

People of Faith

Jeanne (Link) Parker and Ron Parker, Rev'd Brian Parker

Jeanne was born in Fernie. She is the eldest of three siblings, and each summer she, brother Don and sister Dale came from the West Coast to spend time with their grandmother Inez Fioretti of Fernie. Their grandfather Angelo Fioretti (who had worked in Coal Creek) was deceased at this time. Then, in Grade 8, at a time when her parents were divorcing and her mother was moving from Victoria to Calgary, Jeanne came to Fernie to live with her grandmother on a part-time basis, which ended up being full time; she has lived here ever since. Her mother later married Gerald Perry from Prince Edward Island and Michael was born, a half-brother for Jeanne, Don, and Dale.



In 1967 Jeanne and Ron Parker were married at St. Luke's Anglican Church in Blairmore. For his part, Ron and his brother Brian were born to parents Monroe and Gertie Parker in Fernie. (For Brian's memories, please see below.) Their paternal grandmother Jessie Parker was instrumental in getting the Salvation Army off the ground in Fernie and Auntie "Vange" (Evangeline) was also very involved. Ron and Brian, however, grew up in the Anglican church. Ron remembers serving as an altar boy under Rev'd Tingey -- and fainting from standing up too long at the front.



Ron and Jeanne have three children (Tracy, Jamie, and Jodie), who grew up in Fernie and eventually married. Tracy and Gavin were married by Rev'd John Pratt and Jamie and Michelle by Rev'd Bill Inglis at Christ Church; Jodie and Clint Sikkas were not married in the church. Ron and Jeanne now enjoy spending time with their grandchildren-- Jane, Avery and Kaden.

For many years Ron worked various jobs in construction and finally for the City of Fernie looking after the community center. Jeanne worked at SuperValu, a grocery store situated where the Red Apple now operates (2018), for 20 years before becoming the proprietor of

Mugshots along with her daughter Jodie. She is now a well-known encaustic artist in Fernie and very involved in the Fernie Arts Co-op.

Over the years Jeanne has contributed to Christ Church in a number of ways. She has been a warden, church committee member and Synod lay delegate, and she now heads up the “Encouraging Families of Faith” priority area. She can also be found helping out at ACW events, cleaning the church on a rotational basis, and caring for the altar. She takes responsibility for the church’s KIVA donation(s) and microloans to people around the world.



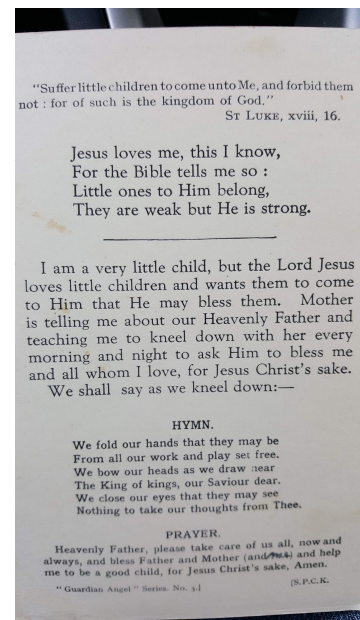
Here is Jeanne at the inaugural “Outdoor/Messy Church” event in October 2018. Her daughter Jodie (Sikkes) is to her left, and her granddaughter Avery is standing directly above Jeanne beside her friend Helen.

Memories of the Rev’d Brian Parker of his time in Christ Church Fernie BC **(Sent by Brian, September 2018)**

I was baptized October 20, 1940 by the Rev. C. Silva-White and confirmed in 1952 by Bishop Clark.

My mother [Gertie Parker] was a member of the Mother’s Union and a member of the Altar Guild. My aunt, Mrs. Jane Baker, looked after the Little Helpers. She would send yearly cards to those who had been baptized. I still have five cards. Aunt Jane was also a member of the Women’s Auxiliary and helped to run the J.A. (Junior Auxiliary).

I attended the Sunday School (S.S.) in my younger years. Two S.S. teachers I will always remember are Mrs. Hartley and Mrs. Marion White. I remember as a small child



running around the large posts in the basement and Mrs. Hartley saying, "Now children you must not do that." I also remember that she called everyone "Love" !



Two parish priests who had a great influence on me were Canon Yerburch and The Rev. William Tingey. It was Canon Yerburch who started me off as an Altar Server, and under Fr. Tingey that I kept my interest in the Church as an Altar Server. I would say it is because of these two rectors that I am now an ordained priest of the Anglican Church.

While Fr. Tingey was rector I was also involved in the ministries of Sunday school teacher and, with Henry Bath, as leader of the CBL (Church Boys League). Also, under Fr. Tingey, in my late teens, I became a Lay Reader and would take many trips with him to Michel, Newgate and Elko.

I was also the camp truck driver at Camp Beattie for one summer. [Camp Beattie was a regional Anglican camp situated on Edwards Lake for a number of years.]

In my early teens I was a member of the AYP (Anglican Young People Association) with Mr. Eric Mansbridge as our leader. Eric is seated at the lower left. Continuing on from left

to right, the others include an unknown girl, Bob (Bobby) Hartley, a girl from Natal, Father Tingey, an unknown boy, Margie Wilson, Lewis Abbey (from Newgate), and Marsha Quail. At the AYP we had dances and sometimes dinners (probably provided by the Mother's Union or ACW), and we looked forward to being invited to events run by the CGIT at Knox United.





My good friend Henry Bath is seen here with his parents. In addition to being co-leader of the Church Boys League with me and serving at the altar, Henry also looked after the coal hopper for the furnace. Each day he took the clinkers out and filled with hopper with new coal. One time the hopper broke, and Henry had to look after the furnace all night. I stayed at the church overnight with him,

and we slept in the church hall. Henry had secreted some scotch from home, and I can remember Mr. Keith Macken coming in and saying, "Oh, it smells good in here!" The hopper was eventually fixed.

Eventually, after I was ordained, I was honoured to come home in 1968 and marry Henry and his wife... right here in Christ Church.



One of the questions was about "God moments." My God moment was when I really felt God's call to Ordained Ministry of the Anglican Church when I spent a quiet time alone in prayer in Christ Church on holidays from my time in the Anglican Church Army training center in Toronto. Here I am in Church Army uniform.

I was ordained to the Priesthood on May 2, 1966 in Saskatchewan. I celebrated my first Eucharist two days later in Christ Church under the guidance of The Rev. Ray Bray.

I try to get back to Fernie each year and attend the service at Christ Church. I am forever thankful for the spiritual guidance I received at Christ Church by the rectors, S.S. teachers, and youth leaders.

