drive in' on October 29, 2025. For one night only we could purchase home made perogies and slaw with sausages and sour cream all prepared in the church kitchen and packaged for take out to eat at home. It was a sell out!

Christmas Market Prep



Christmas MARKET



NOVEMBER
15

SPIRIT MAGAZINE 16

Why I Give

When we enter the month of October, our focus is on Stewardship, and I ask myself, what does stewardship mean to me and what gifts have I been given that I can share? What and why do I give? Because I can. What do I give? Time, talents and finances. As you enter the Narthex, I read what is on the wall; "Inspiration by God and the example of Jesus to go into our community offering love and acceptance."

We all have time. It is up to us how we spend it in practising our faith and putting it into action. For me, going to church for one hour a week is not putting my faith into action and does not meet my needs to be what I call a good Christian. I need to put into practise my faith. Just this week alone I had the companionship of several other parishioners by making cabbage rolls and perogies. Learning a new skill with the help of more experienced cooks was a humbling experience for me. Next day another group put our hearts into making up 25 buckets of Christmas cakes. As an elected member of Parish Council, our monthly meeting was Tuesday night. As a group, we address issues and focus our attention in directing the congregation in ways we want to go. Next day I gave my time, helping in the church kitchen with a funeral reception. Towards the end of the week, stirring the cakes, letting the flavours fuse, getting ready to bake this coming week. Saturday, the entire day was in the kitchen helping with the coffee and lunch for the Delegation meeting we hosted. And today, following the service, making more cabbage rolls and providing tickets to both the Salmon Dinner and Ukrainian Take-out Dinner. Two events to put towards our expenses we hadn't planned for when we set this year's agenda. Throw into the mix my wellness phone calls. All that in just one week. As Stephanie's sermon feeds my soul, I often feel like she is talking directly to me and the rest of you aren't even in the building. And here you thought there are only 24 hours in a day and 7 days in a week. I like to think that I have 25 hours in the day and an 8-day week!! We all have the same amount of time; it is what we do with it that can make a difference.

My second gift is talent. I am grateful that Chill and Chat, the Friday's ladies group, has supported my efforts and together we have donated over 90 wheelchair quilts on behalf of our church to seniors in care in our community. That has included parishioners from our church. It is a bit like throwing a stone into the lake and not knowing where the ripples may fall. The look on the face whether it be someone I know, or a total stranger gives me a smile, knowing that someone cares, makes it all worthwhile.

Thirdly, my gift of financial support. When Stephanie spoke about reconsidering what we tithe to our church, even though many of you know I don't drink coffee. Our church, like our homes, has ongoing needs and bills, and we must take care of our present to ensure we will still be a vibrant presence in the future; and we meet the needs of both our parishioners and our community.

So, in closing when I ask the question why I give, it's because I want to. Thank you.

LOIS
TIREBUCK

WHY

“

Inspired by God and the Example of Jesus to service our community by offering love and acceptance to everyone.

TONY SMITH

We all know that sentence, don't we. These words are in full display in the narthex, and this sentence is the mission statement for our congregation. It is a call for all of us to go outside these doors and provide service wherever needed and it is a call for inclusivity. We are visibly demonstrating that with the flags over our entrance door.

So how does this statement tie into why I give. The assumption here is that we are talking about money but that is only part of the equation, and I'll get back to the money part in a few minutes. The giving of time and talent are also key components of giving. There are lots of things going on in this church community. These things don't just happen. Some individual or small group has taken the time to do all the organizational leg work to get that activity going. Think of our Sunday service. The hymns we are going to sing today didn't magically appear. Someone took the time to choose hymns appropriate to the service. The altar is set for communion. Those elements didn't walk themselves up. I could go on and on.

Besides giving our time, we give our talents. We all have God-given gifts. Some of us are good organizers. Others are good cooks while others are skilled at fixing things. Again, I could go on and on. Paul in his letters talks in several places about the church's needs for all sorts of skills. Me: I have some organizational and computer skills. So, I give some of my time to do the Zoom service for those unable to attend in person. Stephanie must have seen some administrative skills, so she asked me to be her Rector's Warden.

This brings me around to the money component of my stewardship. When I first started going to church many years ago, I never gave it much thought. There were regular Sunday services. A priest was there to lead the service and administer communion. There was a well-maintained building to hold the service and there was heat and light. The only time, money entered the picture was when the offering plate was sent around. Even there I was slow to make the connection, and I reluctantly admit I gave sparingly and, at times resentfully. After all I had my own bills to pay.

However, over time, as I began to do more in the church than just park my butt in a pew for an hour on Sunday I began to connect the dots. For a church community to work and do what we are called to do; it required the donation of time, talent and treasure. And ironically, my giving increased, and any resentment disappeared. I found I was becoming what the Bible called "a cheerful giver". And maybe I was lucky, but my own personal bills still got paid. A constant message from our Bishop, Anna, is that we aren't in the mid-twentieth century anymore. We are living in a secular society where the need to serve the community is greater than ever. And though, we are now very much a minority in the community we stand out in our service to the community outside our doors.

Last year, my wife, Georgia, spoke about why she gave. She spoke of the scriptural call to action, and she was 100% right. As for me, I am a more pragmatic guy. I certainly acknowledge the Biblical message, but I also see with my own eyes the needs of our community and our call to honour our mission statement. **Inspired by God and the Example of Jesus to serve our community by offering love and acceptance to everyone.** And that is why I give. Time, talent and treasure. The church needs all three.



Why I Give

Kate Fitzsimmons

I asked the congregation a couple of Sundays ago, when I did my talk on giving, how many of them had been brought to church or grown-up in the church, and most people put up their hands. That was not my story.

When I was little my parents did not attend church, but they had no objections to me attending. When I was in Grade 3 one of my classmates asked me if I would like to go to the little church where her dad was the minister. Curious, I said yes. I attended there for a year or two and quite enjoyed the hymn singing, the Bible stories, and the Sunday lesson leaflet. When we began to learn about the Old Testament, I found it disturbing and decided not to go anymore.

A few years later when I was about 12, I became curious again. There was an Anglican Church a few blocks away from my house and I thought that I would go again and give it a try. One Sunday I showed up a little late. I had no idea when to stand or sit, what to do, or what books to use. No one paid any attention to me or helped me, but I stayed until the end of the service. Sometimes I wonder if people had given me the warm welcome ordinarily experienced in this church whether I would have attended again.

As a teenager, friends of mine invited me to come with them to a United Church youth group where we had fun but also had deep conversations. Over many months we sang upbeat Christian songs to the guitar music played by the youth minister and talked about Jesus. I also attended a Sunday evening youth service with friends at the Baptist Church during these senior high school years.

In time I came to have faith through these experiences, through conversations and music and teaching. How could that have happened without these steppingstones, without these places where I could go and learn about God?

Churches are important places for folks who have no connection to people who believe in God or who already have faith. Where else can they go to find out about who God is, to experience God's love, and to find community in a group of believers where they can grow in faith?

I give because I feel it's important for our church to exist in the community, a magnet to those who might be drawn to God but do not know how to find out about God. It is a beacon, in a way, of the love of God, a way for God to touch the lives of those who don't grow up being brought to Sunday school or to church. It can be a steppingstone for seekers.

In the last year some new folks have come, curious about God. St. Peter was a steppingstone for them, a place to ask questions, have deep conversations, and find faith. I hope it will be so for many years to come. Other new people of faith have joined the congregation because they found a place where their faith can grow and where they have found community. Without regular giving to pay for utilities and upkeep, to pay for the minister and the staff needed to carry out the functions of the church, we would cease to exist as a beacon in the community where people who don't know about God can come and find about God.

I have given gifts of my time and talent in various ways in the church over the years. That's important for building up the body of Christ in this place. But I feel that it is just as important to give financially to the church and this is why I do.



WHY I GIVE

Jane Jennings

There's Another Way to Look at giving.

What do you think of when someone asks you for a donation or a favour? Do you figure out what it will cost in terms of money, time, or skill? Or, do you imagine how tired you will be if you have given of your time .

I've found there's another way to look at giving - whether it's money, skills, or time. I like to think of it like going to a gas station to fill up your car. If you don't fill it up, you'll run out of gas. Now, think about how you feel when the car is full of gas, and you can go anywhere? What a privilege! What a gift! I can go anywhere I want to!

So, as I am energized by a full tank of gas, I feel energized to maybe drive a friend some place they need to go, or volunteer at the food bank, or visit someone on their own. I am rich in my ability to give when I have that 'full tank of gas!'

Then, and here's the great part, when I connect with a friend, that connection leads to a blessed feeling. God's grace flows when giving is fun. It may not seem like much, but I'm happy to contribute to the bigger picture, from my little corner of the world.

Luke 6, verse 38: Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over



SUE VICKERY RECEIVES THE ORDER OF THE DIOCESE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

My name is Sue Vickery. I feel my life is an adventure with the Lord's gentle nudging. He has led me to so many experiences that I may never have tried. I may have been afraid or not interested. Right now, I am in the middle of an adventure. Stephanie and the Wardens nominated me for the Order of the Diocese of British Columbia! Stephanie told me that many of you had mentioned my name for this award. So, thank you all for this great honour.

The award is for faithful service in our baptismal ministry to the church and community over a significant amount of time. The award can be presented to one person from each church every two years. Rosemary Proctor, former organist, and Lois Tirebuck, deputy warden, are members of the order. I feel I am representing all our servants at St. Peter's, many doing their ministries unseen.

There was a ceremony at the Cathedral in Victoria on Saturday, October 25th, 2025.

I would like to thank Jane Jennings for helping me with the application process and for Pam Hedderson for being so excited. Thankyou to all of you, my church family, for this great adventure.



♥ Sue exemplifies the spirit of giving. Her many talents in communications and unwavering patience continue to enrich lives at St. Peter. May she be blessed as she is a blessing.



...spirit of adventure...

WHAT TO DO? WHAT TO DO? - AN ADVENTURE AT SEA

Holly Finn

Michael and I were out on our boat, Ginger on July 29, 2025, in a little cove we like to call Eden West (in the Broughton Archipelago). We had planned on taking our fishing boat, Fintuition out to try to bottom fish for halibut. We caught a little one and let it go and then decided to go to Port McNeill for fuel. We filled up and went back to an area where we had previously caught halibut. No luck so we went back to Ginger, had a beer, relaxed in the sun and then had supper. My phone pinged with a notification from Environment Canada that there was an earthquake in Kamchatka which could possibly generate a tsunami. Well, probably the worst place you could be in a tsunami is in a little cove on Eden Island. Yikes! We drilled down further into Environment Canada's website and found a map that showed the extent of the possible tsunami. It was a very large area, so we talked about our options and decided to go into Queen Charlotte Strait, into deep water and wait out the threat.

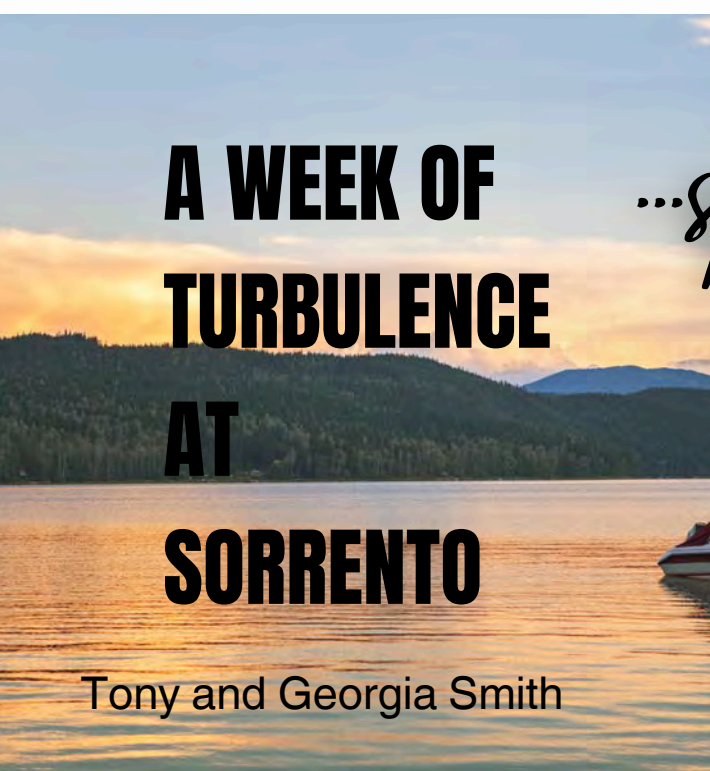
It was about 7:40 p.m. when we untied our stern rope and raised the anchor. We left the cove and headed for the Strait, which, unbeknownst to us, had become very windy. The waves were pounding into Trainer Passage. As we were leaving, I noticed a very large yacht anchored a little way away. We bounced around like a bean in a can for a while and decided enough was enough and made a turn to get into Knight Inlet. Finally, some calmer water! We worked our way through some small islands and then into the inlet. We had decided to go to Port Elizabeth, a safe place according to Env Canada, a couple of hours away. As we travelled, we realized that it was going to be getting dark soon. Michael climbed into Fintuition, we released her from the tow rope, and he sped ahead of Ginger. As you can imagine, the sky was getting darker, and the time was getting later.

As I followed Fintuition, I sent up a prayer. "Please God, help us to get there before it gets too dark to see; keep the dark away for a little while longer." Michael put a stern light on Fintuition and as we turned the corner towards the port, it was getting brighter as the evening grew darker. There were A LOT of crab traps in Port Elizabeth. We had stopped there on our way to the Broughton Islands. I was so worried about snagging one of them as we entered the bay where we were going to anchor as I could not see them! Michael led us to the bay; we tied Fintuition to Ginger and dug out our brightest spotlight which had a bad electrical connection. Good grief! I dropped the anchor desperately trying to see the depth markings on it. Finally, we got the anchor set, sat in the salon and took a deep breath. It was 10:00 p.m. Wow!

Suddenly, the bay lit up and there was the big yacht we had seen previously. I had never seen so many lights; it was like a little cruise ship! Apparently, they had decided that Port Elizabeth would be a good place to go as well. In retrospect, if they had passed us, I would have had more light to navigate with. In the morning, we found out that it was the SamSara which, apparently belongs to J.K. Rowling.

I remember being so grateful to be in God's hands. I felt that, yes, He would get us to safety. Faith gave me confidence to not panic, just to keep on driving. Thank you, Lord!





A WEEK OF TURBULENCE AT SORRENTO

Tony and Georgia Smith

...spirit of adventure...

As we were looking for places to go in the RV this summer we decided to look into a stay at Sorrento, BC. Sorrento Center is an Anglican retreat on the shore of Shuswap Lake. It has RV sites as well as cabins and cabana. We had been to Sorrento before but that was over 40 years ago. The clincher was the short course called "The Turbulent 20's-A Midterm Report" led by our Bishop, Anna, and Christine Conkin, an Anglican priest in Victoria.

As Anna and Christine pointed out we have had, since Biblical times, empires rise only to fall, and temples built only to be torn down. It is our job as Christians to figure out how to respond. The one constant has been the need to adapt and change practices without giving up the essential message of Christ. During the ages, we have had prophets to give us guidance. This has continued into our modern times, and we looked at the work of some of the theological scholars of the present and last centuries to give us guidance.

Many of these scholars are calling us to look at our relationship with our loving God. There is a rejection of the concept of an omnipotent God. Ideally, we are in loving relationship with God, and it is that idea of relationship that is key.

During the week several questions were asked by Anna and Christine. How do we respond to what they called the "one and done." These are the folks that came to church once or twice and are done with it. What did they see or not see? Why are we so obsessed with our buildings? How does the outside community see us? How are we responding these days to our baptismal covenant? Do we have the courage to address these issues, or do we retreat into our buildings as our numbers dwindle?

Disruption is present and necessary as we develop new ways of working in the world which, in the West, is increasingly fragmented and secular. We took away from the week that we have some hard work to do to change our practices both within our Christian community and the larger world outside. However, the week also illustrates that this historical cycle has been going on for all of history and if we hold true to the core of our faith we will come out well on the other side of this round of turbulence.



...spirit of adventure...

HIKING THE GR221 IN MALLORCA



My cousin, Nicki, is a travel writer and destination expert who has visited more than 50 countries. In 2023 she invited me to Mauritius (an island in the Indian Ocean off of the coast of Africa) to accompany her as she visited and updated luxury hotel reviews. Of course, I said 'yes' and consequently had a great time as her 'assistant'. Last year (2025) when she was living in Palma, Mallorca, I again, did not hesitate to say 'yes' when invited to hike with her along the GR221 Dry Stone Route.

I did my research on the GR221 and most write ups were similarly upbeat about this trek. I read, for instance the following:

'The GR 221 Ruta de Pedra en Sec (Dry Stone Route) is a hiking trail in Majorca that proposes you to discover dry stone landscapes in Serra de Tramuntana mountain range, declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO within the category of a cultural landscape. You can visit fascinating historical ruins and explore traditions, architecture, customs, gastronomy and handicrafts of this privileged spot in Majorca's geography.'

I paid somewhat less attention to:

'How hard is the GR221 Dry Stone Route? It really depends on which parts you do. Some sections are long, steep and remote, with rocky paths and big climbs; definitely a challenge even for experienced hikers'

However, I trained at the gym, walked many miles on local treks and climbed the Ripple Rock Trail almost always accompanied by my 10 year old trainer, grandson, Kaiden. He really cracked the whip!

I did, however, let my cousin down slightly when, after the first two mountains of 8.5k and 12k straight up and in 27 degree heat (not on smooth stone paths), she asked me my opinion. My reply was "I hope there are no more like this!". She was afraid to tell me there were six more. I survived!



We also got a nickname on the trip - other hikers called us 'the ladies in bonnets'.



We did it!

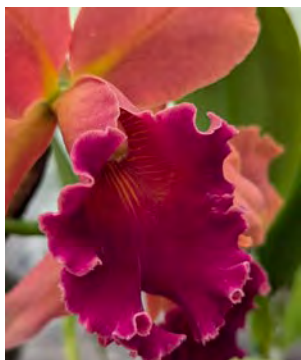
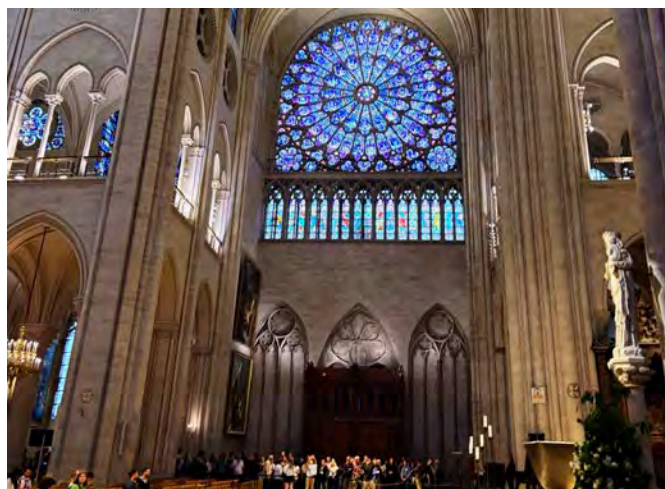
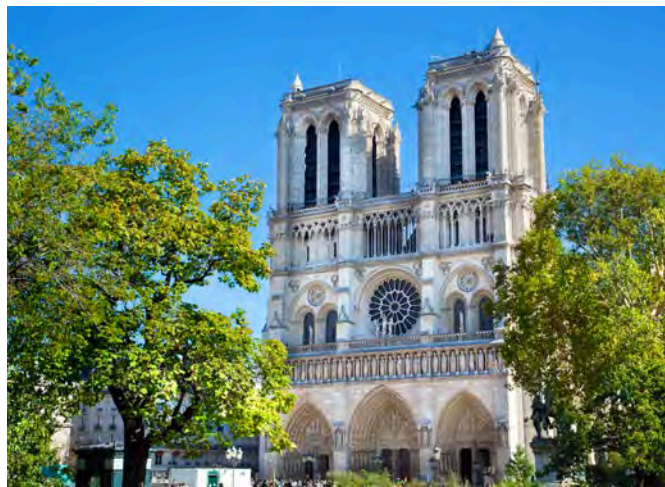
TRAVEL ADVENTURES

With Glenna Armitage

Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, France - a place I'll never forget.

I was only 14 and on an international student exchange. We were all excited to see Notre Dame Cathedral, most of the students because they thought they might see the hunchback. We were young at heart. My friends were scrambling to get up the spiral staircase to the towers. They thought for sure they might see something.

I was overwhelmed with the majesty of the cathedral. It was Easter. I had never before felt the presence of the Lord like this. He was there with all of us. The feeling of his presence enveloped my soul. The shimmering light from the stained-glass windows, the candles in the votive stands and the beautiful choir music surrounding us as we celebrated Easter.



In the stones you could feel the hearts and souls of all the people who had built this cathedral. They were there in every stone, piece of glass and the wood. The work it took to build was unimaginable.

God was there with all of us. He welcome our presence and filled our hearts. It was such an overwhelming feeling.

Last year I travelled to Japan. I went to Kochi Prefectural Makino Botanical Gardens. The space was filled with gardens which provided a perfect growing atmosphere. Three thousand species of plants are there, growing on walls, rocks, trees. Everywhere!

I said to my husband that we had found heaven. Beautiful orchids were on display along the walkway. It was peaceful and serene. I felt blessed by God to be there. I said thank you for the peace and spirit of growth.

“ —

Every journey is an adventure finding new blessings.

...spirit of adventure...

EXPLORING THE AMALFI COAST

With Pam Hedderson

Our journey began at a family run hotel in the small village, Bomerano, in Agerola in Southern Italy where we stayed for seven nights. The Amalfi Coast is a spectacular region in Italy famous for lemon trees, olive groves, and tiny villages clinging to dramatic cliffs that tower above the sea. This beautiful destination is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage site.

We, along with our tour leaders, joined a group of fifteen others on daily hikes and excursions which included the mighty volcano Vesuvius; Herculaneum to Pompeii ruins and it's 2,000 year old history; Sorrento, a coastal town facing the Bay of Naples; The Path of the Gods, one of the great coastal hikes in Europe; boat ride to Capri; visits to enchanting coastal towns of Ravello, Positano, and Amalfi the oldest maritime republic in Italy.

Meals were enhanced by a visit to the kitchen where the chef invited us to see traditional making of tiramisu, pasta, Margherita pizza (named after Queen Margherita back in 1889) made with the ingredients of tomatoes, mozzarella cheese and basil (the 3 colors found in the flag of Italy). Another day included a short walk from the Hotel for a mozzarella making and tasting demo. The last two days of our trip were in Rome and ended with a guide-led tour and with us sitting atop the hop on/hop off bus, taking in the sights.

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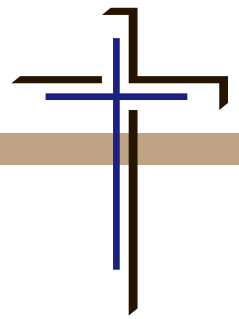
Such a joy of
scenery, the
famous limoncello
liqueur, food,
culture, history,
hospitality.

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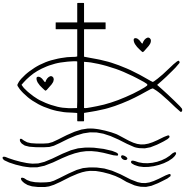
ANNOUNCEMENTS



IN LOVING MEMORY

Earl “Bud” Adams: April 5, 1930 - May 12, 2025

Rosemary Ruth Elisabeth Alexander - May 14, 1937 - August 23, 2025



BAPTISMS

Nathan Mieczyslaw Abraham Spalek: May 25, 2025

Rosie James Hoskins: November 2, 2025

NEW PIANIST JOINS THE MUSIC TEAM AT ST. PETER

Jillian Penner is from Campbell River. She graduated from Campbell River Christian School in 2005 and went to Prairie Bible College in Three Hills, Alberta where she majored in Voice. Following Prairie Bible College, she returned home to Campbell River when she met Kevin through Facebook. He had just graduated from Veterinary School at the University of Saskatchewan and moved to Campbell River to begin practicing at Campbell River Veterinary Hospital. They married on September 5th, 2010; “Kevin is her soulmate,” says Jillian. Two years into their marriage they decided to move to Selkirk, Manitoba, Kevin’s home province. In 2019 Jillian, an “island girl,” convinced Kevin to move back to the island. She works at La Tee Da and Indulge Intimates. Kevin works at Comox Valley Animal Hospital in Courtenay. They have fur babies, Cecilia a brown tabby, Bob a big orange tabby, and Cash a sheltie. Jillian is excited to join the music team and to share the pianist position with Georgia and we are thrilled to have her at St. Peter.



On-going at St. Peter...

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Closed Fridays

Worship Opportunities

- Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Hybrid -Zoom and in-person, in the Sanctuary
- Monday, 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer
- Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. Midweek Eucharist, all are welcome
- Thursday, 12:30 p.m. Meditative Eucharist, all are welcome

Weekly Events

- Monday, 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, St. Matthew's Room
- Wednesday, 3:30 p.m. Mindfulness, the Library
- Friday, 10 a.m. to noon Chat & Chill gathering, St. Matthew's Room

Monthly Events

Prayer Chain - First Wednesday of the month, 10:30 a.m.

Healing Support Group - The last Sunday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

Serving the Community

Weekly: Seven 12-Step groups - in the hall or library

Weekly: Yoga classes for adults and moms & tots



St. Peter
Anglican Church

With Gratitude, the Diocese of British Columbia acknowledges that for thousands of years the Coast Salish, Nuuchah-nulth, and Kwakwaka'wakw peoples have walked gently on the unceded territories where we now live, work, worship, and play. We seek a new relationship with the first peoples here, one based on honour and respect, and we thank them for their hospitality.