



LEADER

WINTER 2010

5940 Lakeview Drive SW
T3E 5S8 403-249-6184
Email: rector@stlaurence.ca
Website: www.stlaurence.ca

Advent & Christmas Services	2	PWRDF & Fairtrade.....	10
Anna's Letter.....	3	Feel the Warmth.....	11
A Worship Series on Journeys.....	4	Deadline for Next Leader.....	11
Warden's Report	5	Views from the Pews.....	11
Spiritual Development.....	5	Makes You Think, eh?	
Music.....	6	Theological Triflings	
Upcoming Youth Events.....	7	A Letter from the Mortons.....	13
Meet Our New Youth Leader.....	8	Positions Available.....	14
Works of Mercy & Justice.....	8		
A Place to Call Home.....	8		
Our Own Experience.....	9		
Healthy Community in Standoff.....	10		

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES & EVENTS

NOVEMBER 28	ADVENT 1	Information Meeting re: renovations
DECEMBER 2	THURSDAY 9:30 AM	CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER SERVICE
DECEMBER 5	ADVENT 2	CONVERSATIONS: Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Fairtrade Coffee & Tea Sale <i>Stock up on coffee, tea, and other items that will make wonderful gifts for family and friends</i>
DECEMBER 12	ADVENT 3	CONVERSATIONS
DECEMBER 15	WEDNESDAY 6:00 PM	HARD TO BE MERRY SERVICE <i>(followed by Potluck Supper)</i>
DECEMBER 16	THURSDAY 9:30 AM	CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER SERVICE
DECEMBER 19	ADVENT 4	LESSONS & CAROLS with PAGEANT <i>(Light lunch with Crafts)</i>
DECEMBER 24	CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 PM	CHILDREN'S SERVICE
DECEMBER 24	CHRISTMAS EVE 8:00 PM	FAMILY EUCHARIST
DECEMBER 25	CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 AM	LAY SERVICE <i>with Lay Leader: Geri Urch</i>



ANNA'S LETTER

One of the goals the vestry has set for the parish's 2010-2011 action plan is to seek out more collaborations with other churches and communities. When I look at the calendar for November it is heartening to see how well we are living into this goal. On November 7th seven of our young people along with 12 others participated in the OneBody Confirmation service. This service was the culmination of a joint education program co-led by Jill Thompson, our OneBody youth leader, and the clergy from St. Peter's, St. Laurence and Good Shepherd. There was tremendous energy and spirit as the young people from various parishes gathered to learn and grow together. No one of our churches could have provided a Confirmation program of this quality alone and I hope that in the future we can continue to work together in this way.

On November 14 The Rev. Brian Pearson and the Soul Food Band from St. Stephen's came to St. Laurence for a 'deconstructed musical mass.' November 21st we joined Christ Church for a combined service with Phyllis Tickle as preacher. Again, we saw how much more we can do when we work and collaborate and share across traditional parish "boundaries."

Together, all of these joint services or efforts speak to me of a changing culture in the church. There was a time, I believe it was fair to say, when neighbouring Anglican churches, consciously or un-consciously saw themselves as 'competitors.' However, I think the ground is slowly shifting and that we are learning how to see each other as fellow travellers on the journey.

At this juncture in our history St. Laurence is **both** re-committing to our present location and looking to improve our facility **and** seeking out ways to collaborate and cooperate with other churches and communities. In the new year we'll **both** be finalising the plans to renovate our building **and** we'll be co-hosting a Wisdom Centre event with our Jewish brothers and sisters at B'nai Tikvah, co-hosting a 'Sacred Cinema' series with Lakeview United and expanding the work of the OneBody youth program in partnership with St. Martin's and Good Shepherd.

None of us know what is in store for the church as an institution and for the Anglican Church in particular over the next 10, 20, 50 years. What is apparent, as we recently heard from Phyllis Tickle, is that the huge cultural shifts that are taking place and that the church is under-going enormous changes. We need to have faith that God will help us discern what 'shape' the church of the 21st century should take. How do we respond **both** to the growing hunger for meaning and spirituality in the world **and** to the disillusionment with church as institution? How can we live and share the gospel in this new age? What about our current structure and infrastructure will help us respond to God's call and the world's needs and what needs to be let go?

I don't pretend to have the answers but I am certain that a **both/and** approach is a good one. St. Laurence is a strong and vibrant community of faith. Our strength comes from our relationships, with Christ, with one another, and with the communities in which we live and serve. Our investment in this building should always be seen as an investment in relationships.

- with God
- with one another
- with other communities and individuals

The process of renovating our physical building will at times be tedious. We will no doubt be tempted to get side-tracked by things like paint colors and altar rails. But let us never forget that the true work of this place is to be building relationships and that work is never tedious and is always life-giving. For it is in relationship that we find God and God finds us.

Yours faithfully,

A Worship Series on Journeys

During the season of Epiphany this year we are going to take 8 Sundays and do a series of worship services centered on the theme of journeys. We had a lot of fun a few years ago doing a worship series on the “7 deadly sins” and I think it’s time for another series.

At this point I am looking for people both who might be willing to help me plan and ‘deliver’ these services. I am also looking for people who might be willing to write, speak, paint, sing, dance (you name it) about the journeys they have been on and are on in their own lives. I am going to let what comes forward shape the services but I am hoping we can explore some variation of the following themes

- Journey into mystery
- Journey inwards
- Journey outward
- Journey to my vocation
- Journey through grief to acceptance
- Journey through depression to hope
- Journey through addiction to wholeness
- Journey to faith
- Journey from addiction
- Journey to a new land

Of course all of this will be woven together with the journey stories of the Bible. So please don’t be shy. I know all of you have been and are on all sorts of physical and metaphorical journeys in your lives. By sharing the stories of our journeys with one another we will bolster one another in faith and recognise the hand of God in all of our lives. Please be in touch.

WARDEN'S REPORT

Melanie

Project Oversight Report

At time of writing we are waiting for Diocesan approval to submit our Development Permit to the City of Calgary. As the Diocese owns the building and land, they need to part of this process.

We have made some changes to this committee to ensure that we are on task and on track. Don McLeod will be facilitating the group by helping us establish milestones, tasks and timelines. The job is simply too important to have let slip. As you all know Anna has a full time day job and although she will still be a part of the Project Oversight Committee, Don will be the facilitator.

Don will provide project support for the committee and facilitate processes that are required to engage the parish and/or neighbouring communities as the project moves forward. This will also provide support for the Chair with the liaison work between the Diocese and Omicron. The facilitators will also help make sure plans are documented and tracked.

We have had a couple of meetings this fall and so far we have covered the following:

- Clarified roles and responsibilities for committee, committee members and support person
- Reviewed processes relating to the project that include Diocesan policy and procedures, Design/Build phases, Parish engagement, and community relations
- Planned next steps in terms of parish involvement

You can expect to see a detailed outline of parish involvement at the meeting that we have scheduled for November 28th after the service. At this meeting we will also be providing a financial update on this project given where our pledges stand to date. We look forward to the parish input and continued support in moving this very exciting project forward.

Spiritual Development Committee

Lillian, Chair

Practicing Month to Month Newsletter

A focus on Spiritual Practices is continuing in a variety of ways over the next year. The fall newsletters are based on Nora Gallagher's book *The Sacred Meal*. Thanks to Anna and Ian Burgess for authoring the September and October newsletters. If you are interested in contributing in this way please speak with Anna or Lillian.

Adult Education

Stuart McKay, a Calgary poet and St. Laurence parishioner, offered a four-part workshop on Poetry as a Spiritual Practice, a way of deepening our inner communion with God. The course was sold out.

Yoga and Christian Meditation

A Yoga and Christian Meditation session led by Gayle Andrews was held on Saturday, November 13th.

Christian Meditation/ Contemplative Prayer

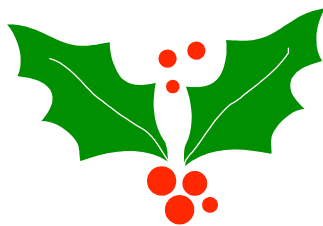
Contemplative prayer services are continuing on the fourth Monday of every month at 7:30 pm and the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:30 am. All are welcome and encouraged to come to any of these sessions when we can.

Library

Several new books have been added to the St. Laurence library collection. Please feel free to browse after church and sign something out. Contact Spencer (403-249-2351) or Barb (403-217-4760) if you have questions about the library.

Wisdom Centre

We continue to work in collaboration with the Wisdom Centre. Phyllis Tickle was the guest speaker at a conference at Christ Church on November 19th and 20th. The Friday workshop titled *Leadership for the Emerging Church* was intended for clergy and church leaders. The Saturday session titled *The Church is Dead. Long Live the Church* was open to the public. On January 21 and 22nd, St. Laurence will once again be participating in the Trinity Institute tele-conference. This year the Conference is titled *Reading Scripture through Other Eyes*. Check out the Wisdom Centre website for details of upcoming events.
www.wisdomcentre.ca



MUSIC

Deb

Thank you to everyone who took part in "The Silent Night Project". We sounded wonderful! Thanks especially to Matt Lovatt for sharing his recording and editing talents, to Beckie Grant for supplying the camera, and to Mitchell Jantzie, Denis Gardiner and Phil Mitchell for providing guitar accompaniment. Watch the Anglican National Church website (www.anglican.ca) in December for our contribution to the YouTube video line-up. There are already some great videos available for viewing.

There is always an open invitation to those who would like to join the choir or volunteer their musical talents in any way. At this time of year in particular we invite you to join us as we prepare for our upcoming Advent and Christmas services.

We meet every Thursday at 7:30 P.M. and then at 9:00 on the Sunday morning to prepare for that day's service. Speak to me or any choir member about becoming involved.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

- Sunday, November 28th – Jr. High Potluck @ Jill's house! 6:30-8:30 pm
- Saturday, December 4th – Youth Christmas Party – Details to be announced
- Sunday, December 12th – Sr. High Potluck @ Jill's house! 6:30-8:30 pm

There will be no youth group over the Christmas Holidays! Travel safe and have a happy holiday.

Some exciting events to come in the New Year:

- A unique cooking experience with Karen Anderson (visit her website: calgaryfoodtours.com)
- All day art event with local artist Kathie McDuff
- Field-trip February (where we visit services with other denominations)
- Tubing in the mountains!
- Bible study based on The Story of Stuff (visit storyofstuff.org)
- Mission trips to Churchill and Vancouver!
- Another Diocesan wide gathering like Manna

Contact Chad at chaddalley11@gmail.com or Jill at jillian_anna_@hotmail.com for more information on any of these events!

MEET OUR NEW ST. LAURENCE YOUTH LEADER

Hi, my name is Chad

I graduated from Centennial High School in 2009. I enjoy sports especially football. I now coach for the Jr. Team at Centennial High School. After High School I spent a year working with an organization called Absolute Leadership Development. I spent four months with them traveling across Canada and parts of the United States doing motivational presentations in schools. The presentations focused on showing students that everyone has value and purpose in life which is something that I am a strong believer in. I spent the other half of my year with Absolute Leadership Development in Mexico, building houses, schools, and youth centers, as well as doing other humanitarian work in the area. In the future I hope to be continuing work in the humanitarian field working with youth and other aspects in which I am very passionate about.

*We are very pleased to have you with us,
Chad.*



**Special Christmas
Offering proceeds
will be divided
equally between
All Roads Lead
Home (for
homeless
families) and the Food Bank.**

WORKS OF MERCY AND JUSTICE (WOMAJ)

Linda

Stuart Keen is our highly capable and enthusiastic chairman. WOMAJ is part of the outreach work done by the parishioners of St. Laurence. We would like to acknowledge other groups who have worked for years:

1. **Meals-on-Wheels:** This group has been active for more than 30 years. Marion Snowdon organizes the duty roster. There are now 11 active participants. Each Wednesday 2 people pick up meals then deliver to 10-12 clients in Altadore. Pick-up of the meals is usually at 11:00 AM and the volunteers are usually finished by 12:15 PM. For many of the clients the volunteers are the only human contact they have all day. Marion would be delighted to incorporate new volunteers into the schedule.

2. **Calgary Interfaith Food Bank:** Art organizes the duty roster for about 18 volunteers from St. Laurence as well as a few others not connected with the church. Every Friday volunteers work from 08:30 AM to 11:30 AM helping to sort out donations and stock shelves. There is some light lifting with equipment available for heavier items. Each volunteer is only on duty about one Friday every other month. Art would be happy to incorporate new people in the schedule.

In the last year WOMAJ has focused on assisting Natasha and Emily. The experience has been a real eye-opener. We have now first-hand knowledge of the difficulties encountered by low-income people living in an expensive city. We have also learned about the frustrations of dealing with government bureaucracy. We owe Rod Smith a great debt of gratitude for the frustrating and time-consuming pro bono work he did for Natasha. Natasha and Emily

have recently moved into an apartment that is much more comfortable and secure than her former accommodation. She is working but is looking for a better job closer to home. This family will need our help for several years.

The natural follow-up of our experiences with Natasha and Emily is to look at the plight of the poor in Calgary. Affordable housing is extraordinarily important. We have donated money from the Parish Outreach funds to the affordable housing project of Kairos and the Calgary Homeless Foundation.

The tragic outbreak of Cholera in Haiti brings to mind the importance of clean water. During Advent we will be focusing on the CAWST (Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology) project.

A Place to Call Home: ACADIA PLACE

Alison

At the last Works of Mercy and Justice meeting it was decided to donate \$1000 of parish outreach funds to the “**A Place to Call Home: Acadia Place**” project. Many of you will be thinking what is this? Well it is the result of a partnership between KAIROS Calgary and the Calgary Homeless Foundation (CHF) to help families at risk of or experiencing homelessness as they are rehoused with support at Acadia Place. One of the guiding principles is to use the “Housing First” model which is a great fit with the philosophy we already follow at St Laurence.

Acadia Place was purchased by CHF in 2009. It is a 58 unit apartment complex located in SE Calgary near schools and transit making it ideal for families. The residents will have access to support from social support agencies and other groups. With this support, as well as affordable and

safe housing, these families can address the issues that led to their situation.

The CHF has a mortgage of about \$3 million on the property and the goal is to raise \$1.5 million to help pay this down. If the goal is reached Acadia Place residents will have their rents reduced by \$200 a month, making their housing more affordable.

KAIROS Calgary brings 10 Christian Denominations, together about 130 Calgary congregations, to this venture. "A Place to Call Home: Acadia Place" aims to engage the KAIROS Calgary faith community not only through fundraising but also through participation. Volunteer opportunities will include doing building maintenance and improvement and providing individual help for families. Building projects will be co-ordinated through the CHF and Horizon Housing. Tenant support will be co-ordinated through case managers, the Aspen team and CHF's tenant relations team.

This is thought to be the largest ecumenical effort in Canada to help families at risk of or experiencing homelessness. I believe St Laurence is the first church to show its support with that initial donation. I am sure there are many questions to be asked about this. Please look out for the information package which will be arriving in every congregation shortly. KAIROS Calgary has been working on this dream as a priority since 2006. Please feel free to talk to me about it.



OUR OWN EXPERIENCE

Alison

Chris and I have been very fortunate to have visited several PWRDF projects over the past ten years. We have talked with teachers in El Salvador whose salaries are funded by PWRDF, development projects in Tanzania which are making a difference in communities there and a Mi'kmaq cultural project in Nova Scotia but to our shame we didn't know much at all about PWRDF involvement in our own area.

As part of the recent PWRDF regional conference we recently took a trip just an hour down the road from St Laurence to The Old Sun College on the Siksika reserve at Gleichen. This Community college provides a range of programmes enabling Siksika members to gain access to post secondary education and to graduate with the qualifications and skills needed to pursue individual careers. In this former Anglican Residential school we were shown smart classrooms well equipped to teach among other subjects, computer studies, science, Blackfoot language and history as well as a 'hospital ward' with beds occupied by dummies waiting for treatment from the student nurses. Our tour started in the library which is housed in the former chapel. This is a beautiful room very well organised and cared for. The staff there are rightfully proud of their facilities and we all came away feeling that this building so much a part of our Anglican Church history is now being used in the most rewarding and creative way.

The partnership and support of PWRDF was graciously acknowledged and we received many messages of thanks and gratitude. This visit once again reinforces my conviction that PWRDF is truly the Anglican Church of Canada working with love in the world and deserves our prayers and support.

Healthy Community in Standoff

Standoff is the only town in the Kainai Nation (Blood Reserve). It is the centre for businesses, Blood Tribe agencies, police, fire and educational services. 8,000 members of the Kainai nation live on reserve, with an additional 2,000 off reserve, mostly in neighbouring southern Albertan towns. Approximately forty-three percent are under the age of nineteen.

In June 1999, a group of concerned parents from the Blood Reserve felt there wasn't enough information available to them about Alcohol Related Brain Injury/Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (ARBI/FAS). With Blood Tribe Education (Kainai Board of Education) and Blood Reserve Social Service Agencies, they formed the Kainai ARBI/FAS Committee to support families whose children were born with ARBI/FAS. They founded the "Circle of Friends" FAS Parent Support Group and began developing a work plan integrating Kainai values to help prevent the spread of ARBI/FAS in the Blood Reserve community.

"I have attended meetings for parents who have children or family members who are FAS. I also have a son who has fetal alcohol syndrome. I was selected to attend a conference in Manitoba with Debi Small Eyes. It was very good. I learned a lot about FAS and I got some very good ideas about raising a child who is FAS. I do not blame myself anymore for his condition but look forward to raising him to be the best that he can be. What I learn from talking with other parents helps me cope with day to day living with an FAS child. I am so glad I am a part of the parent support groups."

April Goodrider, FAS Parent Support Group

"I went to a FAS meeting with my grandma. I listened to what the people were saying. My mother drank beer when I was in her

tummy. I am FAS. My grandma treats me really good and tells me why sometimes I can't do some things. She doesn't get mad at me. I am really happy to live with her. I am glad I got to go to one of her meetings. I told all my friends and my teachers why it is hard for me to remember."

Cameron Troy Small Eyes, FAS Parent Support Group

PWRDF and Fair Trade

Carol

PWRDF Representative

The crisp days of autumn are a sure reminder that we are moving toward Advent. It is such a lovely time of "waiting with anticipation" for the birth of Christ. As we bake, shop, wrap and wait, we have an opportunity to help our brothers and sisters around the world.

I am especially excited about the PWRDF gift guide. This guide called Acts of Faith Gift Guide is similar to those available from various charitable organizations and now we have our very own Anglican version. This guide allows us to reflect on the needs of family and friends and those of people around the world. We can explore the impact of faithful gift giving which can help to grow hope and compassion in our world. I look forward to making the Acts of Faith Gift Guide available to everyone at St. Laurence. You can find a copy of the guide on the bulletin board in the narthex for a preview of gifts available for purchase. There is also reference to this guide on the PWRDF website - www.pwrdf.org

December 5 is the next coffee and tea sale date. The usual coffee and tea with an assortment of Christmas gift items will be available. It is always a pleasure to bring these items to St. Laurence and know that they are appreciated by the purchaser and recipient.

I am very encouraged by the faithful support of PWRDF and fair trade by the community of St. Laurence. Thank you so much. We are changing lives, changing communities and changing our world.

Blessings in this Advent tide and in the coming Christmas season.

Feel The Warmth:

Sometimes it takes more than a warm blanket or parka to keep another person warm. Sometimes it takes the presence of a caring Christian friend.

Stephen Ministers share the warmth of God's love with those who need it most: the lonely, the depressed, the grieving. Is God calling you to reach out to those who are hurting? Consider serving as a Stephen Minister. Classes will begin in January and space is limited. For more information about Stephen Ministry, please contact Anna at the church or Carol Bell at (403)253-4221. You will also find leaflets on display in the library. If you have further questions, do not hesitate to contact one of us.

**DEADLINE FOR
THE SPRING LEADER
IS MARCH 8, 2011**

VIEWS FROM THE PEWS

Makes you think, eh?

Wayne

This article will be a bit of this and a bit of that, reflecting my confused state a few days after the civic election.

Anna gave me a wee book, "*Perseverance*," by Margaret Wheatley, just after the election (a message for anyone who might be tempted to relax after a hectic period with no apparent outcome). In an early chapter, Margaret says "this is how the world changes. Everyday people not waiting for someone else to fix things or come to their rescue, but simply stepping forward, figuring out how to make things better." She concludes the chapter with "now it's our turn."

'Stepping out' is a recurring theme for me. In my little book, "*Things I Know*," I write "failure to step out is a failure of vocation. We will not fulfill our obligation to serve until we step out." Time and again, the message comes that one must step out from whatever is a place of comfort. To follow the call of Jesus requires that we step out in service to all in need, very often into a place of discomfort, a place in which we feel less secure (think 'what would Jesus do?') During the civic campaign, I often felt like Peter must have when he stepped into the sea. As his faith faltered, he began to sink. So long as his faith was strong, he was safe. So it must be with us as we step out in faith, confident that, in the end, all will be well. One of the questions that have made me think at the end of a hectic period is "what did you learn about yourself from this experience" (see the lack of coherence of this article). My immediate reply was "at my age, I think I have learned all there is to know." However, the question has made me think. If we remain attentive to learning at all times, surely we must discover

something that we do not yet know of our self.

Lots of things make us think. Are we stepping out, following the admonition in Micah to “act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God?” Where might we find opportunities to practice ‘stepping out?’ And what can we learn from each of the experiences that result? Oh my tired head, all these thinks!

Theological Triflings of a Layman
Change or Die

Dave

“Change or die” is one of those sayings that can either be a starting point for insight or quickly fall apart when it’s applied too broadly. It would be absurd to apply the saying to the changeless elements of our Christian Faith, because if Christ’s divinity, atoning sacrifice or bodily resurrection is changed the Faith collapses into a fictional abyss. If we’re careful though to distinguish the changeless from the changeable, change or die can become a much needed source of revelation for the Church. That we as the Church and St. Laurence need to change far beyond the tiny steps we’ve taken seems obvious if we want to stabilize, or dare we dream it, grow. But change what and how?

Coming to grips with the *changeable* begins with the reorientation of perspective that follows from acceptance of the *changeless* elements of our Faith. It becomes clear that the Church is not really ours but His and for His purposes. That purpose can be summed up in an abbreviated version of His Commands: Love the Lord your God, Love your Neighbour and Make Disciples. Many years ago David Guthrie taught us that “love” in this context was a verb, or an action word and not a feeling. In its highest form it involved sacrificing for another. The scope of the *changeable* then is defined by

the actions we take and the sacrifices we make to serve His purpose.

As we choose to serve His purpose we become *Stewards of the Faith*, and take up a role that requires sacrificing the advocacy of our egos. It’s a transition I find particularly challenging and no more so than when considering the broad form of what we do to deliver Christianity.

That challenge is evident in many of today’s Church debates. Take music for example. I like the old hymns and you may like the newer music. Or consider our St. Laurence renovations and perhaps your taste for brightness and mine for the existing wood. We might even have good reasons for our positions. But debates like these, motivated by personal desires, are singularly irrelevant to Stewards of the Faith! The Steward’s relentless, laser-like focus is only on that which serves His purposes best.

Imagine the stark contrast between two renovation discussions, one beginning with “I like the wood vs. I like bright spaces”, and a second beginning with “His purpose is for us to bring the next generation into His Church. We can only honour the Word if this space makes them feel welcome, works for them and makes use of their communication technologies and style. How do we do that?”

Stewards of the Faith will take approaches similar to the second one and regularly review their effectiveness in delivering Christianity. They will re-examine especially those “earthly” elements held nearest and dearest lest they become self-crippling areas of blindness or worse, self-indulgent heralds of failure. This kind of no holds barred self-appraisal is more necessary than ever because to be blunt, the Church and our parish too have been on a failing trajectory for many years in spite of all our good efforts and intentions.

Reversing that trajectory could start with our parish re-affirming the Faith and then

choosing the stance of its Steward. It may well require us to give up earthly things and practices for which we have developed great affection and preference. It will require that we deliberately distinguish and defend the timeless substance of the Faith AND embrace significant change to the form of its delivery. It will mean responding to all of His Commands in a substantial way; sacrificially loving God AND neighbour AND making disciples.

“Change or die” doesn’t strike fear or loathing into the heart of a Steward of the Faith. It’s a chosen life in which change, for His purposes, is enabled until death.

A letter from the Mortons

From across the miles ... er, kilometres, from our moss-roofed cottage under the big trees, the Mortons send warmest Christmas greetings to everyone at St. Laurence.

Gayle arrived in mid-September and together, after almost a year apart, we have been adjusting to this major life change we've undertaken.

We have become regulars at Holy Trinity Anglican in Sooke about 20 kilometres from the farm, both singing in the choir. Holy Trinity is a small, but very welcoming faith community, with an average of about 60 worshippers attending the two weekend services, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Gayle played an integral role in the church's major fall fundraiser and social event, a spaghetti dinner and silent auction which drew more than 100 people and raised more than \$3,000.

This first spring/summer on the farm was one of tackling the steep learning curve of the veggie growing business, of discovering the quirks and challenges of the

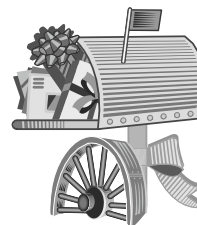
cool micro-climate that goes hand-in-hand with being a stone's throw from the ocean. Still, we had some good success with tomatoes and peppers in our greenhouse and beans, onions, carrots, potatoes and peas in the fields. Next summer, we hope to start selling our produce at local farmer's markets and to restaurants.

Gayle is really enjoying studying woodworking at Camosun College in Victoria and hopes to be accepted into a full-time, one-year fine furniture building program next fall. Graeme had a great time as part of the 40-member cast of the Sooke Players' fall production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, playing Naphtali, one of the scheming/grovelling band of brothers.

One of the highlights of our fall was having Deb, Steve, Alice and Daniel Koning out to our place for Thanksgiving dinner. We'd love anyone from St. Laurence who may be visiting Vancouver Island to "look us up". There's a spare bedroom and a good wood-burning stove to welcome you, along with our five cats and Jake, the border collie.

We miss you all and we wish you a blessed Advent and joyful Christmas season. We will be especially thinking of you all on Christmas Eve, when Gayle continues a beautiful tradition by singing O Holy Night as the children build a crèche scene by candlelight at Holy Trinity.

*Love,
Gayle and Graeme*



POSITIONS
AVAILABLE

Some positions are available (unpaid) on the Building & Grounds Team. Currently the team consists of Arnold & Mary, Phil and Janet. We have responsibility for the church building, its grounds and the “rectory house” next door. We also “supervise” the Church Caretaker. The “Grounds Superintendent” position is definitely

available as it has been vacant for almost a year.

These positions would appeal to individuals or a couple who are do-it-yourself types who would like to contribute to the team’s work. Contact Arnold or Mary (403-242-0720) if you are interested or willing.
