



## ***Annual Open House and Christmas Tea***

at ACW Place  
7012B Merritt Ave, Burnaby

**Tuesday**  
**December 4th, 2018**  
11.00 am to 2.00 pm

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

***Please let us know you are coming  
by phone 604-876-3720  
(leave message)  
or e-mail  
ACW@vancouver.anglican.ca***

## **ORDER OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW WESTMINSTER**

Congratulations to the following members who received the Order of the Diocese on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.



*Archbishop Melissa with Vera Photo: Diocesan Website*

Corrinne Jessica Newman,  
St Hilda, Sechelt

Rose LaBar,  
Christ Church, Hope

MWendy Eileen Russell,  
St Helen, Surrey

Donna Carroll White,  
St Michael, Surrey

Catherine Ann Adair-Austin,  
St John the Apostle-Port Moody

Pauline Andrea Joyce Betterton,  
All Saints, Mission

Vera Helen Morgan  
Bishop's Nominee

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership renewals are due in January - we do not need you to fill in forms again unless anything changes, just a list of the members of the branch, the names of the officers, and the pledge.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November 2018

It was my pleasure to represent all of you at the National ACW President's Conference in Stanley Bridge, PEI the last week of September. Weather was wonderful on the day of our island tour and poured buckets on the day of the meeting while we were warmly inside. There were 33 women in attendance including the National President for Mother's Union. The Theme was "Be Strong and Bold" and the homilies were of strong women in the Bible who were bold in their actions—Abigail, Ruth, Esther, Mary of Bethany, Mary-Mother of Jesus and Martha. Several new attendees were there and several for whom it will be their last year as President. Our Past President, Margaret Warwick ran a very good and easy meeting and we enjoyed an Island Ceilidh by two very entertaining young women. Our new Prayer Partner that we will be praying for is the Diocese of Ottawa. The meeting next year will be hosted by Edmonton.



*The view from my room in PEI*

*Photo Gail Revitt*

Once back in BC, It was a pleasure to take the ferry to the Sechelt Peninsula on a beautiful sunny day to attend the GVNS Area Meeting in October, hosted by St Hilda's. They provided a delicious lunch after the Eucharist, and then we enjoyed a tour of their newly renovated worship space before the programme.

On November 13 the South West Fraser Area Meeting was held at St. Michael's, Surrey with 27 members in attendance. The Eucharist was presided at by Rev. Peter Smyth who was also our guest speaker. Peter is

the Chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers. It was requested by all in attendance to bring items for the Mission and we filled Peter's car with homemade cookies and loaves, toques, neck warmers, chocolate bars, small stuffed animals and other gifts and hot socks.

I am pleased to let all of you know that the AGM will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at St. John's, Port Moody. We thank the ladies of St. John's for hosting this event for all of us.

I have not had many responses from branches as to their thoughts on using the National ACW Pin as our pin or trying to make a diocesan specific pin for ourselves. Please let me know your feelings.

The other topic that I would like you to consider is a "Project" that all branches could support for a year or two. Does your branch have any suggestions to bring forward?



*Fishing boats in PEI*

*Photo: Gail Revitt*

Time is flying and everywhere people are getting ready for the upcoming Christmas season. There are bake sales, bazaars and teas, all festooned with the eye catching colors of the year. It is a wonderful time of the year in which we wait and prepare also for the coming of the Nativity which starts this year on the first Sunday of Advent, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

I wish you all a joyous, peaceful and happy season.  
Your sister in Christ

***Gail Revitt***

## CHAPLAIN'S CHATTER

It was over 40 years ago when I first encountered "Advent Wreaths", as they had not been part of my childhood church experience (St. Mary's, Oak Bay, Victoria) but introduced to the lighting of the candles week by week, lighting one more candle in church, seemed to entice the pre-Christmas waiting into something more than the endless waiting for Santa to arrive. Even more, though, was the Advent wreath in our home. Talk about "a little child shall lead them" - it was our children who helped me with intuitive understanding of this wooing of ourselves into the light of the coming Saviour. The wreath became one of our most important traditions (and we had many - including the proverbial Advent chocolates!). So important was it that the year we made the trip to Castlegar for Christmas with my brother and family, our young son insisted that we take the Advent wreath with us!



For the ancients in northern areas, the wheels were removed from the carts and the wagons as a symbol of winter's different time, a time to stop and turn inward. Greens were brought indoors to remind them that the eternal "sun-god" would return amid the darkness. Amid the turmoil of the world around us, we, as Christians, wait for, we search for the Holy in our midst. We become like the pregnant mother preparing for the new babe, waiting, longing. This year becomes poignant once again for us as we await the birth of our eighth grandchild. We count the days until this blessed event arrives in our midst.

So it is with waiting for "the Holy Child" in our midst. We sing "O come, o come, Emmanuel". We sing our songs, we light our candles, we say our prayers, we read our Bible stories, we smell our boughs of pine and fir ... all of this helps us know that Advent is here, the Babe is coming. We stop and wait until the time is right.

Intuitively, our children know the truth that the symbols speak to our souls. And through the symbolic life we live those feelings which we are not able to rationalize. These rituals and traditions help us to hold such a

great mystery, like Mary "to ponder these things in our hearts". Everyone, each generation, can have its darkness, darkness which sometimes seems to envelop us ... but in these rituals and symbols of Advent, the Advent wreath, we can find the hope of the One who brings Light to the world - the Babe in Bethlehem.

**Beverley**

The Venerable Beverley Stewart  
Chaplain

*A group of students were asked to list what they thought were the present "Seven Wonders of the World". Though there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes.*

*The Great Pyramids of Egypt  
The Taj Mahal  
The Grand Canyon  
The Panama Canal  
The Empire State Building  
St Peter's Basilica  
China's Great Wall*

*While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student had not finished her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many".*

*The teacher said "Well, tell us what you have and maybe we can help."*

*The girl hesitated, then read:*

*I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:*

<i>To see</i>	<i>To hear</i>
<i>To touch</i>	<i>To taste</i>
<i>To feel</i>	<i>To laugh</i>
<i>To love</i>	

*The room was quiet - you could have heard a pin drop. The things we overlook as simple and ordinary and that we take for granted are truly wondrous! A gentle reminder that the most precious things in life cannot be built by hand or purchased.*

## LIFE AFTER....



In a mother's womb were two babies. One asked the other: "Do you believe in life after delivery?" The other replied, "Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later."

"Nonsense," said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?"

The second said, "I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths. Maybe we will have other senses that we can't understand now."

The first replied, "That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short. Life after delivery is to be logically excluded."

The second insisted, "Well I think there is something and maybe it's different than it is here. Maybe we won't need this physical cord anymore."

The first replied, "Nonsense. And moreover, if there is life, then why has no one ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery, there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere."

"Well, I don't know," said the second, "but certainly we will meet Mother and she will take care of us."

The first replied "Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That's laughable. If Mother exists then where is She now?"

The second said, "She is all around us. We are surrounded by her. We are of Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her, this world would not and could not exist."

Said the first: "Well I don't see Her, so it is only logical that She doesn't exist."

To which the second replied, "Sometimes, when you're in silence and you focus and listen, you can perceive Her presence, and you can hear Her loving voice, calling down from above."

Maybe this was one of the best explanations of the concept of GOD.

### SOCIAL ACTION

The Christmas shipment consisted of 28 bales to the parishes in the north and three to the First Nations group near Williams Lake. These contained, as well as the usual clothing and household goods, a number of new and gift items.

Please have your hot socks to ACW Place before or at the December 4 open house to ensure the seamen will get them in time!

ACW Place will be closed December 10, 17, 24, 31 and will reopen on January 7, 2019.

We are in need of new baby items, we are running low on receiving blankets and cloth diapers. And we always need blankets, twin size and larger. Please do not send shoes or boots as we have no means of using these.

Thank you to all who volunteer - and Merry Christmas!

## MISSION TO SEAFARERS

At the Southwest Fraser Area Meeting in November, the guest speaker (and celebrant for the Eucharist) was the Reverend Peter Smyth, senior chaplain for the Mission to Seafarers. We had challenged our members to bring cookies and chocolates as well as toques and cowls - and they responded - enough that we were able to fill Peter's car leaving only just enough room for him to drive!

After the Eucharist, Peter started his talk by asking what we knew about the Mission. Of course, we knew the basics but during the talk we learned more detail.

The Mission to Seafarers has its roots in the work of Anglican priest, John Ashley who in 1835 was on the shore at Clevedon with his son who asked him how the people on ships in the Bristol Channel could go to church. Recognizing the needs of the seafarers on the four hundred sailing vessels in the Bristol Channel, he created the Bristol Channel Mission. He raised funds, and in 1839 a specially designed mission cutter named Eirene was built with a main cabin which could be converted into a chapel for 100 people.

His work inspired similar ministries in the UK, and it was decided in 1856 that these groups should be formally organised under the name The Mission to Seamen Afloat, at Home and Abroad. In 1858, this name was changed to The Missions to Seamen, and the organisation adopted its Flying Angel logo, still in use to this day.

As shipping transitioned from sail to steam methods, there became a need for places for seafarers to go while they were ashore, as ships could now dock at quaysides because they no longer had to anchor at sea waiting for a favourable wind. In response, the Mission gradually opened centres so that the men could be offered light refreshments, reading and games rooms, good cheap accommodation and a chapel. The Mission now operates over 250 centres in the world.

Peter described the two centres in Vancouver - one at



Roberts Bank and the heritage house on the waterfront in Vancouver. These are multi-faith centres and he described some of the services they have been able to offer to the seafarers.

He spoke of the challenges faced by seafarers - several of which we had not considered:

- \* Piracy
- \* No or low pay
- \* Long hours
- \* Absent from family for 6-12 month contracts
- \* Little shore leave
- \* Abandonment
- \* Poor food
- \* Inadequate living conditions
- \* Isolation/loneliness
- \* Bullying/harassment
- \* Dangerous working conditions
- \* Failure to be repatriated

Because Roberts Bank is so isolated, one of the services they can offer is transportation to shopping or services such as medical appointments.

We finished with the prayer for seafarers:

*O eternal Lord God, who alone spreads out the heavens and rules the raging of the seas, receive into your protection all those who go down to the sea in ships and occupy their business on the great waters. Preserve them both in body and soul, prosper their labour with good success, in all times of danger, be their defense, and bring them to the haven where they would be, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*



*The Flying Angel Club in Vancouver*

## OUR HISTORY IN VERSE

*In eighteen hundred and eighty five  
The ACW began to thrive.  
Its name in those days was WA  
Most everyone wished that name to stay.  
In cities and towns, the groups were there  
Working together in stewardship and prayer.  
Bake sales, bazaars, dinners and teas  
And many more projects such as these  
Fuelled our charities and service to all.  
Parishes, district and world, we respond to the call.  
Bales for the North, nursing homes too,  
Layettes for newborns, a Food Bank crew,  
Children's Hospital, St James Church Eastside,  
The Seafarers Mission, we cast our nets wide.  
In 1966 came a change of name  
Not WA but ACW, but we're still in the game -  
Not auxiliary but an integral part.  
It's the laughter we share and the love we impart.  
A century plus of love, work and care  
The Anglican Church Women will always be there.  
Changes are made, but the same we remain  
TO serve the Church gladly and give for God's gain.  
To use our gifts wisely with love as the key  
To benefit his children where'ere they may be.*

*Author unknown.*

## COME IN, POOR SHEPHERDS

Come in, poor shepherds, through this stable door,  
And fear not, he himself is poor;  
For he is born to our same want and care  
Who lies a child within this manger bare.  
Come in, ye wise men, searchers of the skies,  
here end your journey; he himself is wise.  
Find Truth beyond all learning here displayed  
In mortal flesh, and fondled by a Maid.  
Come in, all ye of weary doubt and load,  
Fear ended, kneel before the Child of God.  
While through the darkness angels sing again;  
"Glory to God on High, goodwill to men!"

*Reverend J A Moir*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS: DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019  
Board Meeting at ACW Place

Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup> 2019  
Northwest Fraser Area meeting  
St Catherine's, Port Coquitlam

Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> 2019  
ACW Annual General Meeting  
St John's Church, Port Moody

Friday May 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup> 2019  
Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster  
Italian Cultural Centre, Vancouver

Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> 2019  
Annual Summer Open House & BBQ  
ACW Place, Burnaby

## SEAFARER'S COWL

Seafarers cannot wear scarves as the ends can get trapped in machinery - rather dangerous! So to keep the neck warm, a cowl is the answer. This is a simple pattern:

Wool:- Red Heart soft  
Needles:- 5.5mm round or straight

Cast on 88 stitches  
Knit 2 plain, 2 purl  
for 8 inches  
Cast off.

If using straight needles,  
sew ends together.  
- behold one cowl

