

St. Saviour's Profile

THE DIOCESE OF KOOTENAY



The Diocese of Kootenay is comprised of approximately 215,000 square kilometers, being that part of British Columbia east of the 120th meridian. The 120th meridian is the straight part of the Alberta/British Columbia border, so if one extends that line to the American border the Diocese is all of British Columbia east of it.

The part of the Diocese north of the Trans-Canada (No.1) highway is largely uninhabited and the two small communities in that area have been, for many decades, linked with neighboring communities in the Diocese of Cariboo. The effective northern boundary of the Diocese is really the Trans-Canada Highway from Chase to Field.

Topographically, the Diocese is a series of long, narrow valleys running north and south, linked at northern and southern ends by highways. Many of the valleys contain long, deep, cold lakes, some created by dams. The Diocese contains the whole of the Canadian watershed of the Columbia river system and in the northwest corner most of the watershed of the South Thompson river (Thompson-Fraser system). It is very mountainous, including within its boundaries, the western slope of the Rockies, the Selkirks, Purcells, Monashee, Bugaboo and Cariboo ranges (the Columbia-Cassiar Mountains) and the eastern slope of the Canadian Cascade range. It is a dramatically beautiful country.

Economically, the region depends on resource industries such as logging, lumber, pulp and paper, mining, smelting, and hydro-electric power generation. Agriculture, especially cattle and sheep ranching, hard and soft fruit production, vegetable production, vineyards and wineries, tourism, with boating,

fishing, hunting, swimming, hiking, climbing, skiing, and a host of other activities attract tens of thousands to holiday in the area.

The climate and landscape have attracted many retirees to the western part of the Diocese. Increasingly, there is a spill over of retirees into the smaller towns and cities to the east. With the exception of one or two of the resource based communities, all of our centres are growing in population. Kelowna, the See City, is the fastest growing area in British Columbia and the Okanagan, in general, is growing quickly.

The Diocese of Kootenay was established in 1900 having been a part of New Westminster. At that time, the major centre in the interior was Nelson so it was designated as the See City. Financial difficulties made it impossible to support a Bishop and until 1915 the Bishop of New Westminster acted as Bishop of Kootenay. Transportation was extremely difficult and mostly by rail or steamboat. Bishop Doull, elected in 1915, chose to live in Vernon because of better access to railways.

In 1948, the Dean of the Pro-Cathedral, Patrick Clark, was elected Bishop and he chose to reside in Nelson. His successor, Phillip Beattie (1955) made his home in Kelowna, reflecting the improvement of the highway system and the increasing importance of air travel. All subsequent Bishops have resided in Kelowna and in 1987 the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Kelowna, became the Cathedral, and St. Saviour's, Nelson, was designated a Pro-Cathedral in recognition of its historic role in the life of the Diocese. In 1933, the Synod office moved into a building on the Cathedral grounds.

The natural barriers of the mountain ranges and the lack of a single natural centre for a See City tend to regionalize the Diocese. There are six regions, each with a Regional Dean and Council. Each Council is represented on the Diocesan Council. The Diocesan Council, which is a policy setting body, meets quarterly and the Administration Committee, which deals with finance and business within established policy meets monthly. Various task forces and semi-autonomous bodies create program but there is no Program Committee.

The underlying philosophy of Diocesan life is that although the Diocese, as the smallest unit at which the complete sacramental life of the Church can be lived, is the basic structural level of the Church, the parish is the basic and primary operating level of the Church. Therefore, Diocesan policy is always to strengthen parishes. As the de-institutionalization of the Church takes place over the next twenty years parishes must become self-sustaining in life and ministry. The principal means of achieving this will be the development of, and training for, Baptismal Ministry.

The Diocese, although relatively small in numbers, has been self-supporting since the 1950's and must operate on a balanced budget. There are 36 parishes in the Diocese. St. Saviour's is the third largest parish as well as the oldest Protestant parish in Penticton.

Sorrento Centre, a conference, lay training, and holiday facility is situated in the Diocese.

The Diocesan, John Privett, was elected in 2005. At this time the Synod office staff consists of an Executive Assistant to the Bishop, a Secretary and an Accountant.

A realigning of responsibilities has changed the job description of the Executive Assistant's position. The position is now half-time Executive Archdeacon of the Diocese and half-time Planned Giving Officer.

The Parish of St. Saviour's

St. Saviour's draws its congregation mainly from Penticton and nearby Kaleden. Other nearby communities have their own Anglican or shared Anglican/United churches, though a few of our parishioners come from these towns.

Penticton, and the surrounding communities, make up a population of approximately 40,000 people. We have a number of excellent schools, summer and winter sports, art facilities and museums etc. We host a variety of events including Ironman Canada, Peach Festival and others. Penticton is located between two beautiful lakes with wonderful beaches and water facilities. We also have a fine hospital and local airport. For further information about Penticton and area, the reader is referred to the www.pentictoninfo.com website.

There are approximately 275 households on the current active parish list, with about 425 members.

Many are single, widows or widowers. There are very few young families with children. It is our aim to promote an active programme to attract more young people. A number of our parishioners are homebound or in extended care facilities.



Until very recently one of our priests regularly took the word of God and the love of Christ from the parish into the lives of those that are in longterm care or homebound.

Parish Statistics at a glance:

2007 Operating Income - \$189,000
2007 Total Expenses - \$181,900
Households on Parish Roll - 275
Individual Members - 425
Children and Youth - very few
Average Sunday attendance - 150
Number of identified givers - 150

Clergy and Staff

In addition to the incumbent, there are four retired non-stipendiary priests licensed to St. Saviour's who take some of the services.

Two people share the paid position of organist.

A salaried secretary works 9 hours per week, assisted by volunteers.

The Church retains regular a custodial service. We occasionally hire casual labour, but there are no other paid positions. At present, the bookkeeper/treasurer position is done by a volunteer.



Parish Buildings

Church and Chapel



St. Saviour's is a long, tall stone church in the architectural style known as perpendicular gothic. It is laid out in an east/west direction, with large windows at both ends and tall windows along the sides. The east window is stained glass and depicts the crucifixion.

There is one other stained glass window, with a nativity scene, in the north wall of the sanctuary. This church was completed in 1930.

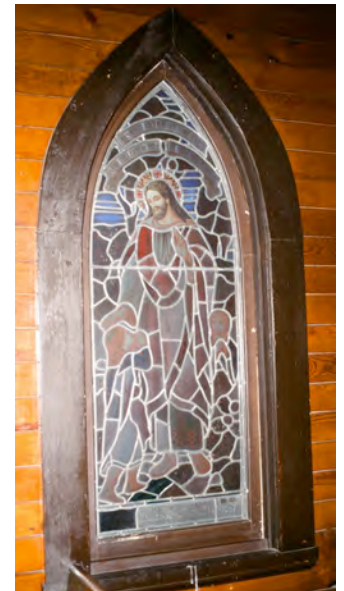
Along the south side of the church is the Ellis Memorial chapel, which is the original St. Saviour's Church, built in 1892 by the Ellis family; the first church in the South Okanagan.

While the church is tall, light and airy, the chapel is small and intimate. The walls, made of wood paneling, are stained a rich red-brown. Along the south wall are three magnificent stained glass windows which were



recently removed, cleaned, repaired, encased in unbreakable material, and re-installed.

The three-panel east window has been cleaned and repaired *in situ*. There is new lighting which retains the antique character of the chapel, new carpet, and a new dorsal curtain.



Both the church and the chapel contain beautiful and historic artifacts which add to the sense that God is here in this building and that its walls have been hallowed by years of prayer.

Parish Hall

The large, recently renovated, hall (with mezzanine) is to the east of the church and is connected to the somewhat older church offices and a meeting room. On the east side of the hall is the Outreach Centre. The hall is used regularly for a number of different activities, events, and rentals, including church functions, community events, dinners, plays, wedding/funeral/baptismal celebrations, etc.

Worship Services

Two services are held on Sunday, both in the church. The 8 a.m. service uses the BCP and is attended by about 35 people. The 10 a.m. service attracts over 100 people, uses the BAS and is a full choral Eucharist. The Sunday School is available as needed. During the winter, from Advent to Easter, one 9:30 a.m. service is held.

On Wednesday morning, a Eucharist using the BCP is held in the Ellis Memorial Chapel. In addition, the Order of St. Luke has a Eucharist, with healing service, in the chapel at noon.



Special services are held on church festival days. The BAS is used for these services. Last year, we had a Wednesday night compline service during Lent.

Lay Involvement in Worship

At our 9:30 or 10:00 a.m. service, lay people, in addition to the choir and organist, participate. There are lists of people available to act as greeters, sidespersons, and intercessors. A number of parishioners are licensed as Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Most of these are licensed to take communion to the sick and shut-in. A small number are trained (at both BAS and BCP services), as altar attendants and crucifers. Several parishioners have completed the Education for Ministry course.



Until only recently children were involved in the service on a regular basis. We had a monthly family service in which all the readings, and occasionally the intercessions, were done by children, some as young as eight. This was considered by both children and parents to be an important part of their spiritual development. Generally, more contemporary music was played and sung at these services.

The Parish Community

Sunday School

At this time, we do not have a regular Sunday School as we have very few young families attending the church at this time. We do have, however, Sunday School teachers recently trained in "Godly Play", and we look forward to implementing it when we have the opportunity.

Outreach Centre

This is an ecumenical endeavour and is supported in kind by the secular community. A daily shift of 6 people works in the kitchen, seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Approximately 120 sandwiches are made and served each day. This increases to 150 or more during the Summer.

The Soupateria is located in the new Outreach Centre building, adjacent to the Church, serving meals seven days a week. Although the building was community and publicly funded, it and the Church, are owned by the Diocese. The Centre is used every evening by caring organizations such as Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous, ALANON, etc.

Choir and Music Ministry

We have a choir, choir director, and two organists. The music ministry is supported by the pipe organ and the grand piano. The choir leads the congregation in the singing of hymns at the 9:30 or 10:00 a.m. choral liturgy, and generally performs an anthem. They also sing at special occasions such as funerals, Christmas and Easter.



Other Parish Organizations

St. Saviour's has an active Parish community that participates in the following groups:

- Altar Guild
- St. Brigid's Liturgical Arts Guild
- Sidespersons
- A.C.W. Fellowship
- Fellowship Group
- Men's Group
- Library



Stewardship and Finance

Parish Income

The total Parish income for 2007 was \$189,000. This amount does not include a substantial memorial donation (bequest) of \$185,000 received in 2007, but does not include interest earned on Parish investment funds, the Rectory reserve, and bequests. This interest contributed \$15,800 to the 2007 income.

Other primary sources of income are: identified and open offerings (\$144,000), Parish fund-raising projects (\$10,600), baptisms, marriages, funerals, and Columbarium income (\$6,700), and property rentals (\$11,000).

Parish Operating Expenses

The total Parish expenses for 2007 equaled \$181,900. The primary expense categories are: clergy stipend, benefits, and housing (\$59,800), contribution to the Diocesan Family Budget (\$37,000), education and worship, organist and choir (\$11,000), office operations and staffing (\$22,700), and property maintenance and operating costs (\$44,000).

Capital Disbursements from Bequest funds

During 2007, some bequest funds were used to fund a number of much-needed improvements to the Church building, including a new roof and a complete renovation to the Club Room, at a cost of \$80,000. A new grand piano was also purchased. An additional \$12,000 was used to provide a special clergy mission to those elders who can no longer attend church on a regular basis.

Stewardship Program

It has been several years since St. Saviour's has undertaken an all-member visitation. Given the significant number of recent bequests, it has become increasingly convenient to draw on the bequest funds to meet annual operating expenses and deficits.

The members of St. Saviour's agreed at the recent AGM (Feb. 2008) that this is a short-sighted practice which should not continue. Many parishioners feel that bequest funds should be used to advance God's word and His work in the world.

Therefore, parishioners have agreed that in 2008 and 2009, every effort should be made to increase both our membership, and our financial stewardship.

Accounting

The Treasurer/Bookkeeper is a member of the congregation, and serves on the Church Committee and the Administration Committee. The Treasurer also chairs a Finance Committee.

The books are examined annually. This has sometimes been done by a parishioner, sometimes by someone outside the church.

An envelope secretary keeps the individual giving records, and a team of money counters deposits the collection every Sunday. As directed by the Diocesan Council, we have made a number of changes in the handling of money received for the purpose of improving accountability.

Maintenance of Property

The general maintenance work on the buildings and grounds is covered by volunteers.



Community Involvement

The parish hall is rented to and occupied almost every evening with various groups including, dance club, choir group and other meetings. The lower meeting room is home to St. Brigid's Liturgical Arts Guild on Thursday afternoons. It is also used by various church groups for meetings and bible studies.

The average Sunday attendance is approximately 140-150 parishioners.



Parish Survey

In December 2007, parishioners at St. Saviour's participated in a survey to help in the search for a new Parish Priest.

The themes, derived from the question "*In one sentence please describe what kind of church St. Saviour's should be in five years*", were to have:

- a friendly and caring church open to all
- involvement with youth and children
- a strong community outreach
- a bible-based Ministry and strong scriptural preaching.

Following are further results of the survey.