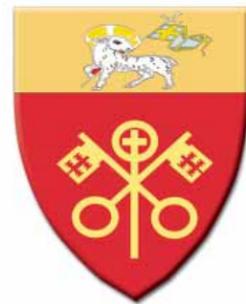


# THE NEW BRUNSWICK ANGLICAN



A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

MARCH 2009

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON

## New deacons a blessing to church and community

BY ANA WATTS

The Feb. 1 service at Christ Church Cathedral in Fredericton that celebrated the ordination of Debra Edmondson and Eleanor Dryden to the Vocational Diaconate belonged to these women. Their families, friends and the Anglican community rejoiced with them as Bishop Claude Miller consecrated them to the servant ministry of the deacon — a ministry of love in their parishes and communities.

Debra and Eleanor chose the servant ministry of a deacon as a vocation of its own, not as a stepping-stone to the priesthood. (The transitional diaconate is a step in the ordination of a priest.) Like priests, deacons are recognized and raised-up in their own parishes — the Parish of Bright in Debra's case. Eleanor is from the Parish of the Nerepis and St. John.

Deacons provide a connection and care for people in the parish and the community. Priests are appointed to several different parishes throughout their ministry, but deacons, by and large, remain in the parish in

which they begin their discernment journey. They are a source of stability and pastoral care. Most are non-stipendiary (they receive no remuneration) and work in their home parishes with the priest. The Rev. Deacon Constance Whittaker-Soulkias of the Parish of Saint John (Trinity Church), and the Rev. Deacon Joyce Perry of the Parish of Fredericton (Christ Church Parish Church) fulfil that role.

The Rev. Deacon Fran Bedell has a ministry different from the usual deacon's role. She is deacon-in-charge of the St. John the Baptist Anglican and St. Paul's United shared ministry in Edmundston (Parish of Madawaska). She provides pastoral care and a visible connection to the larger church. She also ensures the work of the church in the community is done.

With their deep roots in the communities and church in which they live and serve, the Rev. Deacon Debra Edmondson and the Rev. Deacon Eleanor Dryden are blessings indeed.



Following ordination to the diaconate on Feb. 1 are, left to right: Canon John Sharpe, Parish of Bright; the Ven. Geoffrey Hall, Archdeacon of Fredericton; the Rev. Deacon Debra Edmondson; Bishop Claude Miller; the Rev. Deacon Eleanor Dryden; the Rev. Deacon Fran Bedell of Madawaska; the Rev. Don Trivett, Parish of the Nerepis and St. John; and the Ven. Vicars Hodge, Parish of the Nerepis and St. John and Archdeacon of St. Andrews.

## Struggling parishes need help now

BY JIM MORELL

Are you committed to the future of the Anglican Church in New Brunswick? Are you interested in facilitator training to enable you to help guide struggling parishes through a process of self-assessment that leads to positive change and growth? Do you know anyone else who loves the Anglican Church enough to accept this important challenge? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please contact Hazel MacKenzie, chair of the Parish Support and Development Team (PSDT) of Diocesan Council at 506/327-6726 or <mhmack at nbnet.nb.ca>.

Troubling trends — like decreasing Sunday attendance, aging congregations, the absence of many children and young people, poor communication, decreased income and increased operational costs — make it clear our church faces very serious problems with long-term implications for both the parishes and the diocese. Some parishes could well disappear within a few years unless some

of these trends are reversed. The need for help is real and immediate.

The PSDT is convinced the impetus for growth and change has to start at the parish level. In order for that to happen, it is important to identify and train capable facilitators to act as outside resources. Its members are convinced that leaders — with the knowledge, skills and experience to help parishes wrestle with the challenges of growth, visioning, cooperation and communication — dwell among us.

The findings, resolutions and recommendations from the task forces on rural and struggling parishes and the budget support struck following Synod 2007 will address these challenges and are on the Synod 2009 agenda. But the PSDT wants to get to the business of helping parishes now, by working toward the mobilization of diocesan resources — both human and financial — in support of parishes wishing to grow numerically, financially and spiritually.

The task force on rural and struggling parishes found that most of the 85 parishes in the Diocese of Fredericton, regardless of their location, are struggling in one way or another. Clergy and lay leaders are worried about the health and future of their congregations, parishes and the diocese. They need both support and guidance as they try to maintain their presence and grow their ministries in times of economic and social uncertainty as well as spiritual confusion.

At Warden's Day last November, PSDT got the same urgent message. It offered parish leaders a list of 21 areas of concern and asked them to choose the ones they needed help to tackle. Congregational growth, parish visioning and planning, spiritual growth and learning, proactive parish communication, and cooperation with other parishes were at the top of the list.

The planning study prepared by the Letting Down the Nets (LDTN) initiative of General See Volunteer on page 2.

## New vice-chair for Diocesan Council

Bishop Claude Miller nominated Hazel MacKenzie as vice-chair of Diocesan Council at a meeting of that body on Jan. 17. She was duly elected by council and replaces Chris Waldschutz of Saint John, who resigned from the position in December. She will serve the remainder of the current council term. New members will be elected and appointed at Diocesan Synod in June.

Mrs. MacKenzie retains her position as chair of the active Parish Support and Development Team of council and member of the diocesan nominating committee. She automatically became a member of the Diocesan Council Executive Committee when she was elected vice-chair.

She is active in her home Parish of Minto and Chipman and also serves as a diocesan layreader.



## Generosity of New Brunswick Anglicans appreciated

Thanks to the generosity of 554 New Brunswick Anglicans, this newspaper netted nearly \$7,500 from the 2008 Anglican Journal Appeal. The amount is third highest in the history of the fund.

"The consistent support of the New Brunswick Anglican through the annual Journal Appeal is sincerely appreciated. It is an essential component of our annual budget," says editor Ana Watts. "As effective as our electronic communication tools are, the vast majority of New Brunswick Anglicans continue to

See Local on page 2

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## DIOCESAN NEWS

## Parish nursing program offered again

A second Basic Parish Nurse Education Program will commence in September. New Brunswick Parish Nursing Ministries (NBPNNM) will offer the two-year program through until November 2011.

Registered nurses, clergy and congregational members of Christian churches are invited to participate in the program as they work toward establishing a health ministry with a Parish Nurse Coordinator.

NBPNNM is affiliated with the International Parish Nurse Resource Center (IPNRC) in St. Louis, Missouri and continues to collaborate with Inter-Church Health Ministries (ICHM) of Ontario.

To register and for further information, contact Sr. Ernestine LaPlante, Theological Director, NBPNNM, at <ernlapl@nb.sympatico.ca> or (506) 548-8505.

A minimum of six churches is required for a successful program. If sufficient numbers are not confirmed by July 1, 2009, NBPNNM reserves the right to delay the program.

## Local and national papers share donations

Continued from page 1

rely on the newspaper for diocesan news and to learn about their fellow Anglicans."

The Journal Appeal is launched in September of each year. Donations made to Journal are shared equally with the national newspaper. This year the *New Brunswick Anglican* and the *Anglican Journal* each netted \$7,144.01.

## Volunteer impact can be world wide

Continued from page 1

Synod also identified many of the same challenges in our parish and diocese and recognized the need for help.

In the coming months and years, those who volunteer to take on these challenges in our diocese have a unique opportunity to make a difference here and, by

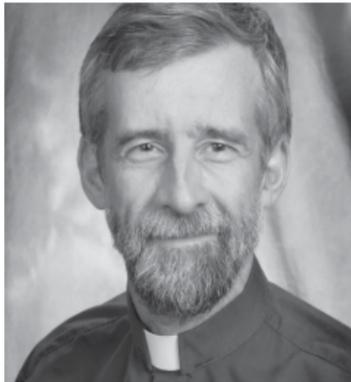
# Water sustains our bodies and souls

BY KEITH OSBORNE

The clean water motion (see inset below) passed by Synod 2007 seemed like a daunting task for the Mission and Outreach Team to tackle. We are often stymied as to how to address such huge issues. But in this area of the world, where most of us take clean water for granted, we must heed the warnings that the earth's supply of water is limited and that it is susceptible to human activity and neglect.

With the help of Diocesan Council we came up with some suggestions to encourage us all to do our part to preserve this sacred resource.

We encourage clergy to emphasize the sacred value of this resource in the context of Sunday worship and in their preaching. When the water is brought forward for the Eucharist, we must focus our attention on the presence of this sacred resource. Not only does it sustain life, it is a crucial element of the Eucharistic



mystery that sustains our souls.

We should also focus our attention on the ministries of KAIROS and the PWRDF as they work for social justice and the protection of the resources of our planet.

We should broaden our awareness of the challenges around us. Areas of our own province are in danger of losing their water supply or of having it tainted by industry. So it is that we must cultivate a spirit of gratitude in the minds of our

people, and a renewed resolve to conserve and protect water in any way we can.

When we avoid the use of bottled water we reduce the vast number of plastic bottles that overburden our landfills.

Heating oil tanks in churches, halls, rectories, even our own homes, should be regularly inspected and maintained to prevent spills caused by rust and corrosion. Such catastrophic occurrences are not unheard of in this diocese.

Let us all then, with a more firm resolve, seek to cultivate a

spirit of gratitude and allow that spirit to be translated into action. Perhaps we might collectively petition government agencies to raise awareness of the need for more responsible care for our God-given world.

Many individuals banded together can effect change. As individuals, families and congregations we can make a difference.

*The Rev. Capt. Keith Osborne is rector of the Parish of Pennfield and chair of the Mission and Outreach team of Diocesan Council.*

### Clean Water Motion from Synod 2007

Be it resolved that this Synod recognize and affirm that:

- \* water is a sacred gift that connects all life;
- \* access to clean water is a basic human right;
- \* the value of Earth's fresh water to the common good takes priority over any possible commercial value;
- \* fresh water is a sacred legacy, a public trust, and a collective responsibility.

## Integrity Fredericton finds a welcoming worship space

The Integrity Fredericton annual report announced its members now gather for the Eucharist and fellowship at the Unitarian Fellowship Centre in Fredericton on the third Sunday of each month.

The group ministers predominantly to non-heterosexuals who seek spiritual guidance and support within the Anglican tradition, and has been unable to find a welcoming Anglican church in the city.

For several years the group worshipped at St. John's in Oromocto, but since most of its

members live in Fredericton a city church was sought. According to the Rev. David Staples, outgoing chair of the group and the author of the group's annual report, a presentation to the Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral during 2008 resulted in support for Integrity's bid to use the Cathedral facilities, but it did not result in an invitation.

Integrity's third Sunday of the month Eucharist is celebrated at 4 p.m. at the Unitarian Fellowship Centre, 874 York Street.

The highlight of Integrity's 2008 activities was a fall symposium on human sexuality that attracted about 65 participants. Local and national expert facilitators addressed the scriptural understanding of sexuality, the logistics of human sexuality in Canadian society, the Canadian Anglican journey regarding sexuality, and pastoral experience in ministering to the non-heterosexual community. Bishop Claude Miller outlined the diocesan position on sexual matters.

"The goal of the symposium was to affirm non-heterosexual people and help the skeptics in the diocese to reach a greater understanding of the spiritual and emotional needs of all men and women, regardless of their sexual orientation," said Mr. Staples.

Integrity Fredericton members also attended the inaugural Eucharist of Integrity Saint John and hopes to work with that group to host an Integrity information table at diocesan synod to be held in Saint John June 4-6.

## Clergy Spouse's Retreat at Villa Madonna focuses on Jesus — The Way, the Truth and the Light

Patricia McCaig of Markhamville is "a woman with a lively faith that shows on her face." At least that is the way Rosemary Moorehead of the Clergy Spouse Retreat committee describes her. Patricia is the featured speaker

at this year's Clergy Spouses Retreat at Villa Madonna and her theme is — Jesus: The Way, the Truth and the Light. The retreat runs from April 21 - 23

and all clergy wives and husbands are welcome to attend. For further information

contact Rosemary Morehouse in Sussex at 506-433-6304.



**DEADLINE**  
for copy and photo submissions to the New Brunswick Anglican is the first working day of the month previous to publication.

Find more on the web

Report of the Task Force on Rural & Struggling Parishes:  
[http://anglican.nb.ca/synod/council/090212\\_rural\\_struggling\\_parishes\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://anglican.nb.ca/synod/council/090212_rural_struggling_parishes_final_report.pdf)  
Report of the Task Force on Budget Support  
[http://anglican.nb.ca/synod/council/090113\\_budget\\_support\\_task\\_force\\_report.pdf](http://anglican.nb.ca/synod/council/090113_budget_support_task_force_report.pdf)  
National Church Stewardship Planning Study  
[http://anglican.nb.ca/synod/council/0901\\_gs\\_planning\\_study\\_report\\_final.pdf](http://anglican.nb.ca/synod/council/0901_gs_planning_study_report_final.pdf)  
Story on national planning study  
[http://anglican.nb.ca/fp\\_archives/090120/national\\_study\\_finds\\_crisis.html](http://anglican.nb.ca/fp_archives/090120/national_study_finds_crisis.html)

THE NEW BRUNSWICK

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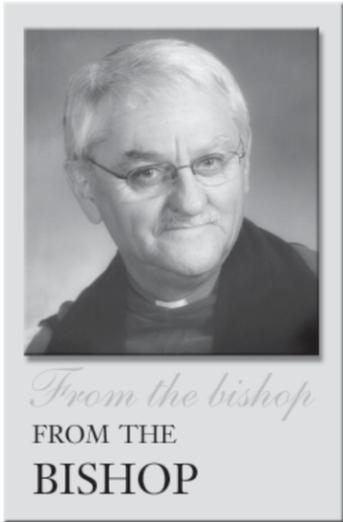
## THE BISHOP'S PAGE

## Lord, let me be known by my generosity

Over the past weeks many parishes have shared with me the good news of balanced budgets. From clergy, wardens, treasurers, parishioners I have heard comments like: We never expected that all the bills would get paid and there would even be a small surplus! If we can just keep the momentum going maybe next year will be even better.

I can't help but wonder to what end.

Since our synod in 2007 we have done a great deal of work on issues raised there. The Budget Support Task Force held meeting after meeting and worked hard to develop an effective and equitable model for parish contributions to our annual diocesan budget. The Task Force on Rural and Struggling Parishes consulted very widely around the diocese and produced a wide-ranging report to present to synod that offers ways in which we can effectively respond to the realities of demographic, economic and cultural changes and challenges that precipitate reduced church attendance. Our General Synod partners are anxious to help us develop a plan for stewardship education and congregational development. These reports



have already been presented to me and are all available on the diocesan website (<http://anglican.nb.ca>). They will be presented to Diocesan Council at its March 18 meeting and to our 130th Diocesan Synod in Saint John June 4-6.

It occurred to me, after reading these surveys and reports, that their dialogues and conversations define our diocese in negative terms. The majority of the comments and recommendations coming out of this work posit that we are lacking in leadership, Anglican identity and financial development to name a few. The consultants from General

Synod went so far as to say we are in crisis. Of course all these documents go on to recommend short and long-term solutions to our problems in order that we may overcome our many deficits. I can't help but wonder, though, will they cure us of our anxieties, fears and a propensity to dwell on the negative?"

Ours is a society defined by excesses. The abundance of "stuff" that fills our homes is a sober reminder of that fact. Even as we choose what to put in the next yard sale we long for more — as if more might satisfy us, take us closer to perfection, dispel our fears. When the rich young man asked Jesus "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus replied "If you would be perfect go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, then you will have treasure in Heaven. Come, follow me."

If I read Jesus' words correctly, as his follower I ought to be defined by what I give, not by what I lack or desire. I may have little or I may have a great deal but Lord, "let me be known by my generosity ... a generosity that reflects your abundant love." The season of Lent offers us time for individual and

corporate reflection on our human condition in a society of excess. The journey to the Cross calls us to a journey leading to change as in self-denial and self-giving.

How wonderful it would be if we could truly celebrate God's self-giving generosity to his honour and glory. How wonderful it would be to be defined by our giving and generosity and not by our perceived needs. Our prayers, as we journey to the Cross and the new life promise of Easter, are for a spirit of celebration and thanksgiving for God's providence. It enables us to know the joy of following Jesus instead of the road of sadness and despair.

With every blessing,

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Claude Miller is Bishop of Fredericton

## PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS

Early March  
The bishop recovering from knee surgery

March 28, 4 p.m.  
Christ Church Cathedral  
Ordination to priesthood  
Dick Black  
Michael Caines  
Jasmine Chandra  
Kevin Cross

## Episcopal Announcements

Anne Walling of Bloomfield was appointed diocesan coordinator of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund for a three-year term beginning in January.

The Rev. Dr. Ranall Ingalls is appointed rector of the Parish of Saint John (Trinity Church), effective June 1, 2009.

The Rev. Amanda Longmoore was appointed priest-in-charge, on a part-time basis, of the Parish of Tobique on Feb. 15. She leaves the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

The Rev. Bonnie LeBlanc is appointed priest-in-charge of the Parish of Andover, effective May 1. The Rev. Robert LeBlanc is appointed priest-in-charge, on a part-time basis, of the parishes of Denmark, Grand Falls and Madawaska, effective May 1.

## Skipper needs soft breezes, sunshine, view of the big picture

Return to Tomorrow, a season-two episode of *Star Trek the Original Series*, sees Captain Kirk in the briefing room with the Enterprise senior officers. A risky decision is before Kirk and he is in consultation. He says: "I'm in command. I could order this but I won't because Doctor McCoy is right in pointing out the enormous potential danger in any contact with life and intelligence as fantastically advanced as this. But I must point out that the possibilities — the potential for knowledge and advancement — is equally great. Risk. Risk is our business. That's what the starship is all about."

In the church many members believe leadership is more or less a slam-dunk, cut and dried, black and white. The bishop is the person in command. If something goes right, it shines well on us all. If anything goes wrong, it must be the commander's fault. Anyone in a leadership position will quickly acknowledge that "control" is seldom experienced, at least far less often than most would assume.

We sometimes like to think of the church as a ship, fully equipped with a captain, crew and deck hands. The image is convenient, orderly and easily conceived. If we were to



A View from the Synod Office

position the bishop on this church-ship, most of us would see the episcopal officer as the person at the helm, steering the ship. If the ship is going in a difficult direction, it's obviously the captain's fault. After all, the one steering must be deciding where we all go. Those who have done any sailing will affirm that the wind seems to blow hardest on the deck and the boat leans the most when the bow is brought into the wind (a tack), and the distance covered is significant.

I think bishops spend more time in the crow's nest or the bosun's chair than at the wheel. From the top of the mast it's possible to see the clouds forming on the horizon foretelling a coming storm. From there nautical traffic is also visible and it is possible to

make navigational decisions based on the big picture view. From "the top" the world of the ship looks like a different place and the whoever is up there has the big picture advantage.

So it is with bishops. Even knowing that the ship is headed the wrong way, often the best that can be done is to bellow the warning and hope the crew and helms-person of the moment take heed. The crow's nest can be a helpless place, where the sun shines brightest and all the weather batters with full force. From the point of view of the church-ship's membership, the orders may sound unproductive, even absurd. On the deck we all believe we know exactly the right course for the ship to take and we long to take the helm.

Even in the midst of a crisis, when the tiller is set and the sails are trimmed to bring smooth and productive sailing, the wind can suddenly change. Even though with adequate skill and experience the ship will often reach the intended destination, any captain will admit it's all "in the wind."

The church in these days often encounters rough seas and heavy weather. When the boat heels over the one in the crow's nest feels it first. There is a risk in setting sail and

most of the decisions during the journey are exercises in risk-taking. Most bishops who find themselves in this unique Anglican Church of ours — "episcopally lead and synodically governed" — see the huge potential that exists when the followers choose to come on board and have full knowledge of the risk. Stepping out in faith is "our business." That's what the church is all about.

We all have a secret, or perhaps a not so secret, vision of peace — warm soft breezes and never-ending sunshine. Christians call it Heaven. The church is headed there but there's sailing to do before we arrive. Can we bring ourselves to depend on the advice and direction we receive from the one with the big picture? Can we resist grabbing at the wheel when, from our perspective, we're not headed in the right direction? Can we all have the faith to know that ultimately the Maker-of-the-Wind will take us all, including the ship itself, where we need to go?

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

## Prayer for Synod

June 4-6

Trade & Convention Centre  
Saint John

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding: be present with those who take counsel at Diocesan Synod in Saint John in June 2009 for the renewal and mission of our parishes, diocese and your Church in this place and beyond.

As your disciples, teach us in all things to seek first your kingdom to your honour and glory. Guide us to what is right and grant us both the courage and patience to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

## PARISH NEWS

## THE JOURNEY BEGINS



Layreaders in the Parish of Bathurst take an active role in worship in their own parish as well as in vacant parishes in the area. Their rector, the Rev. Rod Black, appreciates their help and support. Recently two of Bathurst's six layreaders stepped down, their absence was felt. Three women in the parish answered the call to lay ministry and were welcomed with open arms and heart by Mr. Black. They have begun training in the parish and he feels with the help of the new Layreaders Handbook and the layreader training sessions offered at the archdeanery and diocesan levels, they will soon recognize what an awesome ministry they have undertaken. He also predicts their own spiritual growth will bring them closer to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Left to right above are Mr. Black and new layreaders Susan Black, Peggy Sproul and Wanetta Walls.

## Men inspired by humour and humility at prayer breakfast

BY BOB BRITAIN

Bruce Smith of Hockey Ministries International, shared his personal witness at the fourth annual Men's Prayer Breakfast at the Church of the Good Shepherd in January. In a humorous and entertaining style he described the utter futility of his task as coach of the national hockey team of Kuwait and their participation at the Asian Winter Games.

Within the theme Playing to Win he described the triumph of the single goal the team scored in a game they lost 44-1 to Japan, and the heartbreak of the narrow loss in the final game to Mongolia. Most profound, though, was his ability to use his experience in a Christian ministry to hockey players in the Quebec Junior League to share his faith in a Muslim country. He simply carried himself and interacted with his players honestly and with humility.

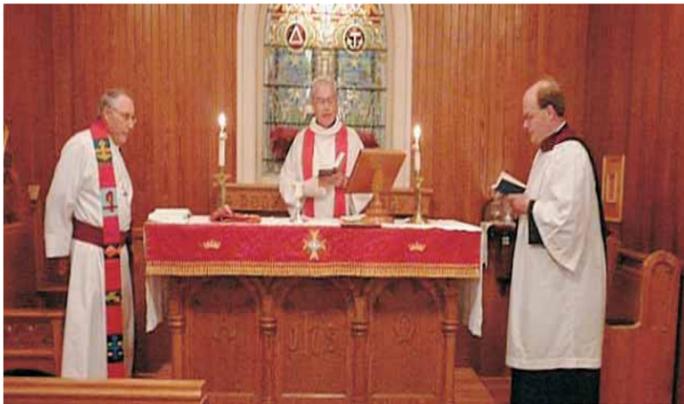
The Rev. Chris McMullin opened the breakfast with prayer and a warm welcome to all. Bishop George Lemmon offered a devotional and picked

up on the Playing to Win theme. He encouraged the group to be team players in their Christian service. He used many wonderful metaphors from his own experience as an athlete in basketball and hockey, both as coach and player. Perhaps his best, a story from his hockey days, was from a time when he was forced to play goal because he wasn't good enough to play forward. When, as a goalie, he was assessed a penalty, someone else served his time in the box and took his punishment for him.

The quality of both Mr. Smith's and Bishop Lemmon's presentations was impressive and left the whole group uplifted and inspired. Musical selections for the day were provided by Joyful, a praise band from Church of the Good Shepherd.

Proceeds from the breakfast were in support of the Seafarer's Mission in Saint John. Representing the mission was Lorne Degaust who shared plans for new activity in keeping with increased traffic in the Port of Saint John. He also offered words of appreciation and thanks.

## ANNIVERSARY SERVICE



Last fall the people of the Parish of Canterbury, Benton and Kirkland gathered at Holy Trinity in Canterbury for a parish anniversary service. The church was full and the congregation was blessed by the music of the combined choirs of St. Mark's United Church in Canterbury. Two former rectors joined in the celebration — Bishop George Lemmon (left) was guest preacher and the Rev. Keith Hallett (centre) was guest celebrant. Stephen Brown, lay pastoral assistant in the parish, is on the right. A reception followed in the hall.

## HAND-MADE COMFORT



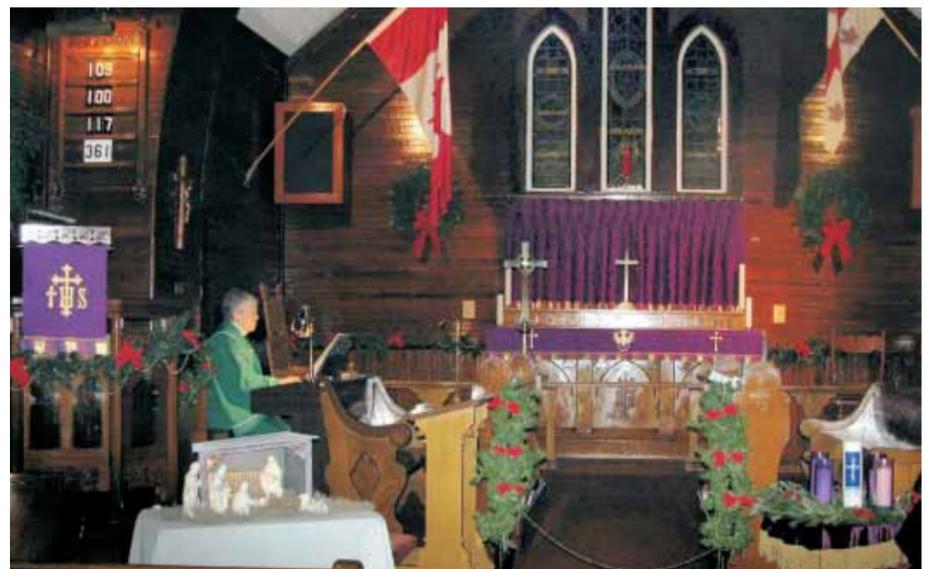
Frances Thompson of St. John's in Nackawic presented hand-made afghans to Fire Chief Hopkins during the volunteer department's annual church parade. The afghans offer warmth and comfort to fire victims.

## SEASONAL CELEBRATIONS IN MC



MARGARET LAKING

The people of St. George's Church in McAdam well and truly celebrated the harvest last fall, with turkey dinners of their own and a parish turkey dinner too. There was pie for dessert and lots of it — a long table groaned under the weight of just about every kind of pie imaginable.



MARGARET LAKING

St. George's Church in McAdam was honoured to be the first church ever included in the village's annual Christmas house tour. It was beautifully decorated for the occasion and organist Judy Thomas set the mood with music. David Goss, warden and the Rev. Kevin Cross, deacon-in-charge, were on hand to welcome visitors to the 107-year-old church, a steadfast emotional and spiritual foundation for generations of Anglicans.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

## ARCHIVES CORNER

# A simple little chapel in the wilderness

St. John-in-the-Wilderness was a "simple little chapel" capable of seating seventy people and was located at Duck Cove, Saint John, in the Parish of Lancaster, on what is now Seawood Lane. It was built upon land donated to the Bishop of Fredericton by Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Anderson.

The Rev. G. F. Scovil (of St. Jude's, Parish of Victoria) reported in the 1912 Synod Journal that - beginning on July 14, services were held every Sunday throughout the summer, with the congregation averaging forty-three and that the services were "hearty." Later reports indicated that the congregations were still good but that they could do more effective work if only the debt on the church were paid off.

In 1923, the Rev. J. H. A. Holmes (St. Jude's, Victoria) reported that all expenses of maintaining the chapel were met by the summer residents of Duck Cove and during that year new hangings were supplied and the chapel was given a much needed coat of paint.

In his 1927 report to Synod, the Rev. J. H. A. Holmes noted: "... I should like to record here the consecration of the Chapel of St. John-in-the-Wilderness, Duck Cove, on July 4, 1926, of which I have acted as chaplain since coming to St. Jude's. I

would like to pay tribute not only to the loyalty and generosity of the summer residents of Duck Cove, which made possible the removal of the debt on the chapel, but also to the courtesy of the Rector and Corporation of the Parish of Lancaster, who readily and willingly consented to the consecration and the appointment of chaplain and chapel wardens to carry on the work. The chapel serves a community of about twenty-five families and the average congregation last summer was between forty-five and fifty." In 1928 and 1929, W.E. Anderson (donor of the land) and C.C. Kirby were elected as the Chapel Wardens.

Changes came, families moved away, some members died and there were only seven communicants at the last recorded service, which occurred on July 26, 1936 at 3 pm with the Rev. Harry Thomas Buckland (father of Basil Buckland) officiating. The chapel gradually fell into disrepair. During the Second World War, soldiers used to have parties there, leaving the place littered with bottles and debris. Then Sister Sheila of the Anglican Mission Sisters moved in, fixed it up, and stayed there for one summer. Eventually, there was fear that the chapel was becoming a fire hazard, so it

was decided to tear it down.

Short though its life may have been, this little chapel had a lasting impact. Despite being called "St. John-in-the-Wilderness", its neighbour was a tennis court; playing tennis was prohibited at service times and "everybody went to church!" Service books for St. John's do not mention any baptisms or funerals - but it was the site of one marriage. At 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 1914, Arthur Wellesley Adams and Loulou Adelaide Rockwood Straton were united in holy matrimony, with 27 in attendance. This couple has living descendants.

**Sources:** Various Synod Journals of the Diocese of Fredericton from 1912 to 1927 *The Telegraph Journal*, *The Man on the Street*, undated article.

*Memoirs of Duck Cove* by William "Bill" Hazen. Thanks to Jane Tarn and the Rev. Canon David Kierstead for their contributions to this article.

The *Archives Corner* is prepared by Twila Buttimer (twila.buttimer@gnb.ca or 506-453-4306) and Frank Morehouse (frankm@nbnet.nb.ca or 506-459-3637). They welcome your comments or suggestions.



William "Bill" Hazen standing in front of the chapel in the winter of 1934-35. Photo supplied by Jane Tarn.

## An opportunity to join heart and soul with the Diocese of Ho

BY KEITH OSBORNE

Your Companion Diocese Committee has launched with enthusiasm upon a journey that may well take us to the point of seeing our bishop visit the Diocese of Ho this year with a delegation at his side. This could then be the prelude to further personal contact in the winter of 2009-2010. At that time it is hoped we may be able to send over two volunteers, supported by the diocese and orientated under the National Church Volunteers in Mission program. These volunteers would assist Bishop Matthias in the administrative duties and ministry of his struggling diocese. He is delighted at the prospect of having some much needed help and moral support as he struggles, with almost no resources of any kind, to build a diocese. What he does have is the grace of God and the dedication of his people who are committed to the cause of their church.

We know that the real essence of our companion relationship lies not in the physical or material things we send across the ocean. It lies rather in the profound sharing of the Spirit. It is in this vein that we encourage all our

diocesan family to engage in earnest intercession both at Sunday worship and through the week for the Diocese of Ho as the people there seek to grow out of infancy into a well established and fruitful family in God's kingdom.

Pray for the parish or outstation with which you have been linked and please use the Diocesan Intercessions in this newspaper (page 7) in order to enhance and specify your prayers for our family across the Atlantic.

As our contacts grow and develop, we hope to learn more of the personal details of those for whom we pray. At this time our desired level of communication with them is not what we would like as Bishop Matthias lacks any secretarial assistance which could support his busy agenda. The members of our committee do, however, regularly e-mail Bishop Matthias with moral support and encouragement.

We would ask also that all of you seek to discern where there may be people lurking in our diocese who might be good candidates to serve as volunteers in Ho for a six month (or longer) term, and to think of deanery or parish level fundraisers to support

such volunteers. They must raise their own support, but any financial support we as a diocese can offer would make a huge difference to the success of this venture.

Use your imagination in terms of how to raise this support - you demonstrated how well you can do that in your support of our Bishop's Walk for Aids in the recent past. We know that our financial constraints are limiting to say the least, so we need to pray hard for guidance in this whole matter.

Your committee at this time also extends an invitation to anyone who may feel led to join the committee, any who feels s/he has something to offer as we proceed into the remainder of our five-year term that ends in June of 2012.

As we continue through Lent and into the celebration of Easter, let us truly live our celebration as we join in heart and soul with our Companion Diocese of Ho as it struggles to solve problems that we have never experienced. Pray for them and pray for us as we seek to discern the way ahead, for the glory of God's kingdom among us.

*The Rev. Capt. Keith Osborne is a member of the Companion Diocese Committee.*

### ACW Diocesan Annual Meeting

May 5 & 6

St. Luke's, Main Street, Saint John

Guest speaker

Padre Malcolm Berry

who will speak on his experiences in Afghanistan

### ACW Annual Banquet

May 5 Tickets \$15

Send a cheque, payable to St. Luke's Senior Branch ACW, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope by April 20 to

Pauline Long

11 Wasson Court

Saint John

E2K 2K6.

(all tickets must be paid for in advance)

Information on accommodations within walking distance of St. Luke's  
Breakfast included in all prices

**Holiday Inn Express**

\$109 double+ tax 506-642-2622

**Fort Howe Convention Centre**

\$94.99 double + tax 506-657-7320

**Homeport Historic Bed & Breakfast**

\$95.00 double + tax 506-672-7255

**The Saint John Deanery**

looks forward to welcoming members from all over the province.

Please plan to attend

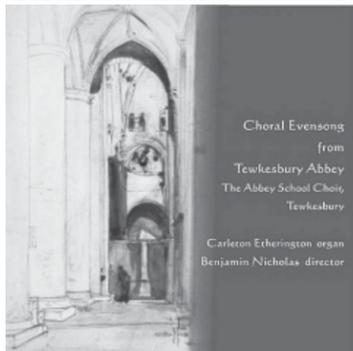
## COLUMNS

## Choral Evensong — the original Praise &amp; Worship

When I listen to what the contemporary Christian popular music community calls Praise & Worship, I sometimes struggle to understand how it differs from the rest of mainstream music. It features songs sung directly to God, but the style, instrumentation, performance, and even many of the artists are the same as a lot of other music. Why does it need its own category?

This got me thinking about the function of music in worship, and in our everyday life. These two very broad topics brought to mind the service of Choral Evensong — Evening Prayer set to music — a foundation of Anglican worship tradition. Specifically, I'd like to talk about an album that I came across online. *Choral Evensong from Tewkesbury Abbey* is a wonderful disc that features the complete Evensong service. This is pure worship music, a full and complete expression of worship to God. The story of the CD is almost as compelling as the music itself.

Since 1974 the choir at the Abbey School in Tewkesbury, England, has sung Evensong day in and day out. The choir was heralded in many quarters for its fine musicianship. Unfortunately, the school was forced to shut down in late 2006. Before it closed, however, the choir recorded this CD, perhaps as a farewell for the ages. In doing so it captured some of the best aspects of



Anglican Church music.

In some minds, sacred choral music suffers from a bad reputation, is often accused of being poorly recorded, and difficult to understand. While I agree in some cases (mostly with re-issues of recordings made in the late 60s and 70s), today's recording techniques capture the glorious sound of choirs in cathedrals without the overwhelming reverb (echo), and a lack of bass (lower) voices in the choir and organ. This recording is excellent. All parts of the choral singing are easily discerned; the organ is clear, and full of body and timbre; even the spoken lessons and prayers are easily heard in the vastness of the Abbey chapel.

The *Choral Evensong from Tewkesbury Abbey* CD boasts

some true gems. The choir respectfully mastered Vaughn William's anthem Valiant for Truth. Gabriel Jackson wrote the liturgical music and this is the first recording of this work. The disk begins with a beautiful Tallis Introit played on the organ by Carleton Etherington, who has a wonderful sense of accompaniment that I can happily listen to over and over. Organists rejoice! Mr. Etherington does a lot of neat little things, especially in the settings of the Psalms.

A setting of the evening hymn The Day Thou Gavest also finds its home on this CD. Even the Morning Prayer canticle Te Deum is featured here. But there's nothing wrong with a few extra musical gems.

The great crime of our New Brunswick retail world is there are very, very few places to find good quality choral works. But fear not! This CD, and many others like it are online at places like iTunes — and yes, this is a shameless Apple plug.

There is an epilogue to the sad story of the closing of the Abbey Tewkesbury School. When word got out, another local school — Dean Close in Cheltenham — created spaces for the homeless choristers and students. The choir continues to this day, under the name Schola Cantorum.

*The Rev. Chris Hayes is a musician as well as rector of the Parish of Richmond.*

## Spiritual Spa

Saturday, April 25  
Dayspring Retreat Centre, Saint John



Sunday school teachers,  
superintendents, youth leaders,  
Christian education board  
members, choir directors ...  
Everyone involved in the nurture  
and spiritual formation of our  
young people and youth is cordially  
invited to a morning of  
spirit-refreshing reflections  
and meditations  
And an afternoon of  
fun to nourish the body.  
Including massage, makeup  
application, mini facials,  
manicures, pedicures, canoeing,

fishing (if you have a license), crafts and  
relaxation in the beautiful surrounds.

The cost is just \$15 per person. Space is limited, so register now.

Contact Greer Stackhouse  
428 Model Farm Rd, Quispamsis  
NB E2G 1L5  
greerstackhouse@hotmail.com



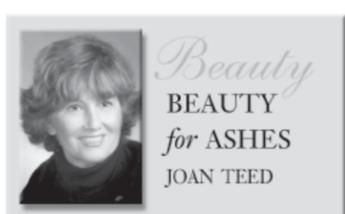
Liz Harding's column will  
resume in April.

## God sends the humble to take on tasks that are truly powerful

St. Theresa D'Avila describes the soul as God's essence in us. Sacred literature and maps describe the structure of the soul, suggesting it is a vessel of power about which we can learn in stages through life. She describes these stages as seven interior rooms in a mansion or castle through which we experience the soul in ever deepening prayer.

Caroline Myss, a lecturer in the field of health, intuition and contemporary spirituality, wrote an excellent book and CD collection, "Entering The Castle: An Inner Path to God and your Soul." She teaches prayer growth using Teresa's concepts. Caroline says humility is a very challenging attribute that forms the platform for prayer. It receives our attention in the first mansion. Other soul attributes to be explored and refined are dignity, integrity, honor, justice, harmony and endurance. These are the same qualities described in the Tree of Life from the Kabbalistic tradition of Judaism that nurtures a soul with stamina.

Great spiritual leaders, from Jesus to Gandhi, teach humility — "Be as a little child" — but



*"In humility is the greatest freedom. As long as you have to defend the imaginary self that you think is important, you lose your piece of heart. As soon as you compare that shadow with the shadows of other people, you lose all joy, because you begin to trade in unrealities and there is no joy in things that do not exist."*

Thomas Merton

humility is often confused with humiliation, which we fear, and is therefore seen as a stumbling block.

Humiliation is powerlessness, an assault on self-esteem. Humility, in the spiritual context, is liberation. Personal power, control, and ego are challenges to prayer, coming as they do from the worst of all toxins — hubris/pride. When we desire to be dominant, to look good, we are prisoners to ego and the world. This is not an attitude of supplication.

Humility provides a shield of detachment wherein we can see motivation and choose a wise reaction.

In our culture we place value on individuation and self-empowerment. They might seem strange bedfellows for humility, but paradoxically they are well matched. With humility we do not need to deny others respect, attention, acclaim or power because we need it more than they do. We can detach ourselves from the need for praise and the craving for approval. Without humility we are out of balance. Small motions, like someone cutting in line ahead of us, rock our boat.

When we release the need to win or to have the last word, when we have our insecurities buttressed up with endless support, we find our humility fosters appreciation rather than criticism. Sadly we cannot master humility once and for all. It is a work in progress and requires daily life practice. Humility is ours by the grace of God, but we can't just say please to God and abracadabra, it is installed like a computer program. Humility requires self-examination because the fear of humiliation

is one of the most controlling voices in our psyche.

Humility does not mean being a door-mat. Few see the humble as threatening. Poor, shoeless mystics often become the healers and peacemakers because they are able to walk where those who fear failure/humiliation dare not tread. That is why God sends the humble to take on tasks that are truly powerful — like birth in a manger, or sitting under a bodhi tree. The humble may look poor and powerless through the eyes of the proud. They may seem un-worldly, naive, out of touch. That is why they are taunted with "Why not get down off the cross?" or "Why not throw yourself off the cliff to prove your real power?"

Caroline Myss calls these temptations of life reptiles that want to defeat us. She also says we have dungeons in our souls where we keep prisoners — those we will not forgive, those we desire to punish, or the opportunities we lost because of our fear of self-betrayal. Many of these painful illusions hold us captive for a lifetime. She recommends that we ask God to show us ten of our problems with humility — the ones that

cause us personal discomfort as a humble person. She believes that without this awareness at the personality/ego level, we will think that humility is disempowering/humiliating, and we are in for a spiritual crash.

To develop soul stamina we need to challenge our contradictions — our incongruent behaviors that are the inner reptiles that block our ability to love and be loved.

Rabbi Kushner and Polen, who wrote *Filling Words With Light: Hasidic and Mystical Reflections on Jewish Prayer*, maintain radical humility, or a complete lack of ego, is also debilitating. They ask how can someone who is utterly nothing serve the Holy One of all being? They advocate a fine balance. "Without losing our sense of nothingness, we must at the same time, inflate ourselves with the notion that our actions, our service, might actually be like sweet fragrances of the sacrificial altar in the temple, ascending to God"

Joan Teed is a vocational chaplain as well as a social worker and counsellor in private practice.

# A tale of two regions, Kingston/Kennebecasis

BY DAVID BARRETT

**L**OYALISTS WHO MOVED UP the Kennebecasis and Hammond rivers after receiving their land grants in Saint John settled most of what is now the Archdeaconry of Kingston and the Kennebecasis. Indeed, it is home to Trinity Church, Kingston, the oldest church still standing in New Brunswick.

Built in 1789 it is part of the Parish of Kingston, a four-point but one family parish. The parish hall next to Trinity, where the tea and coffee are always on, was built in 1991 and is a centre of activity with myriad parish programs and community outreach from a preschool to a foot care clinic, mid-week worship to adult Christian education.

The second oldest parish in the deanery is Sussex where I am privileged to be rector. Established in 1796, we too open our doors to the community and the hall is in use every day of the week. A new entryway and lift make everything accessible, a plus in a retirement community with enough natural resources to ensure a bright future for the town and the parish.

We share an active youth ministry with our next-door neighbours, the Parishes of Waterford and St. Mark where they have shared a priest since the 1800s. There are two small Sunday schools, three ACWs, five Bible studies and frequent Alpha courses. The people in these parishes support their ministry solely by their tithes and offerings.

The Parish of Upper Kennebecasis encompasses churches in Apohaqui, Belleisle Creek, and Norton, as well as St. John's Church, Highfield during the summer months. This rural parish is struggling. A new shared ministry plan may be forthcoming with a neighbouring parish.

The Parish of Central Kings stretches from Springfield to Bloomfield and down to the Lower Norton Shore. It is an active, rural parish made up of a warm and welcoming community of believers. The parish purpose is "to be a Christ Centered, Mission Minded, Ministering Community of Faith." This parish too faces challenges because the potential for growth is limited in this area.

The Parish of Upham is a rural four-point parish that operates as a two-point parish with different churches for summer and winter. It is another very old parish and the communities it serves — Upham, Barnesville, Smithtown, and French Village — have roots that stretch way back in time.

Population shifts and changing economies have given this parish many ups and downs, but it is quite vibrant now.

With new ministries that appeal to young and old it sees a bright future.

The Parish of Hampton is another growing and vibrant community. It has long been an active parish and it now enjoys an exploding congregation of young people. Their greatest challenge is to manage in outgrown facilities. Although they are not yet finalized, plans are in the works for a new building.

Down the highway toward Saint John, the small Parish of Hammond River is perched on the outskirts of Quispamsis, which makes it part suburban and part rural. This dichotomy presents opportunities as well as challenges for this very mission-minded community.

In the heart of suburbia is the Parish of Quispamsis. In a transition period it is exploring options for ministry.

The people in the Parish of Gondola Point celebrate the position of their lovely church overlooking the Kennebecasis River every day, and celebrated its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary last October. The population growth in Gondola Point offers new opportunities for ministry.

Youth and family ministry is important to the Parish of Rothesay and the presence of an assistant curate assures it gets the attention it needs.

Rothesay's Mission Beyond Committee supports ministries as close as the Kennebecasis Valley and Saint John, as far away as Eldoret, Kenya, and throughout the world through the PWRDF. The Kennebecasis Valley is a growing area and this parish reaches out to new families.

The Parish of Renforth also focuses on active ministry to the community and many groups, from a Korean congregation to a fencing club, use the building. It has a quarter-time pastoral assistant through a shared ministry with a Saint John parish.

The Archdeaconry of Kingston and the Kennebecasis is diverse socially, economically, and theologically. The parishes near Saint John are growing, the parishes in the upper end of the deanery tend to struggle. Still, the clergy have much hope and they work well together. We pray that God will bless our efforts to build up his kingdom here on Earth.

*The Ven. David Barrett is archdeacon of Kingston and the Kennebecasis.*



*Archdeaconry  
Insights*

## INTERCESSIONS

MARCH

¶ 16: Parish of Bright, (open incumbency) the Rev. Canon John Sharpe, interim priest-in-charge. The Rev. Roy Embley (retired).

¶ 17: Parish of Cambridge & Waterborough, the Rev. Valerie Hunt & the Rev. Karman Hunt, priests-in-charge. Diocese of Ho, Mr. Daniel K Atikor, parochial catechist.

¶ 18: Parish of Campbellton, the Rev. Arnold Godsoe. The Rev. Greg Frazer, chaplain, Dorchester Correctional Centre.

¶ 19: Parish of Campobello, (open incumbency), the Rev. Brenda McKnight, interim priest-in-charge. Diocese of Ho, Rev. Fr. Kwasi Oteng Boamong, bishop's chaplain.

¶ 20: Parish of Canterbury, (open incumbency).

¶ 21: Parish of Carleton, the Rev. Canon Howard Anningson.

¶ 22: Mumbai (North India) The Rt. Rev. Prakash Dinkar Patole. Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate of Anglican Church of Canada. Diocese of Ho, the Rt. Rev. Matthias Medadues-Badohu. Diocese of Yukon, those retired from the diocese — the Rev. Geoffrey & Rosalind Dixon, the Ven. Arthur Privett, Canon David & Alice Kalles, the Ven. John & Deacon Carol Tyrell, the Rev. Fred & Marcia Carson, Marion Carroll, Edith Josie (licensed lay minister), Archbishop Terry Buckle, Blanche and family. Claude, our bishop, William, George and Harold, retired bishops, and their families.

¶ 23: Parish of Central Kings, the Rev. Robert LeBlanc, priest-in-charge. Canon Charles Ferris, Chancellor to the Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada.

¶ 24: Parish of Chatham, the Rev. Gordon Thompson. Diocese of Ho, The Very Rev. Simon Kofi Ablorh, Dean of St. George's Cathedral, Ho.

¶ 25: Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev. Keith Joyce, Isabel Cutler, parish nurse, the Ven. Geoffrey Hall, honorary assistant. Lt. Col. John Fletcher, chaplain to the military.

¶ 26: Parish of Coldbrook & St. Mary's, the Rev. Gregory

McMullin. Diocese of Ho, Rev. Fr. Lawrence Danny Amenuvor, priest-in-charge, Penyi.

¶ 27: Parish of Dalhousie, the Rev. Arnold Godsoe, priest-in-charge.

¶ 28: Parishes of Denmark and Grand Falls, (open incumbency).

¶ 29: Nakuru (Kenya), the Rt. Rev. Stephen Njihia Mwangi.

Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada. Diocese of Ho, the Rt. Rev. Matthias Medadues-Badohu. Diocese of Yukon, Whitehorse — Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev. Peter Williams & Barbara Williams, the Rev. Mary Battaja, associate priest on leave, Lino Battaja & family, Ellen Zimmerman, licensed lay minister, Archbishop Terry Buckle, Blanche and family. Claude, our bishop, William, George and Harold, retired bishops, and their families.

¶ 30: Parish of Derby & Blackville, the Rev. Douglas Barrett. The Rev. William Forgrave (retired).

¶ 31: Parish of Dorchester & Sackville, the Rev. Kevin Stockall. Diocese of Ho, the Rev. Fr. George Dartey Asiamah, rural dean and priest-in-charge, Agbozume.

APRIL

¶ 1: Parish of Douglas & Nashwaaksis, the Rev. Canon William MacMullin. The Rev. Canon David Genge (retired).

¶ 2: Parish of East Saint John, the Rev. Canon Edward Coleman, priest-in-charge. Diocese of Ho, the Rev. Fr. Joseph Kingsley Bentum, rural dean and priest-in-charge, Kpando.

¶ 3: Parish of Fredericton, the Rev. Anthony Arza-Kwaw, the Rev. Paul Ranson, assistant curate, the Rev. Deacon Joyce Perry.

¶ 4: Parish of Fredericton Junction, (open incumbency), the Rt. Rev. George Lemmon, interim.

¶ 5: Palm Sunday — when Jesus into Zion rode, the children sang around; for joy they plucked the palms and strowed their garments on the ground. Hosanna our glad voices raise, Hosanna to our King!

Council of the North, Diocese of Quebec, the Most Rev. Bruce Stavert, people and clergy.

Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada. Diocese of Ho, the Rt. Rev. Matthias Medadues-Badohu. Diocese of Yukon, Watson Lake — St. John the Baptist, Lower Post, Swift River, Telegraph Creek — St. Aidan, Dease Lake, Glenora, the Rev. Lesley Wheeler-Dame, Eric Dame & family, Archbishop Terry Buckle, Blanche and family. Claude, our bishop, William, George and Harold, retired bishops, and their families.

¶ 13: Parish of Kent, the Rev. John Pearce, priest-in-charge. The Ven. Arthur Gregg (retired).

¶ 14: Parish of Kingston, the Rev. Bonnie LeBlanc. Diocese of Ho, the Rev. Fr. Redeemer Ametefe Semevor, assistant curate, Worawora.

¶ 15: Parish of Lakewood, the Rev. Ellen Curtis. The Ven. Geoffrey Hall, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, Archdeacon of Fredericton.

# Brookwood director appointed

The board of directors for Camp Brookwood is pleased to announce the appointment of Scott McKinnon as camp director with Jens Jeppesen and Lindsay Parker as co-assistant directors for the 2009 camping season.

A former Brookwood camper himself, Scott is a third-year arts student at the University of New Brunswick in Saint John who plans to go on to get an education degree so he can teach in elementary school. He's got lots of enthusiasm and wants Brookwood campers to have lots of fun while they grow in their faith.

Jen and Lindsay are returning camp staffers. This

year the assistant director and senior counselor positions were combined to create two, co-assistant director positions. Jens is famous for her musical abilities that add so much to the camp experience. In addition to her administrative duties, she will lead the music and nature programs. Lindsay's special leadership qualities will come in handy in supervising a cabin as well as in her administration duties.

*For Camp Brookwood information, send a request to PO Box 557, Florenceville, E7L 1Y8 or click on the Camp Brookwood link on [anglican.nb.ca](http://anglican.nb.ca).*



Scott MacKinnon

## YOUTH

# Young people learn, grow and have fun in the snow at winter retreat



Among those at the winter retreat were (left to right) John Galbraith of Nashwaaksis, Ashley Ferguson, Kate Hawkins, (the Rev.) Paul Ranson and, with his back to the camera, Mark Jacobs. John, Ashley and Paul are youth leaders, Kate Hawkins and Mark Jacobs are young Anglicans. Ashley, Kate, Paul and Mark are from Christ Church (Parish) Church in Fredericton.

Philosophical discussions, environmental and justice issues, music, worship, skating, sliding, a wild game of winter football, hanging-out and fireworks were all on the agenda of the Joint Annual Winter Retreat held at Green Hill Lake Camp in January.

Lots of young Anglicans and their leaders joined their friends and colleagues from Nashwaaksis Baptist and Douglas Baptist churches for teaching and fun in the snow.

Tim Everett of Nashwaaksis led the music.

Our Diocesan Youth Action Director George Porter talked about recognizing that God is not just at work among Christians, but is also in those around us. George said it is important to stay connected to both your Christian and your other friends.

Lois Mitchell, director of public witness and social concern with the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches, traveled to the camp and led the group in consideration of environmental and justice issues.

## KIDS HELPING KIDS



Young people and their leaders, from the Richmond-Woodstock area, love the concept of youth helping youth. In January they had a sliding party followed by supper and a video (part of *Newsboys Live - Houston: We Are Go*).

Then they settled into a discussion about having fun while doing God's work. The group is also helping Big Brothers/Big Sisters in Woodstock with the *Bowl for Kids' Sake* fundraiser. They have sponsored bottle drives and other events, all with an emphasis on spending time together doing something helpful for God and the community.



I'm curious, George ...

## What makes a youth ministry successful?

Last time I ended with this question: "Are we willing to take seriously the promises we make to the baptised and confirmed to 'do all in our power' to help them grow into their lives in Christ?" This seems to me to be the central question when considering how we minister to and with young people.

In answering it, we need to think seriously about another mark of 'successful' youth ministries. 'Doing all in our power' implies that this is not a quick fix, short-term thing. It is a process, one that can take quite a long time and sometimes be messy. Successful youth ministry must be committed to the journey, no matter how long or how messy. In *Sustainable Youth Ministry\** Mark DeVries says 'success in youth ministry is measured in decades.'

Through the years I have seen youth ministry programs and people come and go. Parishes, dioceses and even whole denominations periodically get fired-up and make youth ministry a 'priority.' People and programs burst out with lots of energy and promise, like a beautiful display of fireworks. Eventually, however, the flash and beauty of even the best



fireworks fade and we're left with smoke, ashes and darker darkness.

The same thing all too often happens with ministries among young people. We realise that this 'making disciples' thing isn't a quick fix. It takes time and energy and resources, and it's hard work. So the programs fade, and the people move on to other things. Perhaps another round of fireworks bursts on the scene, but the cycle inevitably repeats itself.

The young people, their parents and others who care for them, are left behind in the smoke and ashes and darker darkness. There is little lasting effect, and often there is a sense of betrayal or abandonment. Each time this happens, trust is wounded and becomes more difficult to recover. Eventually no one gets excited about fireworks any more.

'Doing all in our power' isn't about building bigger and better fireworks. It's about building relationships that last through the seasons

of growth. Childhood and adolescence are, by nature, times of change and challenge, times of unpredictability and turmoil, times of experiment and opportunity.

Young people need more than bursting fireworks — more than flashy programs and the latest, coolest youth worker. They need solid relationships with people who know them, care about them and walk with them through these seasons of growth. They need engagement with real people who are themselves growing into discipleship. They need meaningful involvement in healthy baptismal communities that embrace them, with all their questions in all their giftedness, and as significant members of who we are as the people of God.

*\*Sustainable Youth Ministry: Why Most Youth Ministry Doesn't Last and What Your Church Can DO about It* (Downers Grove, IVP, 2008).

The Rev. Dr. George Porter is Diocesan Canon for Youth and director of youth action.

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

**emergent**

Find youth news and events on-line at [nbay.ca](http://nbay.ca)