

~ The Epistle ~

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NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST
ANGLICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF CANADA • TRADITIONAL ANGLICAN COMMUNION
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THE MOST REVEREND SHANE B. JANZEN, DIOCESAN BISHOP & RECTOR

JUST when we thought summer was never going to arrive, July finally came and with it the lazy, hazy days of summer. The rain and wind and storms have abated for another season. With the coming of summer comes also the conclusion of a number of regular Parish events until September. The Thursday Study Group studying the history of the Christian Church has ended its Trinity term and will meet again in Michaelmas Term. With the exception of the celebration of the Red-Letter Days in our Church Kalendar, there will be no weekday Services until September. Of course, our Sunday worship continues without interruption.

Sadly, we began the month of July with the passing of one of our long-time parishioners, Ernie Wilson, at the age of 90. A devout Christian, a loving husband, a family man, a decorated veteran of the Second World War; we shall miss Ernie among us with his bow tie, ready smile and twinkle in his eye. We offer to Audrey, his beloved wife of 67 years, our deepest sympathy and prayers.

On Sunday, July 27th, a group of us from the Cathedral Parish will travel up to Courtenay for the inauguration of our newest ACCC Parish, Saint Thomas Traditional Anglican Church, under the curacy of Father George Daley. We pray for them and for their continued growth and Christian outreach across the Comox Valley.

Two of our parishioners continue to recover from recent surgery and illness, Marian Richards and Joann Hardcastle. We wish them well and look forward to their return among us for Sunday worship.

As we look forward to summer, many of us look forward to some much needed rest and relaxation. To time spent with family and friends away from the usual demands of work and daily schedules. For the people of God there is much value in taking time off to rest, to recreate, to renew oneself through visiting new places, seeing new sites, and spending time with a good book. These lazy summer days are also excellent times to renew our relationships with those we love, including most especially our relationship with God. Frequently, our Lord Jesus Christ called His disciples away to a quiet place where they were able to commune with Him, and through Him, with their Heavenly

Father. Our Lord knew the value of rest, recreation, and spiritual renewal. So it should not come as a surprise that we too need time away, time for ourselves and time for communion with God. Be sure then to spend some time in these quieter months with our Lord in prayer and meditation. Spiritual reading, regular attendance at Mass, the sacrament of penance, days of quiet and reflection are all spiritual exercises which will enliven our souls and renew our minds and bodies, preparing ourselves to return to our regular routines and responsibilities.

For myself, I enjoyed time camping up at Parksville with the Kulmala and Nicholson families over the Canada Day long-weekend; and then some time at my cabin at Shawnigan Lake. I hope to spend a few more days over the summer months relaxing at the cabin or taking short day trips as my schedule allows.

May God bless you all and may He see us all safely home from our respective travels and holidays to praise, worship and serve Him anew in our daily lives.

Bishop Shane B. Janzen

LOVING Father, Who didst make this earth so fair, open our eyes to see its wonders and our hearts to feel its beauty; in our days of refreshment and recreation draw us nearer to thee through the things which thou hast made. May the joy of thy sunshine, the quiet of thy forests, the murmur of thy streams, and the steadfast strength of thine everlasting hills teach us the deep secrets of thy peace. Calm our fretful spirits. Deepen the current of our shallow lives. Renew in us faith and courage, physical strength and spiritual vision, that we may know ourselves to be safely held in thy strong hands, and may joyfully conform our lives to thy great purpose. Grant that we may, through this time of renewal and recreation, return to the world and its duties stronger, simpler, sweeter, and may thus become more worthy messengers of Him Who saw His Father's goodness in the sparrow's flight, and His Father's love in the beauty which clothes the lilies of the field. We ask this for His dear sake, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. CBOO, p.125

THE SEASON OF TRINITYTIDE

*Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty,
God in Three Persons, Blessed Trinity!*

WE begin the Season of Trinitytide with the great traditional hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!" The Season of Trinitytide draws together the holy mysteries which we have celebrated through Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Passontide, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost. In and through His ministry and word, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ revealed to us the mystery of God the Holy Trinity – the love of the Father, the saving grace of the Son, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

God's innermost mystery is that He is the Trinity, and everything that we believe about God and His works is interfused with this mystery. Our finite, mortal minds cannot possibly plumb the depth of this mystery revealed to us in Jesus Christ. But this we can know – that from the Father's love everything originates; that through the Son we receive all the Father's grace and love; and that just as the Father and Son are one in the communion of the Holy Spirit, so all who are touched by God's grace share in this communion of life and love.

Through time, God has revealed His Nature; and in the progress of human existence, revealed His divine plan of salvation -- a plan formed from the life, power, and love of the Holy Trinity. When we speak about beauty, truth, goodness, and love; or when we speak of God as a great spiritual force, we touch on the nature of the Trinity but only in an impersonal, imperfect, and incomplete way. For the God revealed to us in the Most Holy Trinity has a definite nature and character; He gives definite commands, and does definite acts. Although outside of time and space, the Holy Trinity entered into the drama of life through being Life itself. At the beginning of time, the love and life-giving nature of the Holy Trinity brought forth creation. The universe was formed, and through the breath of God, man became a living soul. But unlike the 'watch-maker' of philosophic argument, God the Holy Trinity did not abandon His creation nor remain a formless life-force surging through us -- the 'unknown and unknowable Supreme Being'.

Scripture records, God "did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." He is the living God, "who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them. And He made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of

their dwellings, so that men might seek for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being."

The discovery of God in the beauty and wonder of His creation reveals only that He is God the Creator, still distant and impersonal. We will only come to understand His true nature if we allow ourselves to be drawn into His self-revelation, and to encounter the Holy Trinity in the treasured memories of God's judgements, promises, and mercies. Our journey of discovery reaches back to a covenant made between a nomad and the 'God of the mountain top' – *El Shaddai*. It moves from such concrete things as the Law, the Passover, the Ark and the Temple – *Yahweh*; to the stable at Bethlehem, the hill of Calvary, and the empty rock-hewn tomb – *Jesus Christ*. It leads us to an upper room, to men and women filled with the utter force and power of God's own Spirit, and to the trials and testimonies of millions through the ages. And it brings us to our present moment, for it is in the retelling of the story of salvation, in the listening anew to the spoken Word of God, and in the partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion -- in the worshipping and obeying of God -- that we come to know His true nature and the reality of His presence in our lives.

For the God who is the bodiless, timeless, transcendent Being of the whole universe, is also the Incarnate Lord who is 'not far from any one of us'; Whose nail-scarred Hands and riven-side reveal, even now, the depth of His love for those whom He made in His very image. Jesus said, if you want to know God the Father, then look at Me, God the Son. If you want to share in the love of the Father and the Son, then welcome into your heart the Spirit who proceeds from that love.

C.S. Lewis likened our personal glimpses of God to our glimpse of a fringe of the ocean when we walk on the beach. Mystical or personal experiences of God are real but fragmentary, like a walk on the beach. But the Christian faith and the Christian revelation in Jesus Christ is like a map of the ocean. Reading a nautical map is less real and less exciting than walking along the beach; but one cannot cross the oceans without such a map -- and one cannot know God, nor reach the end of the journey to God, by simply feeling the presence of God -- we need to know of Whom we believe and in Whom we are seeking. God has not left us without such a map -- we have the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments – The Bible – the inspired word of God; we have the Church, the Body of Christ and the People of God, chosen by the Father, redeemed by the Son, and guided by the Holy Spirit; and we have the witness and teachings of

Christian men and women who have walked the walk of faith, and who, in pondering the waves upon the sea of faith, have come to know the timeless truths of God.

We have said that Christian belief is a discovery of the works and words of the Holy Trinity. And as life is known by being lived, so Christian belief is known by living in this discovery. So the first and last goal of all God's works and words is that we should come to know and love Him and thus, now and forevermore, gain entry into the blessed communion of the One, Holy and Triune God -- revealed to us as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Whom we worship and adore, for ever! Amen.

Bishop Shane B. Janzen



Faith, Hope, and Love

"Faith, hope and love (or charity) have a certain correspondence with the three divisions of time -- past, present and future. Faith, in one of its chief actings, looks back to the past. It is faith in God's revelation of Christ; faith in what Christ has done and suffered for man, all of which lies behind us in the history of the past. But faith also throws itself forward into the future, and, when it does so, it takes the complexion of the nearly allied grace of hope; ...of these things which God hath promised, and which we desire to obtain. But are we to live only in the memories of the past, and the anticipations of the future? Assuredly no. In order that those bright anticipations may be well founded we must walk *now* in the way of God's commandments, the 'narrow way', as our Lord calls it, 'which leadeth', and which alone leadeth, 'unto life' (*Matt. 7:14*). God indeed hath 'chosen us to salvation', but it is 'through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth', (*2 Thess. 2:13*).... And this sanctification and belief are evidenced (and can be evidenced) only by love. We shall never obtain that which God doth promise unless we love that which He commands -- not *keep* His commandments only, but *love* them.... The truth is that the commandments, which God lays upon us, are nothing else than the expression of His character and will towards us. And we do not love God Himself, except we love His character and will.... Without this love in the present there is no evidence that our faith really grasps the past, and our hope of a bright future is, in that case, a mere groundless delusion."

E.M. Goulbourn,
The Collects of the Day, Vol. II.

SWEET SUMMERTIME by What's My Part

THE breeze rustling through the trees, warm sunshine on my face, cool refreshing water, and fresh fruit...These are just a few of my favorite things about summertime. After the dreariness, cold, and blah of winter, there is nothing better than seeing the signs that it's coming to a close and soon to be replaced by a warmer season.

Just as the earth goes through the changes of seasons, our lives are marked by new beginnings or times of loss. We experience times filled with joy, and we face times that feel just as cold and hopeless as winter. Just as the seasons are certain to keep flowing, our lives are also bound to be filled with change. Sometimes, the changes offer long-awaited relief or joy, and sometimes, the changes bring new challenges or times of immense grief.

Every season has a purpose designed by the Creator. God has a plan for every change in our lives. For our joys and for our sorrows. He has a reason for everything we face and every burden we carry.

I once heard a saying that went something like, "We can only see part of the picture, but God sees our life in its entirety." We may not always know the reason, and we may not always understand the why, but we can be sure that God does. We can be sure of His goodness and His love. And we can know, without a doubt, He does all things for our good and His glory (*Romans 8:28*). We may not understand His purpose this side of heaven, but we can be sure His word is true.

My mother is currently fighting a battle with cancer. Immediately following her diagnosis, I was filled with hopelessness and fear. However, through this journey, God has strengthened my faith, drawn me closer to Him, and He is teaching me how to be thankful in *all* things (*1 Thessalonians 5:18*).

I long for relief for my mother's struggle, and for this season of life to be changed and be produced into something of great beauty and worth. I know this season of winter in my life will not remain unchanged, and I can't wait for the joy and peace of sweet summertime!

Whatever season you may be facing in your life, remember that God never changes. He is *good* all the time. Through every season, He remains on the throne and in control.

If you're facing a springtime filled with new beginnings, be thankful for this time of change. If you are enjoying the peace and sweetness of summertime, or a refreshing time of fall, give thanks to the Lord. If you're facing a winter filled with sadness, uncertainty, or loss, know that this season too will pass, and be thankful for the refining that may be taking place in your life (*Psalm 66:10*).

~ ~ ~ **CATHEDRAL CALENDAR** ~ ~ ~

<i>July 6</i>	THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Mattins ~ 9:15 am <i>Sung Eucharist</i> ~ 10:00 am
<i>July 13</i>	FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Mattins ~ 9:15 am <i>Sung Eucharist</i> ~ 10:00 am
<i>July 20</i>	FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Mattins ~ 9:15 am <i>Sung Eucharist</i> ~ 10:00 am
<i>July 22</i>	<i>Feast of St. Mary Magdalene</i> ~ Mass 5:30 pm
<i>July 25</i>	<i>Feast of St. James the Apostle & Martyr</i> ~ Mass 9:30 am
<i>July 27</i>	SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Mattins ~ 9:15 am <i>Sung Eucharist</i> ~ 10:00 am (<i>Trip to St. Thomas in Courtenay, BC</i>)
<i>August 3</i>	SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Mattins ~ 9:15 am <i>Sung Eucharist</i> ~ 10:00 am
<i>August 6</i>	FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION ~ Mass 9:30 am
<i>August 10</i>	EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Mattins ~ 9:15 am <i>Sung Eucharist</i> ~ 10:00 am
<i>August 15</i>	LADY DAY IN AUGUST (<i>Dormition or Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>) <i>Holy Eucharist</i> 9:30 am
<i>August 17</i>	NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Mattins ~ 9:15 am <i>Sung Eucharist</i> ~ 10:00 am
<i>August 24</i>	SAINT BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE (<i>Comm. of Trinity X</i>) Mattins ~ 9:15 am <i>Sung Eucharist (with Baptism & Confirmation)</i> ~ 10:00 am
<i>August 29</i>	<i>Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist</i> ~ Mass 9:30 am
<i>August 31</i>	ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Mattins ~ 9:15 am <i>Sung Eucharist</i> ~ 10:00 am