

wonderful wednesdays

and thursdays, too!

One Planet, One People: Working Together to Meet the
Challenge of an Ecological Crisis

St. George's Church is excited to announce the 2019 Fall Series of Wonderful Wednesdays (and Thursdays, too!), entitled:

One Planet, One People: Working Together to Meet the Challenge of an Ecological Crisis

When we read the phrase "ecological crisis," we may fear that we're going to hear predictions of doom and gloom that will overwhelm us. This series is not about doom and gloom, but about honesty and hope. In this series we will be invited to look at the realities of the ecological crisis we find ourselves in, but, even more so, we will be invited to look at how with resiliency, creativity and energy we can work together to meet the challenge before us. Our speakers bring an abundance of knowledge and experience to help us understand how we can transform the way we live in the world in order to sustain and honour the ecosystems that give us life. Some speakers will help us to shift our understanding of what's needed, while others will give us practical steps we can take today to make a positive difference; all will help inspire us to be part of the solution the world longs for and needs.

This series is a part of the celebration of the global ecumenical "Season of Creation" during which we celebrate the bonds we share with each other and every living thing. The focus of the Season of Creation this year is "The Web of Life." During this Season, we are invited "to pray, reflect and take bold action to preserve creation in all its complexity and specificity." (www.seasonofcreation.org).

Bring your friends! Please feel welcome to invite anybody you think might enjoy this series.

More info at: www.stgeorgecadborobay.ca/events



Admission by donation

St George's
ANGLICAN CHURCH
CADBORO BAY

Wednesday Morning Sessions:

9.30am • Tea and Treats

10.00am • Speaker Presentation

Thursday Evening Sessions:

7:00 pm • Speaker Presentation

Refreshments to follow

Wed, September 11 @ 10am • “Ecotheology” with Dr. John Thatamanil, Associate Professor of Theology & World Religions



In this talk, Dr. Thatamanil will offer a brief introduction to Christian ecotheology. Is Christianity the root cause of the ecological crisis? Is the Biblical injunction to “fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth” the source of the problem? When and how did we come to think of nature largely as natural resources? Did Jesus come to save only human beings from sin thereby disregarding the rest of creation? How must we reimagine nature and our relationship to it in order to green Christian faith in service to the whole of creation?

John J. Thatamanil is Associate Professor of Theology and World Religions at Union Theological Seminary in New York. He has taught a wide variety of courses in the areas of comparative theology, theologies of religious diversity, interreligious dialogue, the theology of Paul Tillich, process theology, and most recently ecotheology. He is the author of *The Immanent Divine: God, Creation, and the Human Predicament. An East-West Conversation*. He has recently completed his second book, *Circling the Elephant: A Comparative Theology of Religious Diversity* (Spring 2020). Thatamanil routinely works to bring theology into public conversation by publishing blogs and Op-Eds in a variety of venues on topics such as ecotheology and American gun violence. He has published in *The Los Angeles Times* and *The Washington Post* and also publishes online at Counterpoint Blog and Australian Broadcast Company’s Religion and Ethics page.

Thurs, September 12 @ 7pm • “Decarbonize & Decolonize” with Adam Olsen, BC Green Party MLA, Saanich and the Gulf Islands



Adam Olsen, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands, will explore the relationship between reconciliation, decarbonization, and decolonization. How will we exercise dominion? As rulers over or stewards of our fragile world?

Adam Olsen: Passionate community advocate. Adam Olsen (S̓HENEᐅ) loves his job as the Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Saanich North and the Islands. He was elected in May 2017.

Inspired by the incredible place and people he represents, Adam has a deep love for his home in the Salish Sea (W̓SÁNEĆ). As an advocate and facilitator, he is committed to improving public participation to strengthen all aspects of the community and the province.

Adam has always worked in his family businesses, garden maintenance and Coast Salish knits. The result of two decades in the service and communications sectors is the valuable experience in building relationships, connecting people, problems, ideas and solutions.

Born in Victoria, BC in 1976, Adam has lived, worked and played his entire life on the Saanich Peninsula. He is a member of Tsartlip First Nation (W̓JOLƏᐅP), where he and his wife, Emily, are raising their two children, Silas and Ella.

Wed, September 18 @ 10am • “Towards a 100% Renewable and Resilient Saanich”

with Glenys Verhulst, Sustainability Planner, District of Saanich



People in Saanich are ready for urgent and effective climate action. An update to the Saanich Climate Plan is underway to reach 100% renewable energy and 80% greenhouse gas reductions in the community by 2050, and to prepare for a changing climate. Come to learn about where we are at as a community today, proposed actions to help reach these targets, lessons gleaned from a decade of climate action experience, and how you can get involved.

Glenys Verhulst is a Sustainability Planner with the District of Saanich, focusing on climate action planning and public engagement. She has over a decade of experience in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate action programs, including managing the Oil to Heat Pump Incentive Program and the Solar Colwood Program. She has a BA in Geography, Environmental Studies, and English from the University of Victoria.

Thurs, September 19 @ 7pm • “Welcome to the Anthropocene: Towards a One Planet Region”

**with Dr. Trevor Hancock, Hon FFPH, Retired Professor and Senior Scholar
School of Public Health and Social Policy, UVic**



We are changing the Earth’s ecosystems in profound ways that will end up harming us. So we face the challenge of transforming our society to live within the constraints of the one small planet that is our home. We will need to reduce our ecological footprint by 75–80 percent to the equivalent of one planet’s worth of consumption and waste production, while maintaining a long life in good health for all our citizens. Building a more livable world that is better for all will mean changing everything we do!

We act as if we have 3- 5 Earths but we only have one. What are the implications of only taking our fair share?

Dr. Trevor Hancock is a public health physician and health promotion consultant recently (July 2018) retired Professor and Senior Scholar at the School of Public Health and Social Policy at the University of Victoria. For four years he led a Canadian Public Health Association workgroup that resulted in a comprehensive Discussion Paper on the ecological determinants of health (May 2015). He co-founded both the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment and the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care and, in the 1980s, was the first leader of the Green Party in both Canada and Ontario. He has been a national and global leader in the Healthy Cities and Communities movement since the mid-1980s, is the Vice-President of the Board of BC Healthy Communities and leads the Greater Victoria ‘Conversations for a One Planet Region’. He has written a weekly column for the Times Colonist since December 2014.

Wed, September 25 @ 10am • “Climate Friendly Home” with Elena Dopfer, Energy Solutions Specialist



Climate Change threatens us with hotter, drier summers, wetter winters and forest fires that have become the norm, not the exception. CleanBC – British Columbia’s pathway to a more sustainable future entails ambitious targets – Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 compared to 2007 levels.

In her talk, Elena will introduce you to the impact your home can have in the fight against climate change, and describe how energy efficiency upgrades can reduce your energy bills and make your home more comfortable and healthy. Learn about the current financial incentives for heat pumps, insulation, windows and more and how to access unbiased information resources.

Elena Dopfer is an Energy Solutions Specialist and administers various energy efficiency programs with her team at City Green Solutions – an enterprising non-profit organization in Victoria. Among other programs, she administers the CleanBC Better Homes Energy Coach Service – the unbiased, government-funded program that provides energy efficiency upgrades and rebates information along with phone and email support for BC residents. From her work as an energy coach, Elena understands homeowner’s barriers to complete energy efficiency upgrades in their homes and how to overcome them.

Thurs, September 26 @ 7pm • “Social Justice in a One Planet Region: Cost and Benefits for Vulnerable Populations” with Diana Gibson, CEO, Community Social Planning Council of Victoria



As the climate and environmental crises gain traction we are seeing exciting momentum in local climate solutions and local zero waste efforts. However these crises are landing on an economy with historic levels of inequality, precariousness and rising racism/extremism; the perfect storm. This puts us at a crossroads as climate impacts disproportionately impact the vulnerable while the solutions could exacerbate existing inequalities. It is critical to tackle these challenges in tandem but doing so also opens a multitude of opportunities to work across silos, to harness our shared resources across the social and environmental sectors and to achieve our social and environmental targets faster. In this are the seeds of hope.

Diana is a social science researcher and community change maker who has worked nationally and internationally. She is a Principal with PolicyLink Research Canada, a Distinguished Research Fellow of the University of Alberta’s Parkland Institute, as well as a Research Advisor for the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and has been on faculty at the University of Alberta and Capilano College.

She has authored and co-authored many publications on both social policy and climate justice. Some of her relevant works include: drafting a Social Policy Framework for Alberta; supporting the Blue Green Alliance in leading dialogues for a just transition for workers in the coal industry in Alberta; advising the labour representative to the Climate Leadership panel in Alberta; engagement for developing alternatives to fracking for the Sahtu region in the NWT (See: Economic Futures in the Sahtu Region: A Discussion Paper for Building a Balanced Economy); and supporting Common Front NL to develop a social and environmental vision (See: A Better Future: Building A Jobs-rich, Fair, And Sustainable Economy).

Wed, October 2 @ 10am • “Sustainable Investing: Strategies, Tools and Evidence” with Dr. Matt Murphy, Associate Professor of Sustainability and Strategy



Many investors wish to invest responsibly or sustainably, but aren't sure how to do so. They may also expect that investing sustainably implies accepting lower returns on investment in exchange for improved environmental and/or social performance. In this presentation, Dr. Murphy introduces various sustainable investment strategies, presents evidence showing the relationship between social/environmental and financial performance, and explains tools that have been developed for evaluating sustainability performance.

Dr. Matt Murphy is an Associate Professor of Sustainability and Strategy at the University of Victoria's Gustavson School of Business where he has worked since 2012. He holds a Bachelors degree in International Business and Finance from the University of Texas at Austin, and Masters of Research in Management Sciences and a PhD in Management Science degrees from ESADE Business School in Barcelona, Spain. Prior to entering academia, Matt worked for 12 years in the financial services industry in roles related to international market development, strategic alliances, and project management. In 2008, he co-founded the social enterprise Proudly Made in Africa, a U.K. and Ireland-based non-profit organization, and served on its board of directors for 10 years.

Matt teaches Business and Sustainability in the MBA program at UVic. In 2016, he coached a team of MBA students who won the Business for a Better World case competition at the World Economic Forum, in Davos, Switzerland. The proponent of this competition, The Norwegian Government Pension Fund Global, asked competitors to design a Portfolio Management Plan that would achieve four key objectives:

- Minimize the carbon footprint of the fund;
- Reduce risks that might strand assets;
- Maximize returns and engagement impact with companies;
- Position the fund to thrive in and drive a world that does not exceed an average 2-degrees temperature increase.

Thurs, October 3 @ 7pm • “Environmental Violence: Trying to Understand, Confront, and Reduce our Damage” with Dr. Rick Kool, Professor of Environment and Sustainability, RRU



Using an analysis developed by Norwegian peace scholar Johan Galtung, I will examine three ways we are engaged in and help to facilitate environmental violence, and three approaches to reduce the environmental violence we are all, individually and communally, complicit in.

Rick Kool is founder of the MA in Environmental Education and Communication. He has published on the walking speed of dinosaurs, Northwest coast native whaling, museum exhibit design, ciliated protozoan development and the sex life of marine invertebrates. His current work relates to environmental education and how it confronts hope and despair, the potential role and place of religion in environmental education, and conceptions of change in environmental education and communication. Kool is active within the Victoria Holocaust Remembrance and Education Society and is a past president. He also plays the string bass.