

# PARISH NEWS

Summer 2014



**ON SUNDAY, MAY 25th TREVOR & ANDREA  
ANNOUNCED THEIR RETIREMENT FROM  
ST. STEPHEN'S EFFECTIVE AUGUST 31, 2014**

**ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH,  
885 - 22ND STREET  
WEST VANCOUVER, B.C.**

**St. Stephen's is a welcoming Christian Church  
providing spiritual and caring support to the  
community.**



## FROM THE VICAR'S DESK

*"So those who welcomed his (Peter's) message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added." Acts 2.41*

Not even the most wildly optimistic evangelical would expect these sorts of numbers from their work on behalf of God. We would be hard-put to come up with that number of Anglicans on the North Shore, and yet after Peter's address, people were lining up to become members of a sect of Judaism that promised a tough time on earth and heaven after it. Something had to be moving for this to happen. People don't usually volunteer for certain hardship unless there was something in it for them and certainly not for something as intangible as "life hereafter"... or are we the ones that are selling humanity short?

We live in a growing climate of hostility toward faith...any faith, or so we think. Secularism is the order of the day where we have the incongruous sight of a Quebec that used to be so "Catholic", banning any religious symbol worn on the job by public servants. We have debates and diatribes from people on show, actively decrying Christianity and ridiculing anyone who subscribes to a belief system. And yet there is just as

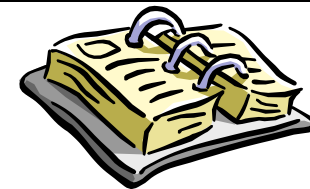
much interest in spirituality as there has ever been. It is just not in the traditional faith groups. There are TV shows on ghosts and hauntings, clairvoyance, crystals, aliens from outer space influencing early civilizations, and eternal life gets a look-in with the rise of vampire serials. We of the Faith will dismiss all this as just so much dross, but these shows would not exist, much less continue, unless they had a following. So we cannot cite a lack of interest in spiritual matters as a reason for our own decline. Maybe, just maybe, if we look at what we publish about ourselves in the broad sense, or see ourselves as others see us, or really examine what we stand for, will we get a picture that will explain where the church stands today.

Churches have traditionally been the centres of particular communal activities. They have often been the social hub of the community, bringing people together for what the church would call fellowship. They were also seen as a port-of-call for those who were destitute and in need. Alongside this role was also that of a social service, providing help to all who required a listening ear or an advocate. One of the more important roles was to provide the *raison d'être* for all the activities of the church. The church was the place where the reasons for living a good life were expressed, taught and passed on. In a word, the church had a role in the spirituality of the community.

Today we have to face the fact that our community is looking to other institutions to fulfill these roles, barring the spiritual. The only aspect of the church that differentiates us from these other institutions is the fact that we are a place of spiritual authority and practice. Paradoxically, we seem to be less comfortable about practicing this role in our community when really it is our prime directive. The churchy word for what we need is "renewal", spiritual renewal, where we rediscover

what being a Christian is meant to be in our own time. All people, including the atheists, want to have their life mean something. All parents hope that their child will grow up to be a productive and positive member of the community. We as a church, are uniquely placed to be able to offer all people an opportunity to find their spiritual path. What it will take for that to happen in reality, is that we will start with ourselves first, before we take that message to others.

I have been in ordained ministry now for thirty nine years, and have worked in seven parishes. In all that time and in all those places the task for the church has been the same. Believe and practice it first before you take it anywhere else!



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### June

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 3  | Drop-in-Bridge 1 - 3:30 (every Tuesday)       |
| 4  | Drop in Sing-Along 10:00 a.m.                 |
| 6  | Friendship Group 3:30 (every Friday)          |
| 18 | Brown Bag Lunch - Boating on the River Thames |
| 21 | Strawberry Tea - 3:00 p.m.                    |
| 29 | Jazz Vespers 4:00 p.m.                        |

***We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give...Sir Winston Churchill***

## NEWS FROM ST. STEPHEN'S

The three Wardens of St. Stephen's met with the Wardens from St. Christopher's and St. Francis-in-the-Wood on Friday afternoon, May 2 for an informal chat about their roles. The Wardens in the other churches enthusiastically welcomed the idea of getting to know each other and find ways to inform other Parishes about their events.

Members of St. Stephen's Altar Guild hosted a luncheon on Tuesday, May 6, for Sanctuary Guild members of St. Christopher's and St. Francis-in-the-Wood. This successful event provided a wonderful opportunity for Guild members to meet and get to know other women who share the same dedication to preparing the Church for worship. Enthusiasm was expressed for holding future similar events.

*by Margaret Steadman, Warden*



***Pictured attending the luncheon are Guild members from St. Stephen's, St. Christopher's and St. Francis-in-the-Wood***



## ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairperson of the Council shall be the most senior Warden who shall preside at all meetings. If the most senior Warden is unavailable the next most senior Warden shall preside.

The Council shall consist of the Rector, the Wardens, the Treasurer, the Trustees, Delegates to Synod and Alternate Delegates to Synod, and Members at large. They are selected by a nominating committee called at the end of the year by the Senior Warden.

The Parish Council duties include ensuring that the Church is run effectively and that all steps are taken to ensure good financial and administrative management of the Church. Reports by members to review work that is completed or in process keep everyone informed of what is happening at the Church and what areas need attention.

Further reports by Chairs of Church Committees may be requested for a meeting.

Members 2013-14 include The Rev'd Trevor Fisher, Wardens Margaret Stedman, Tom Gunn, John Seddon, Treasurer Gerry Prins, Synod Delegates Neil Abramson, Valerie Barratt, Alternate Synod Delegates Mary Parsons, George Richards, Trustees Neil Abramson, George Richards, Members at Large Chris Funston, Margaret Gailey and Kathy Sorel.

A parishioner may attend a meeting of the Parish Council. Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm. There is coffee and tea provided before the meeting. Please let the office know if you would like to attend.



### PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Care Committee was formed in April 2012 under the guidance of the Reverend Trevor Fisher and Coordinated by Ann Norrie. The Committee has gathered on a monthly basis since then to hear reports from each of the members regarding their activities pertaining to visits, phone calls, etc. Members share ideas to improve ways to provide assistance to and to maintain contact with our parishioners who are no longer able to attend services.

Pastoral Care committee meets; L to R Valerie McCombie, Ann Norrie, Chris Funston, Trevor Fisher, Carol Lloyd (guest), Norman Brown, Wendy Bain. Not pictured: Rosemary Block, Rae Ellis



*Isn't it strange how everyone wants front row tickets to a concert or a game but they do whatever is possible to avoid sitting in the last row at church?*

### BAPTISMS

*Juliana Athena Duke*

### MEMORIALS

*Eleanor Prevost*

### NEWCOMERS

*Lionel and Lise Dodd*



### BRIDGE EVENT INFO

Initiated in May, 2013, by the Pastoral Care Committee as an Outreach Project, regular weekly bridge meets on Tuesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Lounge. The cost is \$3.00 which includes \$1.00 prize money (awarded each week) and refreshments.

The emphasis is on social bridge which is intended to attract not only our own parishioners but players from other denominations and those without any church affiliation.

Due to a number of volunteers participating and the use of the church facilities, few expenses are incurred. Any balance of funds is deposited to support future St. Stephen's projects.

All are invited to join us for an afternoon of games and fellowship.

*Ann Norrie, Coordinator, Pastoral Care Committee*





### MEET THE NEW WARDEN – JOHN SEDDON

At the Annual Vestry Meeting held February 9th, 2014, the Vicar was pleased to announce that John Seddon has agreed to act as Warden for a three year term.

Though John's parents, Kay and Arthur, lived in Shanghai, John was born in Vancouver on February 19, 1929, where Kay had come to be with her parents to await John's arrival. After returning to Shanghai as a babe in arms John, in time, attended Cathedral School until he was 10 when he was sent to England where it was expected that he would go all the way through the English school and university system but, after one term at Seaford near Brighton, the war and the bombing started.

John's parents decided they would leave England. They settled in Vancouver where John was enrolled at St. George's School and from where he graduated in 1946 with Senior Matriculation as age 17. After two years in the Arts faculty at UBC John entered Law School from which he graduated in 1951 with a BA and LLB.

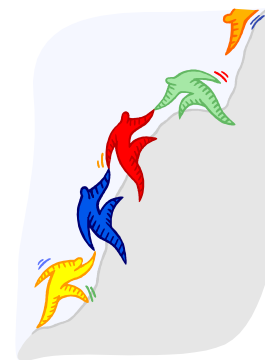
From the age of 14 except for a trip to England to visit relatives, John spent summers working in logging camps, a fish cannery, and at Standard Oil of B.C.

John joined the law department of B.C. Electric Co. (now B.C. Hydro) and after a few years joined the law firm of Buell Ellis Sargent and Russell later Buell Ellis then Richards Buell Sutton where he became a senior partner and where he practiced law for 44 years until his retirement at age 67.

After retirement John started volunteering at the West Vancouver Seniors' Centre where he has been a woodworking supervisor for close to 15 years.

Beth and John were married in April 1952 by Rev. Carter at St. Stephen's Church (the old church). They have four sons and a daughter and four grandchildren.

Beth and John became parishioners at St. Christopher's and, after moving residence they joined St. Stephen's where John's mother had been a parishioner and a member of the Altar Guild.



***Isn't it strange how a \$20 bill seems like such a large amount when you donate it to the church but such a small amount when you go shopping?***



### **INTRODUCING AMANDA FUNG**

Daughter of David and Grace Fung who are very involved parishioners at St. Stephen's, Amanda was recently interviewed on GOOD which is a magazine which offers Creative Solutions for Living Well & doing Good. Amanda was described as an Awesome Member of the Week, an aspiring change-maker and the founder of the blog [beyondbeadsandbaskets.com](http://beyondbeadsandbaskets.com) (<http://beyondbeadsandbaskets.com/>). She is part of a monthly music worship team at the Island Evangelical Church in Hong Kong.

Amanda grew up in the Sunday School and Youth Groups at St. Stephen's. She currently resides in Hong Kong.

The following are excerpts from the interview:

#### **Best advice I've ever received:**

*The best advice I ever received came in the form of a question: "Do you feel you are fulfilling your potential?" This question made me really evaluate whether I had been making the most of my life. At any given time, we each have a unique combination of knowledge, skills, experiences, education, resources, network of influence, and opportunities, in addition to passions and*

*interests. If we want to help solve the world's greatest problems or even just make our lives count for something, we have to honestly ask ourselves whether we're making the most of what we've got and, if not, what we can be doing differently. One of the greatest things about potential is that it is not fixed. Every new day and every new experience stretches us to something/someone new. You can fulfill your potential one day, but the next day have a new level to fulfill. The key is choosing to be humble and teachable, denying comfortable ignorance or undue arrogance in favour of the unlimited possibilities that come with learning, growing and collaborating. It is a daily choice to make our lives count and it requires a daily commitment to fulfill our (new) potential.*

#### **Worst Advice I've ever received:**

*"Stop being yourself. It intimidates others." Okay, so maybe it wasn't spoken in those exact words but that's the message that I and many others have heard in various forms over the years. I am not sure whether it's meant to be some sort of backwards compliment, but I do know that it has come across as discouraging to many a passionate, talented, smart or successful individual. I've always found that greatness in any form tends to produce two reactions: 1) intimidation and insecurity, or 2) appreciation and inspiration. Choose to practice the latter reaction when you encounter someone spectacular and try not to let others' insecurities keep you from letting out whatever greatness has been instilled in you. After all, your best self is what will serve society best.*

#### **My Hero:**

*My dad. My dad must be one of the most brilliant, hard-working, generous men I know. He has overcome tremendous obstacles and has achieved so much.*

*He has shown me that it is entirely possible to have a successful, profitable business that operates responsibly, ethically and with integrity. He taught me how to honour, respect, appreciate and invest in people who are different from me. Without knowing it, his work on various boards and various projects has inspired much of my interest in social good.*

**My Favourite Teacher:**

*Mr. Weber was my grade seventh math teacher. He saw potential in me that was beyond my capacity at the time and quite simply went after it. In a matter of weeks, I was applying grade 10 math concepts in addition to keeping up with my regular homework. But more valuable that the math skills he taught me was the confidence he instilled in me to believe that I could do far more than I may have otherwise thought possible.*

**My Manifesto:**

*Make the most of what you have been given.*

**My biggest goal for 2014:**

*Relocate to Rwanda and continue inspiring social good by posting regularly on my blog - [beyondbeadsandbaskets.com](http://beyondbeadsandbaskets.com) – and engaging people in conversations about business, charity and development.*

***(N.B. we will have an opportunity to meet Amanda when she visits St. Stephen's this summer).***



***The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything.***



***Pictured at the Annual Vestry Meeting - The Rev. Trevor Fisher; Margaret Stedman, Senior Warden; Tom Gunn, Second Warden; Neil Abrahamson, Retiring Warden; David Rolfe, Acting Treasurer; Tom Seddon, Incoming Warden.***



**SPECIAL PARISH EVENTS TO WATCH FOR  
Traditional Strawberry Tea - June 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Annual Summer Family Barbecue in July  
– Date to be announced**



### ST. STEPHEN'S WEBSITE

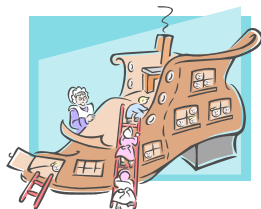
We are looking for someone to volunteer to input information and pictures into the St. Stephen's website. This person does not necessarily have to be a parishioner. He or she could be a relative or perhaps someone sympathetic to St. Stephen's.

The website is a very important source of public information about St. Stephen's Church. It is important that it be made to look good and that it be kept up to date.

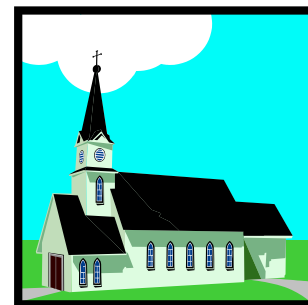
If you are interested or might know of an interested person, please contact Reverend Trevor Fisher at 604 926 4381.



Do you know that if you save your cashier slips from I.G.A. and give them to Valerie McPolin, or put them in her mail slot, she submits them to I.G.A. and our tea and coffee is paid for?



*No one grows old by living, only  
by losing interest in living.*



### PARISH ADMINISTRATION:

#### St. Stephen's Contacts

**Vicar:** The Rev. Trevor Fisher [kiwiscot@hotmail.com](mailto:kiwiscot@hotmail.com)

**Warden:** Margaret Stedman [mstedman@shaw.ca](mailto:mstedman@shaw.ca)

**Warden:** Tom Gunn [g.tomgunn@gmail.com](mailto:g.tomgunn@gmail.com)

**Warden:** John Seddon [joshuaws@shaw.ca](mailto:joshuaws@shaw.ca)

**Parish Administrator:** Yvonne French  
[st.stephenswv@shawlink.ca](mailto:st.stephenswv@shawlink.ca)

**Newsletter:** Rae Ellis: [raeellis@shaw.ca](mailto:raeellis@shaw.ca) and  
Eve Marshall: [marshall.eve@gmail.com](mailto:marshall.eve@gmail.com)

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