

AROUND THE DIOCESE



• Confirmations 2012 •

April 22nd and April 29th, Bishop Michael confirmed over 50 candidates at Christ Church Cathedral.

In the photograph above (*photo by Clifford Aquino*), we see Bishop Michael surrounded by representatives of the Parish of St. Michael's, Broadway who had attended the worship in support of their confirmation candidates. ✦

• Education for Ministry • 2012 Graduation Eucharist

On Wednesday, June 13th, 2012, 7:30 pm, Bishop Michael will confer on the class of 2012 certificates of completion marking the end of a four year period of journey into the depths of our shared identity as Christians. The Graduation Eucharist will be celebrated at the Parish of St. Timothy, Burnaby (4550 Kitchener Street, Burnaby BC). ✦

• New Evangelism Unit Chair •

In January 2012, The Rev. Dr. John Oakes resigned as Chair of the Diocesan Evangelism Unit after 13 years. He was about to embark on a year of unpaid leave from his position as Rector of Holy Trinity, Vancouver to take a Visiting Fellowship position at the Yale Divinity School. It was a good time to close a chapter in his ministerial life and relinquish the leadership of the Evangelism Unit.

In 1998, during his curacy at St. Cuthbert's, Delta, then St. Cuthbert's Incumbent, The Rev. Dan Anonby suggested to John that he extend his ministry to include the diocese and John chose the Evangelism Unit, succeeding The Rev. Trevor Fisher as Chair.

The Evangelism Unit began as part of the diocesan initiative Stewards in Action (SIA) in 1988, during a time when the worldwide Anglican Communion was promoting the Anglican Decade of Evangelism. For the first 15 years, there was strong representation from around the diocese but as with many of the Unit groups founded in the wake of SIA, membership decreased as new types of ministry evolved in the church.

The Evangelism Unit remained intact and made it a priority to plan and produce at least one diocesan event per year to draw people together in community as well as offering them exciting ways of communicating the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their neighbourhoods and beyond. The most recent event was held November 13th, 2010 and featured The Rev. Judy Paulsen, a member of the Speaker's Bureau of the Wycliffe College, Institute of Evangelism.

The Rev. Paul Woehrle, rector of St. David's, Delta had expressed to John an

interest in the Evangelism Unit Chair ministry so John communicated his interest to Bishop Michael. Bishop Michael invited Paul to accept the appointment and confirmation of Paul's acceptance was received May 3rd, 2012.

The Unit's members-at-large are very excited about Paul's appointment and are looking forward to their first official meeting together.

Stay tuned to future issues of *Topic* and postings on the Evangelism Unit pages of the diocesan website for further developments. ✦

John Oakes (left) and Paul Woehrle (right).



• Holy Trinity Strawberry Tea •

Raffle! Bake Sale! Books! Crafts! Re-Gift Table!
All this and more at the Holy Trinity Strawberry Tea.
Come join in the fun!

Saturday June 23rd, 2012

11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Holy Trinity

15115 Roper Avenue in beautiful White Rock

• VST Summer School •

SUBMISSION Harold Munn

Connecting Job and Vocation; Building Communities of Care, Leadership and Context; and Living Faithfully in a Fragmented World. There will also be an Iona Pacific course on the topic of *Religion, Science Fiction and the Problem of Evil.*

Instructors include Paul Scott Wilson, Darrell Guder, Teresa Latini, Peter Short, Beth Theunissen, Nancy Clavert-Koyzis, Tamsen Glover, Jonathan Wilson and Francisco Pena, Hussein Keshani and Robert Daum.

A round table discussion on the topic of leadership will be held on Thursday evenings during each week of summer classes. All visiting faculty and students and members of the larger community are welcome to attend.

In the photo we see Darrell Guder, a teacher and author of many books on Christian mission in a post-Christendom context. Darrell proposes that "...the unique incarnation of Jesus...[has]...concrete significance for the way in which the church communicates that message and carries out the mission."

Two of our courses will be held in a weekend retreat format: *Benedictine* with Martin Brokenleg (July 6th–8th), and *Practicing Paradise* with Douglas Burton-Christie (July 20th–22nd).

For more information on courses and registration please visit the VST website at www.vst.edu. We look forward to welcoming you. ✦



Darrell Guder.

Vancouver School of Theology holds its Summer School the first two weeks of July (July 2nd–6th and 9th–13th) in beautiful British Columbia on the campus of the University of British Columbia. Our theme this year is *Leadership for a time like this* and the courses, taught for credit or audit, are for everyone.

Visiting Faculty will teach a variety of courses relating to the pressing topic of leadership in the church and by the church. Some of the course titles are: *The Poetics of Preaching; Leading Congregational Change; Turning Toward the World—Missional Church; Women Breaking Boundaries;*