



The **Light**
May 20013 issue 5

Let's Make Music

St. Augustine's-in-the-Woods Episcopal Church, Freeland, WA





Notes from Nigel

As many of you know, we are in the process of developing potential designs for a new font. We have wonderful artists willing to give of their skills and time to achieve something that will serve us for many years to come.

Such an endeavor is therefore very important – the more so when we consider that in addition to considering an aesthetically pleasing design, there are other factors to take into account that are perhaps even more important than how the font will look.

1. **The font is the place where we are incorporated into Christ and where solemn, life-long vows are taken (either by us or on behalf of us).** The font therefore has an absolutely central role in the life of any Christian community. In the early post-Constantine Church, the font was often the size of a swimming pool, used once a year (at the Easter Vigil) for catechumens to be baptized by total emersion. Churches often had separate-but-connected buildings called baptisteries for this purpose – a sign of the importance placed on the rite. However, for long periods of Christian history baptism hasn't been understood as so important. This has filtered down to us in our architecture and practice. For instance, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Bloomington, Indiana, where I was ordained a priest in 1982, the font is tucked away in a side aisle, not visible to most of the congregation. When I first arrived at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Seymour in 1994, I found that a font identical to the one we're using now (a "portable" font) was being used as a glorified door-stop to prop open one of the main doors into the nave! All of this is to say that we must take the role of the font seriously and our design must reflect the value we place on our baptisms.
2. **The font's primary role is to contain the water used in baptism.** Water is one of the two central symbols of our incorporation into Christ (the other is the oil of "Chrism" or "holy anointing"). We must be careful not to confuse the symbolism of water with other symbols, no matter how beautiful they might be.
3. **Baptism is one of the two primary sacraments; the other is Eucharist** (the old definition of "sacrament" is still good: a sacrament is "an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace"). Baptism has been described as the "gateway sacrament" to Eucharist – meaning that the two are inseparably linked. Participation in Eucharist has, since the 2nd Century, been predicated on being baptized. If we want to link the two together visually, so as to underscore their theological and sacramental inseparability then the design of the font should in some way mirror the design of the altar, and vice versa. This means we may want to consider a re-design of our altar, more accurately to reflect early Church practice (those altars were square rather than rectangular, and "open-legged" rather than box-like).

I have invited our Arts & Aesthetics Committee to meet with our two resident liturgical scholars, Bill Adams and Kathryn Rickert (both have Ph.D.'s in liturgy) to discuss this further.

Please do not hesitate to share your own ideas with the group – the more involvement the better the outcome!

Nigel

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday

8:00 am Eucharist Rite I followed by coffee/fellowship and Adult Forums

10:30 am Eucharist Rite II With music, church school & child care. Followed by coffee/fellowship

Monday

5:30 pm Solemn Evensong (with incense)

Tuesday

7:00 pm Quiet Time Meditation

Wednesday

10:00 am Eucharist and Holy Unction (Prayers for Healing)

CLERGY

The Rev. Nigel Taber-Hamilton,
Rector

The Rev. Dr. William Seth Adams,
Clergy Associate

The Rev. M. Fletcher Davis,
Clergy Associate

The Rev. Amy Donohue-Adams,
Clergy Associate

The Rev. Mary Green
Clergy Associate

The Rev. Dr. Tom Johnson,
Clergy Associate

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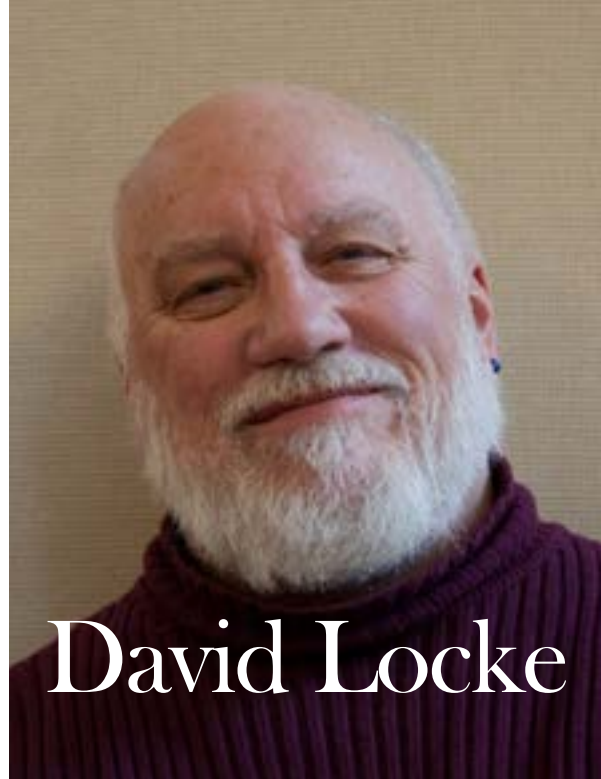


“ St. Augustine’s acoustics are perfect.... We can hear each other sing, and we sing so well. And those that can’t sing so well are so willing to try!” David Locke, Organist and Choirmaster

Music has been one of the major vehicles for our worship experience, as Christians, for many centuries, from the chants and plainsong of medieval Europe to the great organ works of Johann Sebastian Bach and George Frederick Handel of the 17th and 18th centuries. According to our parish musician, David Locke, we do it quite well.

Where there is an opportunity, there is a way. A few years ago, we had an abundance of young people with music on their minds. Carol Foster - one of David Locke’s predecessors - organized them into the choristers. They have since assimilated into the adult choir and other groups, but they were a delight during their brief tenure.

We now have a variety of small ensembles that perform as the situations demand. We have The Sophia Singers - a women’s accapella chorus, Trio Vivace, an impromptu group of recorders and flute, our adult choir, plus many individuals on violin, viola, clarinet, harpsichord, accordian, percussion, voice, and now and then a trumpet, cello, or whatever else sounds good. During the summer months, the Whidbey Island Music Festival, with Tekla Cunningham, comes to St. Augustine’s for a series of well attended concerts.



5 years old, a shepherd in the Christmas pageant, and all he could think of was the glorious organ in the pit below the stage. Baby Jesus, huh? All David Locke has ever wanted to be was an organist. His father's admonitions that perhaps a career in engineering might be more productive didn't dissuade him at all. He graduated in 1965 from St. Olaf's College, Northfield, Minnesota with a bachelors degree in church music - organ and choral, and later a masters from Northwestern University near Chicago, where he studied harpsichord.

His first position after Northwestern was assistant organist at St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle where he was privileged to work with the famed Peter Hallock and play the legendary Flentrop organ whenever the mood struck him. Following were stops at St. Mark's, Berkley, California, St. Thomas, Medina, and 8 years at Holy Trinity Lutheran, Mercer Island prior to his joining us at St. Augustine's, Whidbey Island.

During the few gaps between the coveted organ postings, David has done other things to keep himself occupied. While in California he served as a tour guide at the Hurst castle. And upon returning to Seattle in 2000 he drove long haul truck, for his brother, between Tacoma and Alaska.

In 2012 he was invited to fill the position vacated by Marion Anderson at St. Augustine's. Even though David has played some great organs during his career, he confidently proclaims "St. Augustine's is the most satisfying job I've ever had."

David Locke is past dean of the American Guild of Organists. He has a son, daughter, and 3 grandchildren in Seattle.

Instant Gratification

Each in their own way, find bliss in their music - **Trio Vivace (not too fast)** Elaine Ludtke - flute, Martin Payne, and Wendy Close - recorders, and **Biagio Sancetta** - in the folk harps that he builds.



Biagio grew up in a family that loved classical music. His mom played cello. Biagio's work, however, took him other directions: several years working in the financial markets provided a living, and a stint as a graduate student in marine ecology at the University of Washington connected him to the Puget Sound region.

In 1998 he returned to his childhood home in West Virginia to be close to his ailing mother. He settled into 52 acres and a cabin in the Blue Ridge Mountains, and began to absorb the Appalachian culture, which included indigenous music and instrumentation, like folk harps and cookie tin banjos. When his mother died in 2004 he moved to Tidewater looking for work as a financial consultant and found a friend that wanted to do cabinet work. All things coming together with the need to retire brought Biagio back to Puget Sound and his harps. He makes them, not so much to play, but to be a part of the process of making beautiful sounds when being a musician proves to be a bit of a challenge.



Trio Vivace (not too fast) has been together since 2006, musicians of like interest at St. Augustine's. The group consists of 2 recorders and a flute - Martin Payne, Wendy Close, and Elaine Ludtke + 1 (David Locke when keyboard accompaniment is needed).

Actually Wendy and Martin play practically the whole gamut of recorders: bass, tenor, alto, soprano, and sopranino. All have enjoyed their music for many years: 61 years on the flute for Elaine, Wendy since 3rd grade, and Martin from his college days in 1954 when his roommate sold him his first recorder. Wendy had a go at the oboe and plays autoharp, and Martin took piano and trombone lessons, but both returned to the ease and satisfaction of the recorder.

Their music is primarily Baroque, both because they like it and the Baroque period was a golden age for recorder - there is a lot of Baroque music available.

Biagio, Martin, Wendy, and Elaine all agree that for them, music is for relaxation and enjoyment. When you have to work too hard to get it, it's not fun anymore.



Ted Brookes Presents

Adult Forum Schedule - May

Hallelujah! May has finally arrived. Emphatically, the flowers are blooming, the grass growing, the frogs croaking, and the birds chirping to underscore this welcome seasonal change. We just need some warm, sunny days to complete the picture, and all will be right with the world on Whidbey Island. Our adult forums for May will hopefully reflect this Spring energy and renewal by providing the congregation with challenging and illuminating information on a variety of subjects. The first two Sundays will be a continuation

of our Great Courses series on “Early Christianity” presented by Dr. Bart Ehrman from the University of North Carolina. His focus will be on the gnostic religions of the early Christian Church, who they were and what they believed. Next, Michele Renniger from Whidbey General Hospital will give us another timely health-wise lecture on understanding our cholesterol & triglyceride values. She will also provide free blood pressure testing in the Fireside Room just prior to and after her presentation. Last, Jessica Larson from Whidbey Camano Land Trust will talk about the many land protection and restoration projects her non-profit organization has undertaken in the past, is currently involved with, and will entertain in the future.

Forum dates, subject matter, and presenters/hosts are listed below:

5 May - Early Christian Gnosticism-An Overview. This lecture provides an overview of the Gnostic religions. It considers their possible origins within Judeo-Christian tradition that maintained God had created the world and controlled it. This view was hard for some Jews and Christians to accept. In some ways, Gnostic religions were attempts to explain and account for the state of things in the world, how the human race got there, how the material world came into being, how it relates to the realm of God, and how humans can achieve ultimate salvation. Ted Brookes presents.

12 May - The Gnostic Gospel of Truth. One of the most intriguing documents from the Nag Hammadi library is the Gnostic Gospel of Truth. It does not relate stories of Jesus, but instead celebrates the “good news” that Jesus brought. The views of God, the world, Christ, and salvation in this gospel stand in stark contrast with those that became orthodox within Christianity. The Gospel of Truth is one of the gnostic books known to scholars from the writings of Irenaeus, but was not in their possession until the discovery of the Nag Hammadi library. This gospel maintains that people are saved by receiving the correct knowledge of who they really are. Ted Brookes presents.

19 May - Making Sense of Cholesterol & Triglyceride Values. Michele Renniger, Director of Community Outreach for Whidbey General Hospital will tell us how to decipher those often confusing numbers you get with your blood test results. Just what should your numbers be? If you have ever wondered what your Total Cholesterol, LDL, HDL, Blood Sugar, and Triglyceride numbers should be then this class is definitely for you. Michele’s informative presentation discusses desired cholesterol/blood sugar/triglyceride values and various ways you can achieve these values. Handouts and time for questions are included in the class. Michele will also be providing free blood pressure testing in the Fireside Room just before and after her lecture. Ted Brookes hosts.

26 May - Land Protection & Restoration. Jessica Larson, Land Steward for Whidbey Camano Land Trust, will talk to us about this non-profit organization and the services it provides to Island County. Learn about the recent protection projects that Whidbey Camano Land Trust completed in the past year, from farmlands to old growth forests. Also hear about updates on several restoration projects taking place on prairie, wetland, forest, and potential salmon areas. Jessica is prepared to answer any questions you might have regarding past, present, and future projects. She will also discuss how each of you can be stewarding Island County’s natural habitats. Ted Brookes hosts.

*Faithfully, Ted Brookes
Chairman, 8th Day Committee*

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MISSION SUNDAY OFFERING MAY 2013

Thank you from Time Together Adult Day Services

It is that time of year when I am invited to write to the dear people of St. Augustine's-in-the-Woods about Time Together Adult Day Services, a program of Senior Services of Island County.

Time Together Adult Day Services provides a day program for socially isolated seniors and for seniors who are vulnerable, fragile or need support, allowing them to be part of a vital and thriving community while providing respite to caregivers. We are a community that enjoys and appreciates one another. Our time together is spent sharing the stories of our lives, talking about what is happening in the world, reminiscing about inventions and developments in our lifetimes. Just yesterday we were talking about the things our grandchildren will never experience.....the manual typewriter and carbon paper, the rotary phone, party lines, the milk man delivering milk directly from the farm.

Without Time Together our participants would likely be sitting or sleeping a good part of their day. Their worlds would likely be much smaller, often spent with the primary caregiver, who cannot provide socialization and activities and the kind of stimulation that is present in our program. For four hours a day participants are singing, dancing, doing a group crossword or word puzzle. They are engaged in an exercise program every day they are here. They are talking, laughing, encouraging, supporting and genuinely caring for and about one another. They are sharing a meal together, enjoying the music of people in the greater community who come in to share their gifts with us. There is a richness that blesses the lives of the participants, the caregivers, the volunteers and the staff. There is not one among us that is not blessed in being a part of the Time Together community.

And that brings me back to you, the people of St. Augustine's-in-the-Woods. You are a part of who we are, you were there in the earliest days of inception and you remain with us today as we move toward expansion. We hope to be able to welcome an additional six to twelve to our existing twelve participants per day. We are limited in size because of our space. And when I put out the call to the greater community, there you were inviting us to explore together the possibility of Time Together being there in your space during the week. I loved the idea. Unfortunately, the Paratransit system that provides transportation to and from our program strongly advised against it because of difficulty for the buses to turn around and the challenge of having three buses arrive at the same time. That coupled with the number of people who would be driving their loved one and need to drive around to the entrance seemed like a logistical challenge beyond our ability to navigate.

Our fees do not begin to cover all of the costs of operating an adult day services program. Your generosity of setting aside a Sunday each year to make a contribution to Time Together Adult Day Services is so appreciated. Thank you for partnering with us on behalf of serving the needs of seniors with special needs and their caregivers. The respite that Time Together Adult Day Services provides to 24-hour caregivers is as crucial as is the experience for the participants being in the program.

Thank you, people of St. Augustine's-in-the-Woods for your ongoing support of Time Together Adult Day Services. We are greatly in need of volunteers should any among you have four hours a week to devote to having a whole lot of fun with us! Talk to Claree Vandegrift or Joan Focht or Julie Bird, or for that matter, Fred Ludtke about just how great we are.

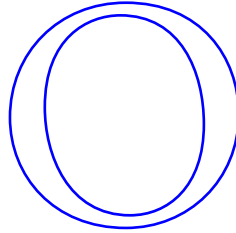
With Love and Blessings,

Hestia Laitala, Director

Time Together Adult Day Services
Senior Services of Island County
14594 SR 525, Langley, WA 98260
360-321-1600



Meet Our Pilgrims



Our Journey to Adulthood teens are planning their Pilgrimage trip to England in August. Each month we are featuring one of those teens in *The Light*. This month, let's meet **Christopher Anderson!**

Christopher Shaw Anderson was born in Oceanside, California, on November 21, 1997. As the second oldest of the five Anderson children, Chris is big brother to Eric, Caitlyn, and Elyssa, but can no longer be called Emily's 'little' brother since he passed her in height last year!

Chris and his siblings are homeschooled, and as a ninth grader he's managing to balance full time schooling with his passion for competitive swimming, as well as track and cross country running for South Whidbey High School. On top of all that, he also plays violin!

Having learned to swim at age one, even his first memory is taking lessons at *Murray Callan Swim School*, in San Diego. As a competitive swimmer, Chris consistently wins or places in his high level meets at local, regional, and U.S. sectional levels. He'd like to qualify for the U.S. Olympic team someday.

As if the Anderson household isn't filled with enough activity, they enjoy their two dogs, Kavik and Shadow, as well as two guinea pigs, named PB&J and (this week) Scout.

Chris describes himself as "practical, active, and impatient," all qualities that lend themselves well to being the only male in St. Aug's teen youth group! We rely on Christopher to keep us on task and bring the practical application to whatever we're doing. He good naturedly puts up with the girls, who treat him like a big brother in the group, not always an enviable position!

Having been a member of St. Augustine's since he was eight years old, Christopher has served as an acolyte and reader, and has recently begun serving as Crucifer and Eucharistic Minister on Sundays.

Something you might not guess about Christopher is that he spends almost as much time off the island as on it. With his swim team practices being in Marysville, Chris is off the island most days at 4 a.m.

Our trip to England this year is of particular interest for Christopher, and he's looking forward to seeing the historical sites, especially Stonehenge.

Although he's quiet, Chris is a young man who is thoughtful and always ready to help wherever he can be of assistance. He doesn't like standing around, so putting him to work on a project or task keeps him happy! His appreciation for classical music and history gives him a great advantage on our upcoming Pilgrimage as well! We're thankful to Chris for bringing his quiet strength and presence to our group and to our parish family.

CLASSIFIED

Be on the Look Out!
WANTED
Empty Cartridges On The Loose

*St. Augustine's-in-the-Woods
Recycles!*

The empty inkjet cartridges that we usually throw away as trash can be recycled and remanufactured. Bring those empty cartridges to church and put them in one of our collection boxes.

St. Augustine's youth programs get paid up to **\$4.00** for each empty inkjet cartridge that has a print head, regardless of the brand or type.

Remember: Put the cartridge in the original box that you would have thrown away after it has been replaced to keep it safe from damages and spills, or a Ziploc bag.

*St. Augustine's is a GREENING
congregation!*

Look for the aluminum foil covered box in the Fireside Room

Thank You!

FOR SALE

CHARTER MEMBERSHIP

at Island Athletic Club for a couple- Limited Edition, comes with 12 guest passes per year and invitation to annual Charter Member Party Current cost \$750 with a \$100 transfer fee. Asking \$200 plus transfer fee

Elaine Ludtke 360-331-5811

HELP WANTED

REPORTER/CORRESPONDANT

for The Light. Pay is high in satisfaction and notoriety. Work from home and telecommunicate. Training available to the right candidate.

Good communication skills required. Knowledge of Microsoft word helpful. Talk to Albert for details 360-331-4997



TRASH and Treasure

May 18

Now that spring is here, many of us begin to go through our "stuff" to ready ourselves for the new season. **May 18** is not too far away. Please remember our Sale and set aside those gently used items and treasures you no longer use or want. Cupboards and garages will become clean! Detailed information will follow, but if you have questions now, you can call **Laura Colton at 707-888-3568 or Rebecca Reid at 360-678-7081**. Thank you and let's have fun bringing our island community together for a good cause!

March Vestry Recap

Financials – Although we are over in a couple of areas, we are doing well financially.

Motion: The Vestry will appoint a By-Laws and Policies & Procedures Review Committee.

Policy was established for the loan of parish property.

Updated the 1984 policy on the Dissemination of Information.

Hospitality: Combined Fellowship, Hospitality, Wedding & Funeral items in the budget.

Thanked the ECW for their coffee hour generosity.

The Greening Committee Earth Day Proposal was accepted.

A Mission Statement committee has been formed.

The Parish Picnic was scheduled for Sunday, August 5 at the church.

Solar Panels were discussed and it was decided to wait until later.

A Parish Chancellor is required by the Diocesan Canons and a parishioner lawyer will be asked.

Campbell Hall ceiling situation continues to be addressed.

Outside signage has been ordered.

The discussion on the **Baptismal Font** is being continued.

Diana Klein, Vestry Clerk.



Caring for God's Creation

Saturday, May 4, 10:00 AM

How do you care for creation? Let me count the ways...and there are many. One way we do it at St. Augustine's is our semi-annual cleanup of Honeymoon Bay Road. Each spring and fall we gather a group of 10-12 volunteers, don our orange vests and hats and walk one half mile south and one half mile north of the church. We pick up an amazing amount of stuff, and quite a variety of stuff, trash that is an affront to the natural world. Most of this stuff is related to food or drink. It takes about 1-1 ½ hours. We enjoy one another's company and have a positive sense of having accomplished something worthwhile.

Please come out for this event: **Saturday, May 4, 10:00 AM**, at the church parking lot. Any questions, please contact Elizabeth Davis, 360.331.4184.

BIRTHDAYS

MAY

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1. Kimmie George
Bob & Lynda Dial
Nigel & Rachel Taber-Hamilton
- 2. Art Taylor
- 4. Marianne Tuttle
- 5. Seth & Laura Luginbill
- 6. Kristen Schricker
Anne Fruechte & Mic Kisinger
- 13. Max Corell
- 18. Bruce Montgomery
- 19. Dick Werttemberger
Maureen Masterson

- 20. Lena Mann
Mary Vaughan
Maylin Steele
- 21. Carol Ryan
Michele Anderson
Teresa DiBiase & Frank Shirbroun
- 22. Ted & Julie Bird
- 24. Martin Payne
- 25. Richard Tussey
- 26. Katie Reid
Amanda & David Stanwood
- 27. Mary Moss

- 28. Marion Pfeiffer-Kornfeld
- 30. Lisbeth Harje
- 31. Mark Borden



Youthville is a Child Placement Agency located in Marysville, Washington. We are licensed to provide all levels of Foster Care, however, we are focusing specifically on Behavioral Rehabilitation Services and the provision of Therapeutic Foster Care. The youth we serve will have significant behavioral and/or emotional issues and will require a level of care that can support them and help them move to a lesser level of care.

Youthville is recruiting Foster Parents in Snohomish, Skagit, Island and Whatcom Counties. We are seeking Foster Parents who are committed to providing care for youth who have experienced abuse and/or neglect and whose lives, in many ways, have been shaped by trauma. We are seeking Foster Parents who are committed to making a difference in the lives of youth who have been victims, and who deserve to be nurtured into well-being and into the mainstream of our community.

We are very interested in homes/parents who were previously licensed but for some reason let the license lapse. We are interested in first time homes/parents who are interested in learning if being a Foster Parent is right for them. We are committed to guiding seasoned and novice parents through the pre and post licensure process and beyond.

We are ready to help you learn about the process of becoming a Foster Parent and to discuss with you all aspects of Fostering. With transparency, we can help you decide if Fostering is the right thing for you. All inquiries are invited and should be directed to the Foster Care Coordinator. Please contact our office:

Contact: **Barry Levit**, LMHC, Foster Care Coordinator

By phone: 360.651.4444 By email: blevit@youthville.org

In Person: 3505 136th St NE, Suite A, Marysville, WA 98271

Website: www.youthville.org (click on the Washington link)



Youthville Foster Care Program



All things have a beginning and an end, except God alone.

Kathryn and Gary Rickert joined St. Augustine's a little over a year ago. They own homes both in Shoreline, north of Seattle, and on Cole's Road, here on Whidbey. They have been slowly and carefully transitioning from life there to life here. I found this little essay on new faces heartwarming. *Albert Rose*

Gifts to Each Other

by Kathryn Rickert Ph.D

No barrier divides where life unites: one faith, one Spirit makes one people. *Sian Wells, Cambridge UK*
used by permission

I am now beginning to learn what people who have lived on this island for a long time probably already know well – that we are gifts to each other. I am quite certain that all of this can be learned while living in the city, but something about the island helps me to know this.

For reasons which I do not understand well, now that I live on the island much of the time, other people – newer people, people I have known for 50 years, and complete strangers -- have increased in their “value” to me. For all the *great* beauty of this place, I have come to deeply treasure a human face. Most of the time I am used to going places on the island and seeing a few people, here and there, but very seldom do I see people I recognize. Even more rarely do I come across people I know from my life on the “other side.” In either case, recognizing a new face or one from long ago has become a most welcome gift of connection.

This is more than an indirect way of saying that I miss my other life (which of course, at times, I do), but rather it is putting together pieces of that life with this one and landing in an entirely new place that connects the two. In other words, this new appreciation for the human faces in this place of fewer human faces is helping to deepen my appreciation for all human faces, both those of the complete stranger, as well as those rare ones from long ago.

The Service of Ordination of the Rev. Annette Andrews-Lux to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament as a Lutheran Pastor at Trinity Lutheran in Freeland, January 19, 2013, was one of those rare occasions for seeing faces from long ago and those that are brand new to me. (Annette was installed as the Pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church in Seattle the next day.) That day offered the gift of many faces; both people I have come to know on the island, as well as several from long ago. The woman preaching the sermon and I went to the same elementary, JR. high, and high schools. Annette and I graduated in the M. Div. class of 1991 at the School of Theology and Ministry (STM) at Seattle University. We also worked together in the SALT (Scripture and Leadership Training) program for many years. The woman who was the Dean of STM during many of those years was there with her husband.

Gifts to Each Other *continued on next page*

Annette's husband, Jim Lux, prepared our land for the shop and apartment that we built last year and is working yet again on the place for a garage and a pond. Another woman, a member of the Candidacy Committee present and I are members of the same book group on the "other side." Someone else was there from Central Lutheran Church in Everett, where Annette did her internship and where I was baptized in 1947. That day offered a most unexpected web of connections.

Much to my great amazement and far beyond anything I had imagined, this island has become a place of connection by which the various seasons and relationships of my life are taking on even greater significance, and value. This awareness may be a corollary to the observation that the life of faith has much more to do with leading us into places, events, relationships, insights, and love that may be not only far beyond what we imagined we wanted, but are in fact the *opposite of what we thought we wanted or needed.*

It is not only the joy of seeing people I have not seen for many years, as wonderful as that is. This ordination was intentionally held during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. And all of these very different faces from various seasons of my life helped to make clearer what such a "unity" might look like. Christian Unity does not hold out for the day on which all of the faces look alike, or are familiar. Nor the day on which we all agree on the finer points of Christian theology, styles of music for worship, and then magically resolve our political disagreements. Rather, there is a new sense of valuing each other as gifts of God.

Living here on the island, where human faces are rarer, the face is "valued" for being here and sharing this place. It is more of a response of gratitude for shared presence that may not occur where there are so many faces. Rather than passing by each other, knowing that there are thousands of other faces around, here we are offered these gifts of each other and invited into a unity of all kinds of God's people, known and unknown.



Kathryn Rickert