

OUR ADVENTURE

Newsletter of the

Church of the Advent

Anglican Parish of Colwood and Langford

Reverend Kenneth Gray, Rector

HOME OF JAZZ VESPER

Autumn 2006 Issue 35

What I Did On My Summer Vacation *Ken Gray*

Like a little boy in Grade three I put my hand in the air and proclaim to the class what I Did on My Summer Vacation.

I went to the Sorrento Centre, an Anglican Retreat and Conference nestled in the mountains surrounding Shuswap Lake.

Since the late 1960s Sorrento has offered Canadian Anglicans a unique blend of holiday adventure, recreation and study opportunities.

Through Sorrento many of us first met and heard Hanna Kassis, Kenneth Leech, Alan Jones, the Common Cup Company, Madeleine L'Engle, John Bell and countless other teachers and spiritual leaders

I have personal connections as well, for I met Kathie there, did my ACPO interviews there, and saw my children grow up there through many successive summers.

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During a hot week in late July, I read books, Kathie practiced artistic skills and Hannah participated in a production of the Sounds of Music. Each day we would rise before breakfast at 8 a.m. Then a church service at 9, session from 10 till noon. Free time during the afternoon, Dinner at 5:30 and an evening program with special events after that.

Sorrento residents stay in various accommodations ranging from Lodge settings to cabana-cabins, to serviced RV sites to campsites. You are free to purchase the meal plan or be self contained.

Sorrento is currently re-tooling its historic youth training programs which may interest some of our young people. The Leadership, Experience and Adventure

Program (LEAP) is an exciting new program two-weeks long, where teens 15 and 16 years old. Participants are involved in an intensive leadership program where they will develop a wide range of skills, build self-esteem, and forge life-long leadership skills.



The schedule allows for free time to relax and take advantage of the Sorrento Centre facilities. In addition, the program includes a camping trip at a nearby forestry campsite. This program is ideal for those looking to volunteer or work at Sorrento in the future or those who just love a challenge! Space is limited (5 males and 5 females maximum). Financial assistance is available from a number of sources. I look forward to making a more formal presentation about Sorrento early in the new year.

The Lighter Side

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.' Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

Monica's Multiple Job George Mortimore

There's a story behind Monica Gurzinski's friendly smile in the church office, where she works two mornings a week.

It is a story of upheavals and changes. Monica's most recent life transformation was the birth of triplet sons, Dominic, Liam and Nicholas.

Their arrival four years ago, plus the presence of Matthew the eldest son, now aged eight, converted the Gurzinski household into an instant crowd scene.

For Monica and her husband Alan, a Saanich Police officer, the home workload was suddenly multiplied.

The triplets are fraternal, not identical. They have three separate ways of making mischief, but by intuition they are so close together that they can quickly invent co-operative plans.

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“There are several creative minds working on every situation,” Monica says. “They’re all very active.”

“If they have a mutual interesting bottle from a without using words. to the others by body boost up, and he can go and the next one can be able to pull it down.’ ”



wish to hook down an high shelf, they talk One is sending a message language: ‘I can give him a and stand on the counter, pass him a stick, and we’ll

Monica is happy with what she sees as the laid-back style, many action choices, companionable spirit and social concern of the Anglican Church in general and this parish in particular.

Going to work for the Church of the Advent last May represented one of her changes of direction. She was born in Vancouver to German-immigrant parents, and she grew up in a somewhat formal and structured German- Canadian community.

Family camping and skiing journeys led her part-way out of that enclosed scene. She learned to ski at age three, and at 20 she met her future husband – a visiting New Zealander - on the slopes at Whistler.

By that time she was in training for a human-service career. After Alan had returned to his home country, Monica fitted together her work with their letterwriting friendship.

Her B.A. programme at UVic, with a major in leisure services administration, required co-op service in a social agency. At Monica’s request, her advisors allowed her to work for four months in Wellington, New Zealand. She and Alan were married in March 1992. Soon after, Alan immigrated to Canada.

Monica is a listener, observer, organizer, and problem-solver. She and her husband both signed on with enthusiasm to the idea of living in Canada. Their solution to the longdistance problem has turned out well.

Since she worked at two Victoria seniors’ residences, Parkwood Care Centre (manager of recreational services) and The Kensington (receptionist/concierge) Monica has continued to sharpen her skill at changing gear between the administrative-detail track, the organized people-friendship track, and her responsibility of four-child motherhood.

Her sister and brother-in-law, Heidi and Russell, introduced her to the Church of the Advent. Her job here includes editing this newsletter and lifting some of

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Rector Ken Gray's administrative load, so he can give more attention to people liaison and to upcoming social-justice events – including next year's environmental justice camp in Victoria.

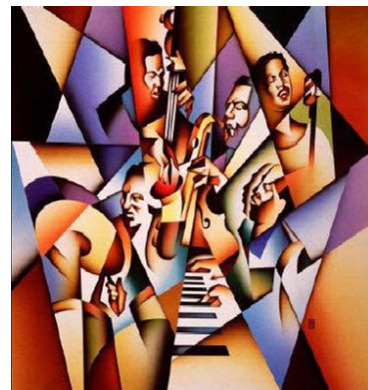
Is Spelling Really Important?

Try to read this. I'm sure you can....It's fascinating what our minds can do: fi yuo cna raed tihs, yuo hvae a sgtrane mnid too. Cna yuo raed tihs? Olny 55% of plepoe can. i cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulaclyt yuesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in waht oerdr the ltteres in a wrod are, the olny iproamtnt tihng is taht the frsit and lsat ltteer be in the rghit plcae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it whotuit a pboerlm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Azanmig huh? yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot slpeling was ipmorantt!

Our Second Season of

JAZZ VESPERS

**We put JAZZ and VESPERS together on
selected Sunday
Nights commencing at 7 p.m.**



Sunday, September the 17th
Sunday, October the 22nd
Sunday, November the 19th

Campbell Ryga and Ross Taggart
Mike Broadley Trio
Pat Coleman and Ken Lister

There is no Jazz Vespers in December

Sunday, January 21st **Ian McDougall with Don Johnston**

Sunday, February the 18th

Monique Nordine and Friends

Sunday, March 18th

The Roy Styffe Group

Sunday, April 15th

The Joey Smith Trio

Sunday, May 20th

Hugh Fraser with special guests

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Youth Position Update *Ken Gray*

The search continues in prayer for a Parish youth Worker. To date we have received three enquiries. An interview committee of Ken Gray, Maureen Garry, Bob Stevens, Jim Hamar and Carol Denton will shortly begin its work. We hope to have someone in place early in October. To this end all are invited to use the following prayer, especially on Wednesdays, until further notice.

I invite your use of the following prayer in some form or another:

Holy and Gracious God. We rejoice in the presence and participation of youth in our parish. We celebrate the inclusion of youth in our parish activities and worship. Help us all to discover new ways of sharing in this work. Help us identify and recruit suitable youth leaders and provide for their well-being. Help us celebrate the presence of Jesus in our midst, and take up his challenge of justice making in our church and in our community. These things we pray, with thanksgiving and trust, in his name. AMEN.

Youth Worker Position Description

PURPOSE

- To establish and maintain a youth programme that provides a safe, nurturing, and fun place for youth in our parish, to grow in self, friendship, faith, and community
- To establish and foster relationships with youth, between youth and between youth and the parish

POSITION DETAILS

This position requires 15 hours per week divided reasonably between planning, preparing for and facilitating meetings and/or events, and relationship building including contact with families.

SCOPE AND STYLE OF WORK

- Efforts will be made to include and draw in youth who attend regularly, youth affiliated with our church but not attending, and other youth in our

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community.

- Activities will need to appeal to many youth including those with no faith tradition.
- Bible study and other spiritual formation exercises will need to be presented in creative ways.
- Youth are keen to participate in the design and form of church services throughout the year. Preparation for this will occur during youth group meeting times.
- There is good opportunity for coordination of local events with diocesan youth initiatives.



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

- We believe that connectiveness in a variety of ways is integral to the health and welfare of youth. Therefore:
- The youth worker will provide opportunities for intergenerational activity and events with support from other groups or individuals in our parish.
- The youth worker will establish a relationship as mentor and guide to youth in our parish.
- Where possible, the youth worker will establish relationship with other family members of youth in order to promote a sense of community.

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RESOURCES

1. A very good contemporary music band
2. A large number of parishioners supportive of youth
3. A flexible and multi-use building
4. Good location in the Western Community
5. Good staff support
6. A base of 6-8 young people with connections in the community

REMUNERATION

While this is a new position, we are budgeting for an hourly rate well above minimum wage and in line with CRD living wage estimates. We will also attempt to provide assistance with continuing education in youth ministry as we are able.

RESPONSE

In writing, to the **Youth Ministry Selection Team** by October 1st 2006 to include:

1. a brief personal and spiritual history
2. a current resume
3. the names of three references
4. a 1-2 page comment on themes and challenges raised in this position description

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Primarily to the Rector
 - Monthly written report to parish council
 - Appropriate communication to the parish as a whole
- NOTE:** Agreement to a Criminal Record Check is mandatory. Certification in First Aid and/or CPR is an asset.

INFORMATION

The Rev. Ken Gray at rector@colwoodanglican.ca or call 250 474 3031

The Trouble Tree

I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse, and he had just finished a rough first day on the job. A flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill quit, and his ancient one-ton truck refused to start.

While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the house, he paused briefly at a small tree, brushing his hand on its leaves.

As he opened the front door, he underwent an amazing transformation. His tanned face became wreathed in smiles; he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss. Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree, and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier.

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Oh, that is my trouble tree, he replied. I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing is for sure; those troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then, in the morning, I pick them up again. Funny thing is, he smiled, when I come out the next morning to pick them up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging there the night before.

EVENT PREVIEW—Footprints Program (Wednesday nights)

There's something magical about a footprint. It is a clear indication that someone was present. Who was the person, how tall, how heavy, were they in a hurry, were they sad . . . or happy? How much change did they bring to the path, or grass, or garden where the print was left? Did they do harm? Did they bring positive change? What affect did their presence have?



We will use the image of the footprint as a starting point to look at how we as Christians, affect the environment, especially the environment of our homes. We will look at our relationships and discover a tool to measure our social influence and study the scope of our social connections.

Finally, we will learn something about how we use our wealth, a sort of “fiscal footprint.” Starting with the immortal “render unto Caesar ...” we will consider where our priorities lie with respect to self, family, friends, institutions, charity and God.

Get your foot on the ground (Ecological Footprint)

How efficient is my household in its use of resources

Wednesday, **October the 25th** at 7:30 p.m.

Take your foot out of your mouth (Social Footprint)

Who is my neighbour, really?

Wednesday, **November the 1st** at 7:30 p.m.

Finance on a good footing (Fiscal Footprint)

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What are my fiscal priorities, financial opportunities and challenges.
Where does faith fit with finance?
Wednesday, **November the 8th** at 7:30 p.m.

Presenters

The Rev. Ken Gray, Priest and Musician
Mr. David Buckman, Financial Planner and Environmentalist

ANOTHER EVENT PREVIEW—Centering Prayer Workshop—Presented by Heather & Christopher Page-A One-Day Experience

October 21, 2006 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Church of the Advent
Cost is \$10.00

WHAT IS CENTERING PRAYER?

- Centering Prayer is the opening of mind and heart—our whole being—to God, the Ultimate Mystery, beyond thoughts, words and emotions.
- Centering Prayer is a method designed to facilitate the development of Contemplative Prayer by preparing our faculties to receive this gift. It is an attempt to present the teacher of earlier times in an updated form.
- The focus of Centering Prayer is the deepening of our relationship with the living Christ. It tends to build communities of faith and bond the members together in mutual friendship and love.
- Centering Prayer familiarizes us with God's first language which is silence.



For more information or to register, please call the office at 474-3031 or contact us by email office@colwoodanglican.ca

An Honest Prayer

A woman invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their 6 year old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear

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Mommy say,” the woman answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, “Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?”

The Colour White—Extracts from a Sermon of Dedication—Sunday August 6 Ken Gray

When I think of the colour white in pop culture, I remember my first copy of The Beatles *White Album*, of Bing Crosby singing *White Christmas*, and of Pocal Harum’s *Whiter Shade of Pale*.

When I think of the colour white in Christian tradition, I know that White symbolizes purity, holiness, joy, innocence and triumph. It adorns our churches during the Christmas and Easter seasons. It is also used on Holy Thursday, on Dominical feasts and for weddings and funerals.

When I think of the colour White through the lens of science, I know it contains all the colors of the visible spectrum.

When I think of the colour white in scripture I immediately think of the transfiguration where Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a mountain, where they beheld his figure clothed in dazzling glory and his conference with Moses and Elijah.

In a sermon by Leo the Great, bishop of Rome in the mid-fifth century, we hear the event described thus:

*“The Lord reveals divine glory in the presence of chosen witnesses. Jesus’ body is like that of the rest of the human race, but **he makes it shine with such splendour that his face becomes like the sun in glory, and his garments as white as snow.**”*

When I think of white, and in particular of these Paraments and hangings we bless today I see the varied shapes and varieties of colour, from white to gold and other hues in between. Upon closer examination we see different types of stitch. As we step back the affect changes, and those things which appeared unique and contrary blend into a community of fabric . . . and now a social parallel emerges.

As a community gathered together by, and for, and in Christ, we are all unique creations of God, together melded into the one who is our head, Christ. A healthy Christian community can embrace contrary experience.

Sometimes we just need to step back, and marvel at the wonder created and creating here in our midst. We are different fabric, and different stitch, and

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different shape, and different hue. These unique features notwithstanding or ignored, we belong together, as a people of God here in this place. *Thanks be to God.*

Meet the Whites – 3 Generations!! ***Joan Hoffman***

Mildred White married Harold in New Brunswick. They had three sons and two daughters. Harold was an engineer in the army. He was posted to Germany for two years, Chilliwack for a year and a half and then to Victoria.

Mildred was employed as a nurse and worked the 3-11 shift for 22 years. Mildred worked at Westbay private hospital and then moved to the Priory.

Mildred joined St. John's Church and was a parishioner there for ten years. She and her daughter Joan moved over to the Advent and Mildred has been a faithful member of our Church family ever since. Joan died ten years ago. Sharon married Mildred's son Keith in 1986.



In 1991 Sharon joined the church and Joe Titus baptized their son Adam and Sharon. Sharon started teaching Sunday School when Adam was three and has been teaching Sunday School for thirteen years. Her favorite age is the three and four year olds. Sharon is also a reader and has been a communion distributor.

Sharon works for the Ministry of Finance as a Risk Management Consultant. She is involved with the health care system in an advisory capacity. In her spare time she plays field hockey. Sharon met Keith when he was

coaching her team. Keith played field hockey in the first B.C. Summer games and the team won a gold medal. They never lost a game! Sharon has played field hockey for twenty-six years.

Their son Adam also plays field hockey and they especially enjoy playing on opposing teams. Sharon plays defense and Adam is a forward so he tries his

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best to get past his Mom!!!!

Adam is a member of the Youth Group and enjoys his friends there. He is in grade 11 at Oak Bay High. After graduation, he would like to go to Camosun and study Criminology with an eye towards Forensics. Adam enjoys Musical Theatre and he has had parts in Once Upon a Mattress (Princess and the Pea story). and How to Succeed in Business. Adam also enjoys drawing in his spare time.

Mildred's grandson D'Arcy was also a faithful member of the church and was a Server for many years as well as a member of the Youth Group. Thank you Mildred, Keith, Sharon and Adam for an enjoyable evening talking with all of you.

The Wallaces

Did you recognize the pictures of a young sailor and "the light of his life" in our last issue? They were of course photos of Arthur and Lorna Wallace, who contributed greatly to our parish, taken in their younger days.

Shortly after our issue was published Art died, so we won't share their story with you in this issue as promised. Perhaps it's sufficient to say that "there's something about a sailor..." and it's easy to see why Lorna grabbed him and hung onto him for so many years.

Submitted by John MacDowell

CANADA COMFORTS (Bears and Bags) An Update

A warm thank you to those who gave financial support to our ongoing challenge of helping children in the orphanages, hospitals, and refugee camps throughout the developing world. Your help will enable us to be more effective in meeting the urgent needs.



The Compassionate Warehouse has asked us to pass along a **request to the men**. Please check your tie rack and weed out those ties you no longer use. In Africa a man is not accepted in the business world unless he wears a white shirt and tie, so your old tie and white

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shirt can be an opportunity for employment. Please drop them off at the Church Office with my name attached. "Sylvia Hatfield."

NOTE FROM KEN. The church of the Advent has formally designated the Mission Outreach for the months of MAY and NOVEMBER for Canada Comforts. Donations will be received during these months only. the level of support is indeed, generous and inspiring. Congratulations to all involved.

Church Camp at Parksville, July 7 to 14, 2006 *Liz Garland*

Most of our campers arrived on the Friday with the remainder arriving on Sat. & Sun. at Big Tent campground in Parksville. We had a total of 26 camping families (with 15 dogs on the weekend!).

Friday's 'Happy Hour' hosted a surprise baby shower for Tina and her daughter Maggie. Lots of fun was had by all, especially when Carol had the men join in on the shower games. After dinner our many youth joined in a scavenger hunt while tied together in groups of 5.

Saturday arrived, and so did the annual Sandcastle contest on Rath Trevor



beach, with 30 children participating. What fun they had – always creating something new and unique. We thank Carol Denton, Sharon White, Jill Kean

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and Pam Penney for looking after the awards. These awards took place following the Pot Luck Dinner, which was attended by about 80 campers and visitors.

On Sunday morning our church service was held with Rev. Larry Scyner presiding. The camp choir led us through the songs under the direction of Rev. Ken Gray, while Terry M. & Bob S. were the musicians. 100 campers and guests attended. Following the service, Ray & Helen hosted the 'after service coffee'. It was wonderful to see so many visitors at the service, especially Katie who arrived with Terry & Meryl.

The weather was a bit of a problem. We battled a few rain drops during the Pot Luck Dinner and our Church Service, and during the week we experienced a lot of rain! A favorite comment was "There it is, I think I see it over there, yes, it is a tiny bit of blue sky"!! We also had a few unscheduled events, including a sprained ankle, which sent Eileen and the Denton family home much earlier than planned. We even had 3 babies camping with us – Jonathan for 1 night; Eva for 2; and Maggie for the whole week, not to forget the triplets whose parents also survived a whole week! We celebrated Brandon's 13th birthday at camp.

Our final evening arrived and Pizza for dinner (an annual favorite) after which the youth had their annual 'sleep out' in the cook house. 12 families stayed for the full week, including Doug & Caroline!



Mark your calendars! We have set the 2007 camp date to begin Friday, July 6, 2007. You can sign up early through the church office.

Doughnuts

I read the Bible and there is nothing about doughnuts.

Where else would you look up doughnuts except in a Holy book?

(Heard on CBC Morning 7 Apr – John MacDowell)

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Summer, Oh Summer

During a 10 a.m. service in the summer our children expressed their delight with God's creation through a quilt-like medium, though using paper.

Their art sets a thankful tone as we thank those who have contributed to this issue of OUR ADVENTURE:

John MacDowell, Coordinating Editor
Ken Gray, Monica Gurzinski, Production
George Mortimore, Joan Hoffman, writers
Lorna Wallace, the White Family and other contributors



The Peace of God, inspire, motivate and support you all

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