

# THE NEW BRUNSWICK ANGLICAN



SERVING THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON

• A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL •

December 2012



**A**nd in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid: for behold I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign to you, you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host praising God and saying "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

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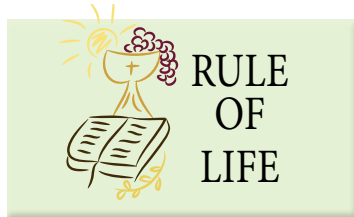
*Please join Archbishop Claude  
and Sharon Miller  
at the New Year Eucharist  
11 a.m., Jan. 1, 2012  
Christ Church Cathedral, Fredericton.  
A reception follows the service.*



## COMMENTARY

# Mothers' Union taught Adele the Rule of Life

*This is the third in a series of articles based on the Rule of Life from the Book of Common Prayer (page 555) and is an initiative of the Diocesan Spiritual Development Team. This month, Adele Knox, Diocesan Mothers' Union President, shares how her involvement with Mothers' Union helps her to live out the Rule of Life.*



who have a huge impact on the home lives of families. Initiatives like the "Bye Buy Childhood" [www.byebuychildhood.org](http://www.byebuychildhood.org) campaign, "Labeled for Life" and "Television watershed" support and help parents and caregivers to manage the influences of the commercial marketing world on children.

Mary Sumner House, the worldwide headquarters for Mothers' Union in London, England, is a buzz of activity — planning, reporting, meeting, Skypeing, travelling, climbing mountains and stairs — whatever it takes to get God's work done. And it is prayer focused always! The staff, and whoever wants to join them, stops each workday at noon to meet in the Chapel for noonday prayers. They pray for people around the world who will in turn pray at their noon hour. This covers the entire 24 hours of each day in prayers for one another following the worldwide "Wave of Prayer" which is done up on a yearly cycle. The Families First Mothers' Union Magazine, available in print or online, < <http://www.themothersunion.org/familiesfirst.aspx> > includes a Daily Prayer Diary as well as pamphlets to encourage parents and families grow closer to God and each other.

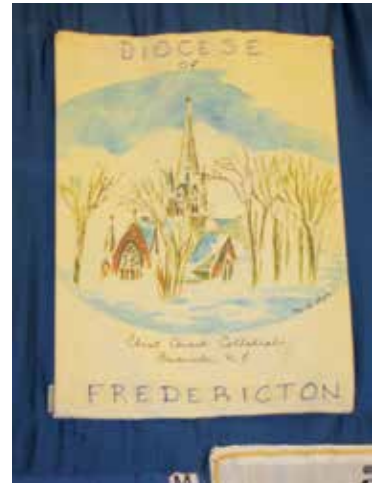
Funding for these programs come from members and outreach projects like the "Make a Mothers' Day Campaign." It is an ethical gift campaign focusing on Mothering Sunday in the UK and Mother's Day in Canada. The gifts are attractively displayed in a small catalogue and distributed by Mothers' Union members. All the money raised goes to finance global programs and there are no administrative costs.

Mothers' Union members believe that by sowing seeds of hope they create an opportunity in faith and believe the seeds will grow into something fruitful and

## Rule of Life

Every Christian man or woman should, from time to time, frame for himself/herself a RULE OF LIFE in accordance with the precepts of the Gospel and the faith and order of the Church; wherein he/she may consider the following:

- The regularity of his/her attendance at public worship and especially at the Holy Communion.
- The practice of private prayer, Bible-reading, and self-discipline.
- Bringing the teaching and example of Christ into his/her everyday life.
- The boldness of his/her spoken witness to his/her faith in Christ.
- His/her personal service to the Church and the community.
- The offering of money according to his/her means for the support of the work of the Church at home and overseas.



The Diocese of Fredericton square in the Mothers' Union quilt on display at Mary Sumner House in London, England. It was executed by Alice Kennedy of Hampton.

The Aim of the Mothers' Union Society is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life. In order to carry out its aim it established five objects.

- To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and promote its wider understanding.
- To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church.
- To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service.
- To promote conditions in society favorable to stable family life and the protection of children.
- To help those whose family life has met with adversity.

I already knew that the Mothers' Union Aims & Objects followed the Rule of Life but my recent trip to London, England whole-heartedly reinforced this knowledge.

The work that Mothers' Union does at the worldwide level had baffled me. Even though I knew some of it I still have a lot to learn about the fellowship, support and outreach that Mothers' Union does locally and internationally.

Working from the grassroots, Mothers' Union provides love and support for family life, enabling families to become more self sufficient within God's teachings. Mothers' Union workers offer literacy training, parenting groups and Loving for Life instruction that make a real and lasting impact on the lives of families in church, communities, prisons, nurseries and schools. They care for the people who are responsible for children, those who have the most important job of producing the next generation, for those

beautiful. Each member plants a seed, grows a seed and invites someone to become a member Mothers' Union so it will flourish.

Just as in the Rule of Life we, as Mothers' Union members, aim to be more God like. Belonging to Mothers' Union makes the Rule of Life easier for me as I have the support and encouragement of other members worldwide who are also striving to live by the Rule of Life.

In London I also received first-hand warmth and kindness from my billet family. It was a truly wonderful example of what Christ can do in a family when we invite him in! Why would we not want him to work through us to reflect his love to the world? Mind you, wanting and doing are difficult at times!

For more information and insight about Mothers' Union check out these websites: [www.mothersunionnb.ca](http://www.mothersunionnb.ca) [www.mothersunioncanada.nb](http://www.mothersunioncanada.nb) [www.mothersunioncanada.ca](http://www.mothersunioncanada.ca) [www.themothersunion.org](http://www.themothersunion.org)

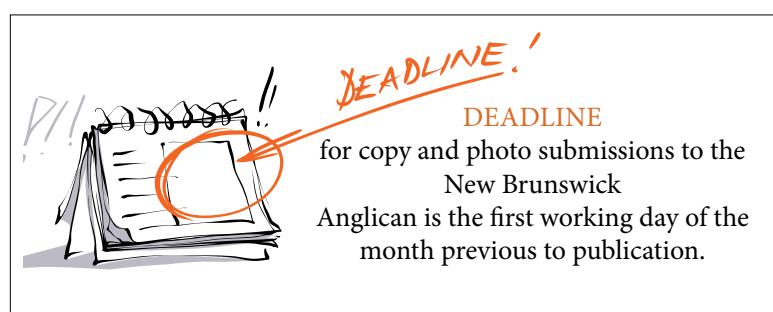
In the photo on the right is Adele Knox in front of the Mothers' Union quilt on display at Mary Sumner House in England.


*Adele Knox is Mothers' Union Diocesan President, she lives in Fredericton and worships at St. Mary's, York.*

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A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

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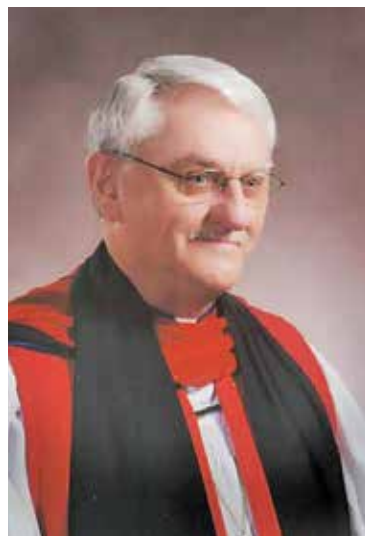
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THE BISHOP'S PAGE

# We serve one another, whatever our gifts

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. (1. Peter 4.10)*



about stewardship have to do with Advent and Christmas?" I would offer that the Advent and Christmas story — the story of the foretelling of coming of the Christ Child, being born in a manger, with shepherds coming to visit and kings following a star to find this infant child — is a story filled with stewardship messages.

In our life together over the past few months we have heard a great deal about stewardship. The Stewardship Team, in concert with the other teams and committees of Diocesan Council, has worked diligently in the encouragement of the faithful to see the giving of time, talent and treasure as a response in proportion to the generosity of God. The prayerful thrust of this focus has been an attempt to more fully understand how best to steward our perceived or real dwindling financial resources in the midst of ever increasing costs.

Amid the busyness of this season, if you should find yourself reading this short reflection, you might be asking "What has a message that begins by talking

We recall that throughout Jesus' life the main thrust of his teaching was to "give" and to "serve." God sent his Son into a hostile world in the most vulnerable of states; born to poor parents in a humble stable setting he lived his whole life without material possessions. Jesus the person needed assistance throughout his whole life, reminding humankind of our own need and weakness.

Yet, even in the midst of our own need and poverty, we all have gifts to give. The example of the shepherds' visitation reminds us that our interest, our time, our caring and our visit are all important gifts to give.

In the context of our relationship with God, the visit of the Wise Men reminds us of the necessity of worship and praise coupled with the bringing of gifts. Visitation, praise and gifts — Time, Talent and Treasure.

The *stewardship* seasons of

Advent and Christmas remind us of the *generosity* of God in giving us his Son. [John 3.16] God's self-giving act of love recognizes humanity's poverty and need can only be met by his reconciling love in the Christ Child. His love is entrusted to his body, the Church, so that "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, [we] serve one another with whatever gift each of [us] has received." (1. Peter 4.10) *May you always know the peace and joy of a giving heart of love.*

With Christmas blessings,



Archbishop Claude Miller is Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada and Bishop of Fredericton.

## BISHOP'S PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS

- Dec. 1  
Ordination 3 p.m.  
Christ Church Cathedral
- Dec. 2  
4 p.m. Advent Carol Service  
Christ Church Cathedral
- Dec. 16  
4 p.m. Christmas Carol Service  
Christ Church Cathedral
- Dec. 24  
11 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion  
Christ Church Cathedral
- Dec. 25  
11 a.m. Christmas Day Communion  
Christ Church Cathedral
- Jan. 1  
11 a.m. New Year Service  
Christ Church Cathedral
- Reception to follow the service.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Rev. Leo Martin of Saint John was installed as a Canon of Christ Church Cathedral on Nov. 24.
- The Reverends Kent Greer and Jonathan Springthorpe were ordained priests on Nov. 24 at Christ Church Cathedral.
- Wandlyn Snelgrove was ordained a transitional deacon at Christ Church Cathedral on Nov. 24.
- The Rev. Canon Jon Lounds will retire from active parish ministry in the Parish of St. Margaret's in Fredericton on Jan. 31, 2013.
- The Rev. Canon Wally Corey was re-appointed interim priest-in-charge of St. John's Stone Church (Parish of St. Mark) on Nov. 1.
- The Rev. Dr. David Mercer was appointed interim priest-in-charge of the Parish of St. Mary's York until the appointment of a new rector.

# God is stern and difficult — Santa is cute and generous

We're given disconcerting gospel words to begin the season of Advent. The Gospel of Luke brings a tension and a dis-ease to our worship just as we are about to cast our eyes towards the events of Bethlehem. (We are reminded of Bethlehem with every visit to a place of retail sales this month.) But in the midst of the disturbance, the crisis, the Christian hears good news.

The event upon which we focus in Advent is the coming of Jesus Christ. We're reminded that Bethlehem is only one chapter of God's story of salvation. The season of Advent properly reaches back into the promises of God through the prophets. The language and the images are many.

We hear the prophets verbalize the agonizing longing for the coming of the Lord, the head of the house of Israel, the Branch of Jesse, the Key of David, the Morning Star, the King of nations. "Save us!" they cry out. "Save us from this our trouble, sin and separation."

But at the same time, Advent points to the future — the ultimate fulfillment of God's plan. It's a time to remember the first coming of God's Son and it is also a time to voice our deepest conviction that the ultimate return of the Son is yet to come.

The ultimate return will, in many ways, mirror the initial ar-



FROM THE BISHOP'S ASSISTANT  
GEOFFREY HALL

rival of the child in Bethlehem. God's past, present and future promise is one of certainty. In the gospel our Lord's words exhort us with three certain realities: the certainty of crisis; the assurance of hope; and the weight of responsibility.

Jesus said there will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars ... distress among nations ... people will faint from fear and foreboding ... the powers of the heavens will be shaken ... (Luke 21:25-26)

Those are ominous words. Crisis is certain. But hope is assured. And we are responsible.

During the twelfth-month as a society and a culture we have, for quite some time, spent enormous energy and resources promoting Santa Claus. We visited a nearby city in late November one year and guess who was there? Santa Claus! Just days ago on American Thanksgiving Day, on American TV ... Santa Claus!

I'd always envied Americans for being able to hold off Christmas at least until Thanksgiving was over! But I think Mr. Claus is winning. The perceptions of

the world are more than just interesting.

I recently read a description of the difference between God and Santa Claus. It went:

\*God is an elderly man, or at any rate, a middle-aged male, a stern fellow, patriarchal rather than paternal and a great believer in rules and regulations. He holds people strictly accountable for their actions. He has little apparent concern for the material well being of the disadvantaged. He is politically connected, socially powerful and holds the mortgage on literally everything in the world. God is difficult. God is unsentimental. It's very hard to get into God's country club.

Santa Claus is another matter. He's cute. He's nonthreatening. He's always cheerful. And he absolutely loves animals. He may know who's been naughty and who's been nice but he never does anything about it. He gives everyone everything they want without thought of expecting anything in return. He works hard for charities and he's famously generous to the poor. Santa Claus is preferable to God in every way but one: you see there has been this rumor ... \* 1

The events of Bethlehem teach the same truths as those of the last coming of Christ. Christ forces a choice; every word and every action of Jesus' life draws

us into a personal crisis. Even in crisis, he both grants us his hope and calls us to hope. When all is said and done he refuses to allow us to keep him at arm's length. Rather, his words cut us to faith and obedience. As with Bethlehem, so also with the ultimate coming of God's Son. As important as Bethlehem is, as joyful as the first coming of Christ was when the answer to the longing of the prophets of old was received, there is yet another chapter for which we are invited to be co-authors. So go ahead, take up your pen and in what should be familiar words of this season ...

*Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. (Luke 25:28)*

\* From P. J. O'Rourke

**The Ven. Geoffrey Hall is Executive Assistant to the Bishop of Fredericton, Secretary of the Synod and Diocesan Archdeacon.**



O Come,  
O Come  
Emmanuel



## AROUND THE DIOCESE

# Finance chair needs accurate numbers

Nearly 200 clergy, wardens, treasurers and other leaders gathered to envision future funding

BY ANA WATTS

In order for the Diocesan Finance Committee to set a realistic budget for 2013, it must know how much money it can expect from the parishes, because parish contributions are by far the largest component of diocesan income. As a result, any parish unable to meet its assessment for 2013 (based on the frozen 2006 assessment) is asked to please contact the Finance Committee through the chair, Gil Carter, [cartersx@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:cartersx@nbnet.nb.ca) to tell him the amount the parish can pay, and include an explanation of the circumstances that stand in the way of the parish meeting its full commitment.

“We need that information now in order to set a realistic budget for the diocese,” Mr. Carter told the nearly 200 parish clergy, wardens, treasurers and other leaders gathered in Sussex on Oct. 27 for the daylong diocesan Funding Our Vision event. “We also need up-to-date statistics from every parish in order to plan. Right now we are unable to find reliable stats on many parishes. There are at least 20 parishes that didn’t report their statistics for 2011 — it’s pretty hard to do anything with stats like that. There was one parish that filed its statistics but listed their attendance as ranging from 1,500 to 2,000 each Sunday. It is difficult to manage without good information.”

The tragic death of Diocesan Treasurer Fred Scott in 2011, parish assessments frozen at 2006 levels, lack of income/attendance and other important statistics from the parishes, plus the move toward a popular



ANA WATTS

The Rev. Gerry Laskey (Parishes of Derby and Blackville) and Archbishop Claude Miller chat during Funding Our Vision, a leadership conference held in Sussex on Oct. 27.

American biblical approach to parish assessment called the 10-10-10 Solution, combined to obscure the diocese’s accurate financial picture over the past few years. Irene Adams, new diocesan treasurer, has everything up to the end of 2011 in focus now, but Mr. Carter wants some certainty about 2013 before his committee presents a budget to Diocesan Council for approval — hence the call for realistic projections and circumstances from the parishes. Knowing the reasons for financial problems is the first step toward their solution.

In recent years the diocese has made herculean efforts to inspire a sense of gratitude and stewardship in the life of our church. The teachings of retired Bishop Edward Salmon of North Carolina are well respected throughout North America. In the summer of 2007 he was in this diocese for the annual Clergy Conference held in Rothesay and also spoke to Diocesan Council on that trip. He returned later in the fall for an in-depth stewardship day in Sussex. His reputation preceded him and the enthusiastic crowd

taxed the seating capacity of Trinity Church. His message — always succinct and occasionally humorous — “throw Jesus in the soup” — was well received, video taped and widely shown in parish churches across the diocese on Sunday mornings for months following his visit.

One of the successful stewardship initiatives in North Carolina was the introduction of 10-10-10. Its teachings and examples inspired a significant number of people in the pews to give 10 per cent of their income to the parish. The parish forwarded 10 per cent of its income to the diocese; the diocese forwarded 10 per cent of its income to the national church. Theoretically it means more money at every level of the church for mission, ministry, programs, and practical support in several areas at the diocesan and national levels.

The Diocese of Fredericton Synod adopted this model in 2009. Parishes paying below 10 per cent at that time were to move toward tithing over next three years. Parishes paying above 10 per cent were asked to

maintain their levels while the rest of the parishes caught up.

Bishop Salmon also spoke of a building fund for congregational development. This diocese established Foundation for Life for that purpose.

Continuing education programs for lay and clergy leaders (Warden’s Day, Treasurer’s Day, Clergy College) programs to encourage lapsed Anglicans to return to church (Back to Church Sunday) were all offered as ways to show people how generous God is to us and understand how much of what we have is his. Assessments were frozen to help parishes catch-up in their pursuit of 10-10-10 but even with murky financials, it is clear the program is not thriving.

Some of the people gathered in Sussex agreed that 10-10-10 wasn’t working, but it isn’t dead — yet. With the new treasurer in place, better financial and statistical information from parishes forthcoming, and honest answers from parishes who cannot manage to meet their present assessments, perhaps 2013 will bring some good news, or at least the information necessary to pursue it.

## LIVING NATIVITY

A JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM



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This event is inspired by the excitement we have felt as we have discovered for ourselves the good news in God’s Word, and the desire we have to share the excitement with others. Come join us and witness this Blessed Event.

St. Margaret’s ACW  
Christmas Bazaar  
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11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.,  
Saturday, Dec. 8  
Adults \$9, children under 12, \$4



DIOCESAN INTEREST

# Harold and Edith Nutter 'home' for a visit

BY CAROLYN TURNEY

In late September, the Diocese enjoys a most welcome visit from Archbishop Harold and Mrs. Edith Nutter, who currently reside in Perth, Ontario. Many friends and former parishioners from throughout the Diocese either travelled to Fredericton to renew their acquaintance with the Nutters, or entertained them at various functions during their time with us.

Among the highlights of their trip to New Brunswick was a reception at Christ Church Cathedral in Fredericton where Harold served as both dean and bishop; and a day trip to Woodstock, where he was rector from 1951-1957. He and Edith received a very warm welcome and were treated to a scrumptious meal prepared by the 35 parish members who attended the celebration. The Rev. Shirley Noseworthy thanked the Nutters for taking time from their schedule to return to their former parish, and voiced the gratitude of all present for their years of commitment to the diocese.

The Nutters also spent some time in Prince Edward Island, Edith's girlhood home, and Moncton, where friends hosted them. It was a nostalgic visit for them, but an extremely rewarding one.

On a personal note, I believe the grandest highlight of the day in Woodstock was my remarkable driving. My husband Bill and I accompanied the Nutters to Woodstock. I drove them up the



“old” road so they could see the river and the developing fall colours. The best part of all — Harold didn't try to drive the car once, which is high praise. for my driving indeed

In the photo above, Canon Elaine Hamilton greets Archbishop Nutter while her husband Brian, left, the Rev. Stephen McCombe and Richard Waugh look on.

On the right Archbishop Nutter and Betty Galey catch up and Edith Nutter greets Canon Bill MacMullin.



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# Seeking the Light in Advent and Christmas with Merton College and Jeremy Camp

Every year at this time there are two decisions a music reviewer has to make: traditional or modern; Advent, or Christmas? As music styles and preferences are intensely personal, especially when it comes to the music we listen to at this time of year, I have sought to deal with both sides of both questions, with a short review of two new albums — \*Advent at Merton and \*Christmas: God With Us.

Anytime an album of strictly Advent-themed music is released, it is something of a big deal, and not just for those who draw strict lines between this season and Christmas. Too many groups seem to think it necessary to add a touch of Christmas, perhaps in hope yet another version of “Silent Night” will help sell a few more copies. Many thanks to the choir of Merton College for not suc-



cumbing to that temptation. Not only is \*Advent at Merton filled with strictly Advent music, it is primarily recently composed by some of the most respected choral composers of our time — James MacMilan, John Tavner, Cecilia McDowall, and others. Of particular interest is the all-new setting of the Great O Antiphons of Advent, each original composer tackled by a different contemporary one. The choral timbres achieved are unique, particularly the setting of “O Oriens” by McDowall. “Hauntingly beautiful” may sound trite, but it is perfect in this case. And I really enjoyed the new hymn “Drop Down

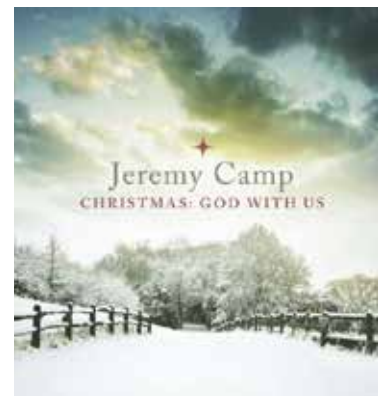
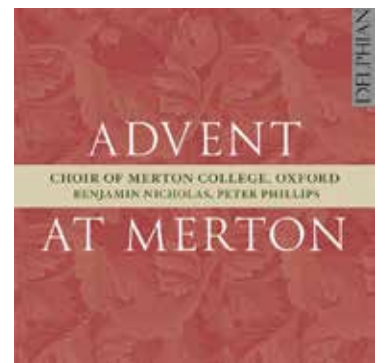
Ye Heavens, From Above,” by Judith Weir, based on Isaiah 45:8. The setting for “Ecce Virgo concipiet” (“Behold, a Virgin Shall Conceive”) by William Byrd (not a current composer since he has been dead since 1623!) is simply gorgeous. This album is a must-have for lovers of choral music, and especially for those who appreciate choral music with such strong Advent themes. Find it on iTunes, Amazon Music elsewhere on line.

If modern popular music artists doing their own versions of traditional Christmas carols appeals to you, look no further than the Jeremy Camp’s latest Christmas release \* Christmas: God With Us. This is a collection of well-known Christmas songs and carols recorded by countless artists over the years. Camp’s distinctive voice and an almost ceaseless driving kick drum provide very crisp and en-

ergetic renditions of what might otherwise be ho-hum selections. Many of these songs really stand out.

The first half of the album could be mistaken for a holiday party disc, but the tempo slows down later. Sadly many versions seem hastily arranged, but “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” has an interesting groove. Camp’s original piece “God With Us” receives an acoustic treatment on this album, and it is very tastefully done. Other seasonal favourites like “Let It Snow” and “Jingle Bell Rock” really display Camp energy, and enthusiasm. If you are into new, pop versions of traditional Christmas music, this is one of the best collections in a market that is always clogged at this time of year.

In the end, whatever your taste, music is an integral part of the life of the Church, especially during the high seasons, and music is certainly a vital part of



Advent and Christmas.

So, listen to a lot, enjoy a lot, and most of all — sing a lot!

*The Rev. Chris Hayes is a musician and priest-in-charge of the Parish of Salisbury and Havelock.*

## JOINT SERVICE



The Revs. Valerie and Karman Hunt, who ministered in the parishes of Gagetown and Cambridge-Waterborough recently joined members of both parishes at a joint service at Camp Medley in October. Arnold Norwood was one of the many, many parishioners happy to see them.

Valerie Hunt preached at the service and said our local and global denomination helps us to be Christ’s Church in the world and personally believes God works through the Anglican Communion — its richness, reason, apostolic traditions, sacraments, teaching and mission.

“As Christians, Christ calls us to come together, to pull down the walls that divide Christian from Christian ... to understand God is bigger than any creed or institution or individual.” She said our diocese and the Anglican Communion in general is looking for more effective ways to be Church in today’s world.

She asked them to pray for these endeavours and that the outcome is God’s will for his Church in our world today and that it may mean “being” Church in a different way from what we have known.

## WELCOME BOB



The people of the Parish of Wicklow, Wilmot, Peel and Aberdeen as well as members of the greater Florenceville community, entertained the Rev. Bob LeBlanc at a meet and greet shortly before he was inducted as priest-in-charge by his wife, the Ven. Bonnie LeBlanc, Archdeacon of Woodstock. Receptions on both occasions (the welcome and the induction) featured beautiful cakes made by 92-year-old parishioner Jean Cullins seen here between the LeBlancs.

## ECUMENICAL SONGFEST



The Parish of Stanley’s embrace of the ecumenical movement recently included a Harvest Songfest with an ecumenical choir. The event was under the direction of the Rev. Fr Aaron Knox of St. Patrick’s Church who welcomed everyone to his harvest-decorated church. Proceeds were in support of Just Friend Food Bank. The Rev. Wendy Amos Binks of St. Thomas Anglican Church was thrilled to be a part of the second ecumenical function and hopes the choir members will continue to sing together.



C O L U M N

## ‘Sir, we would see Jesus’

**A**t university I was the proud owner of a poster, a cartoon of a nondescript ape sitting and hitting himself on the head with a hammer. On it was written “Sometimes I sit and think and sometimes I just sit.”

During the past few weeks I have been thinking. The question I have been ruminating is: What am I missing? During the last 12 months I have visited all corners of the diocese and have seen many of us faithfully worshipping God week-by-week and serving our communities as we are able; yet we are making little headway in bringing people to faith in Jesus and joining us for worship — or vice versa.

As I walked along Princess Street in Saint John the other day I was struck by a new thought. In John 12:21 Philip is approached by some Greeks with a request: “Sir, we would see Jesus.”

That is what I was missing!

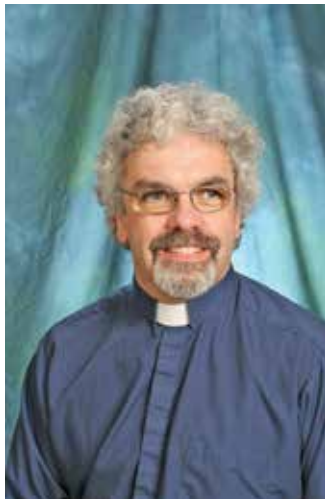
People want to see Jesus., in fact they not only want to see Jesus they need to see him, as we all do. The question then becomes: How can that happen?

**T**his time before Christmas is for contemplation, a good time to consider how we can help ourselves and others see Jesus. In his life on earth Jesus enabled us to see God and he left his body, the church, here on earth to allow people and communities to see him. To use the seasonal word, we the church are to be the “incarnation” of Jesus in the world around us.

So what should we look like?

Selfless is a start. Jesus gave up the joys of heaven to “pitch his tent” (John 1: 14) among us. Selflessness is a giving of our all in response to God who gave all. It is not an easy task. And for those who have been given much — talent, intellect, organizational ability, compassion, you name it, it all comes from God —much is expected.

Too easily I want to say: “You should come to church.”



David Edwards  
Parish Development Officer

The answer is often another question. “Why?”

When I say church, they see a building. When I say church, they see something irrelevant, if they see anything at all.

My answer to the why question should be: “Within the church you will catch a glimpse of Jesus and he will point you towards the indescribable love of God. You will find your place, begin to explore what it really means to be human, perhaps work toward an understanding of your role in creation. You will find meaning and the ability to carry the love of Jesus into your city, town, village and family. You will make a difference when others see God working in their streets.

“Oh David” I hear you say, “that is just beyond us, you are suggesting something that is so idealistic it cannot happen.”

All I can say is in my 25 years of ministry I have learned only a few important things and one of them is — however faltering our lives are, we must choose life over death. When we do, we find God has gone ahead.

So this Christmas time think about two things. How do we show Jesus to people? How do we get out of the way in order that they may see him more clearly?

*Archdeacon David Edwards is Parish Development Officer for the Diocese of Fredericton.*

## CONFIRMATION



Archbishop Claude Miller confirmed six young people in the Parish of Pennfield at the end of October. From left to right they are Zackary Hanley, Brooke Russell, Lauryn Justason, Abigail Dykeman, Abigail Henry and Michelle Wells. Behind them are the archbishop and the Rev. Canon Keith Osborne, rector.



## Christmas Greetings

Members of the Diocesan Archives Committee extend to all readers of *The Archives Corner* our very best wishes for a happy and blessed Christmas

The Ven. David Barrett  
Twila Buttmer  
Charles Ferris  
The Rev. Arnold Godsoe  
The Ven. Geoffrey Hall  
Frank Morehouse  
Mary Robinson



## YOUTH

## Newly graduating/graduated? What's next?

### *The Josie Project— enlivening the spirit, leading the way*

If you are 19 to 30 years old, newly graduated or about to graduate with a post-secondary degree or diploma but not sure of where the Holy Spirit is leading you or how to get there — the Josie Project may be for you. This proposed project provides participants with a salary and work experience in social and human service careers while they learn and use interpersonal, project and leadership skills, build their resumes for future long term employment.

Based on the Episcopal Service Corp, a long-running discernment program of the Episcopal Church of the United States, participants spend time in spiritual direction and theological reflection to aid in discernment of the vocation they are being called to by God.

Participants are active members of two Anglican Parishes, All Saints and Christ Church, in the eastern end of the Fraser Valley of British Columbia. The parishes locate suitable housing and employment as well as link participants with the local community.

More information and an extensive application form can be found on All Saints' website [www.allsaints-agassiz.ca](http://www.allsaints-agassiz.ca) in early January of 2013. Interviews will be conducted via Skype with short-listed candidates. After further interviews the participants will be selected in April/May 2013.

This project values diversity and welcomes applicants from all backgrounds, race, gender, sexual orientation and economic levels, although preference will be given to Anglicans and Lutherans.

Insurance and medical coverage restricts participation to Canadian citizens.

## I'm curious George ... Why do you say God is the 'transcendental Interferer?'

[Part 1]

Actually this phrase isn't original with me. In his autobiographical writing, \*Surprised by Joy, C S Lewis referred to God as the 'transcendental Interferer.' This was his way of expressing the reality that if one truly believes in the good news of the Word of God made flesh in the incarnation as Jesus, the naked love of God exposed in the cross of Jesus and the undefeated mission of God in the resurrection of Jesus — life can't simply go on as usual.

Both Hebrew and Christian scriptures are infused with this message: God can't be tacked on to life as one more thing as we go about the business of living, nor can encounter with God be confined to some imaginary "religious compartment" or "spiritual box" — not even a church-shaped box. If God is truly God, believing has implications for all of life. There is truth in the worn maxim that says "God loves us as we are but doesn't leave us as we are." "Believing" involves "believing."

One time when I was co-leading a youth group in a northern Ontario community, a mother came to see me about her son. This young teen was headed down a familiar path of alcohol and drug abuse. She wanted me to talk to him and somehow get him back on what she considered the right road. She wanted what most parents whose children wander astray want: she wanted the innocent, happy and healthy child she'd known back again; she wanted him to be "safe." Could I please talk with him?

What she was expecting was for me to approach the boy with what youth workers often refer to as Moral Thera-



YOUTH  
COORDINATOR  
GEORGE PORTER

peutic Deism.\* While I sympathise with those aching parental desires, my vocation has a slightly different objective. My response to her was: "Sure, I can talk to him, but you need to know that I could ruin his life." The rather shocked mother asked what I meant, and I came back to the "transcendental Interferer" — to the God who loves us enough to interfere in our lives.

The problem is that God doesn't really seem interested in just taking us back to the good old days of what was. God seems always to be the God who is doing a new thing. God seems more interested in moving us onward toward real wholeness and maturity and deeper into the heart of God's love for the world. God seems always calling us to engage in God's mission of salvation (forgiveness of sin, healing of what has been broken, restoration of all creation, the righting of all relationships).

My sense of my vocation is not somehow to make young people 'nice' or 'good kids.' I believe I am called — I believe that we are called — to walk with young people as they discover where and how God is interfering in their lives. It's a journey we take together which is neither safe nor convenient.

\*More about MTD another time.

*The Rev. Canon George Porter, DPhil, is Canon for Youth and director of youth action for the Diocese of Fredericton.*

### FUNDS RAISED MATCHED DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR



ANNE WALLING

Inspired by a visit from Bobby Hayes and the Joshua Group from Saint John, the youth group at Central Kings is raising funds for this group that helps children at risk. Youth leaders Amy and Reagan Hoyt invited all the seniors in the parish to a noon luncheon that brought together friends and neighbours who had not seen each other for some time. It was a great time to catch up on the news and meet a member of the emerging generation. The youth also held a breakfast in late November. A generous contributor matched all the funds raised for the Joshua Group in November dollar-for-dollar (up to \$20,000).

## A celebration of girlhood

God created girls as beautiful and gave them the power to do great things. Girls from grades six through nine are invited to celebrate their beauty, power and relationship with Christ through activities and discussions related to self-esteem, relationships and empowerment.

They will gather at Cathedral Memorial Hall on Church Street in Fredericton on Jan. 26 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. for worship, music, prayer, testimony.

Snacks, lunch and supper are included in the \$20 registration fee. Sign up through Layra Pyne.

<laura.a.pyne at gmail.com>



Up-to-date information about youth ministries

- [nbay.ca](http://nbay.ca)
- Youth Leaders  
<[facebook.com/groups/273243022758492/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/273243022758492/)>
- Youth Action Director at the Synod Office  
<[george.porter at anglican.nb.ca](mailto:george.porter@anglican.nb.ca)>  
506-459-1981.

"Remember now the Creator  
in the days of your youth..." —Ecclesiastes 12:1

# emergent

