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THE NEW BRUNSWICK ANGLICAN



A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 2019

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON

PAC approves Bishop's Court as emergency shelter

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

About 90 people crowded into the gallery at City Hall in Fredericton Dec. 12 to hear the Planning Advisory Committee vote on whether to allow Bishop's Court to continue operating as an emergency shelter.

After about 10 speakers, all of whom except one spoke in favour of the shelter, the committee voted unanimously to allow the variance. That means the 20-bed shelter will continue to operate until March 31 in the large house designated as the bishop's residence at 791 Brunswick St.

Bishop David Edwards had offered the empty house to the Community Action Group on Homelessness in November as a way to alleviate the urgent problem of people sleeping outside in Fredericton as winter came on.

Faith McFarland, who runs CAGH, applied for the variance in late November after it became clear, despite assurances from the city, that Bishop's Court would not open as planned on Nov. 29 due to zoning issues.

That led to the city asking the province for a letter of indemnity to allow the house to operate in violation of zoning rules until the PAC meeting on Dec. 12. It granted the request and the shelter opened temporarily Dec. 1.

City staff reluctantly recommended to PAC that a one-time variance be granted, with several

conditions, making the committee's decision easier. The conditions included a monthly meeting with neighbours, a telephone number they could call with concerns, operational hours from 8 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. daily, the provision of a smoking area and daily inspection of the grounds.

Faith made a presentation at the PAC meeting, where she noted that in the 11 nights open, there had been 35 different people who spent 191 collective nights in the beds.

"That's 191 nights people didn't spend on the street," she told PAC members.

Also in the 11 days, there had been zero ambulance calls, zero police interventions, zero bylaw enforcements, and zero direct complaints. There had been, however, 18 letters of support from neighbours, and 120 volunteers had come forward. Volunteers plus two shelter employees are at the house each night. The workforce is backed up by two registered nurses and one social worker.

The gender ratio in the first 11 days was 60 per cent male and 40 per cent female, and from ages 18 to 70.

Two clergy from the local United Church of Canada spoke in support of the shelter. A few people, some homeless and some formerly homeless, also

PAC continued on page 2



CATHY LASKEY PHOTO

BISHOP DAVID EDWARDS IS INTERVIEWED BY THE CBC'S GARY MOORE after the Planning Advisory Committee meeting at Fredericton City Hall on Dec. 12. About 90 people pack the gallery to hear the arguments for and against a temporary variance to allow Bishop's Court to function as an emergency shelter until March 31.

Layreaders, volunteers lead a weekly hospital Sunday service

'They look forward to seeing us and we look forward to seeing them'

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

If you want to go way back to the beginning, it was Marjorie Butler-Gray and the Rev. Canon Ted Eaton who first began talking about the need for a Sunday service at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital. That was in

the 1980s.

It took a few more years to actually get it up and running, and no one is quite sure exactly when that was, but suffice it to say, it's been more than 20 years since layreaders from St. John the Evangelist Church in the Parish of Douglas and Nash-

waaksis, and volunteers, began an interdenominational Sunday service at the Fredericton hospital.

Every Sunday at 10:30 finds a small group of layreaders leading the service, and volunteers escorting patients from their rooms to the chapel, or if the

crowd is too big, into a larger room, for a service of readings, music and a short sermon.

They use a well-worn handbook with these words at the front: "Dedicated to the memory of the Rev. Canon Ted Eaton,

Service continued on page 4

"SHARING HOPE & HELP"

DIOCESAN SYNOD NEWS

Only one person spoke against shelter location at PAC meeting

PAC continued from page 1 spoke.

"We are all just a tragedy or a loss away from experiencing this issue," said one young woman. "People just need hope and help. You are in a position of power right now to change lives."

A veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces, Valerie Chabassol is now a student of photography. She described how she'd spent the past two months taking photos of the homeless population in the city. She held up large prints of the photos as she spoke to the committee.

"Everybody deserves to sleep in a bed at night," she said. "These are the people I've grown to love."

Two neighbours spoke in favour of the shelter, while one, who lives next to Bishop's Court, expressed misgivings.

"All of a sudden, it's like living next to a 40-unit apartment building," said Catherine McCain. "Since day one I've been

picking up empty bottles — not liquor bottles, just mouthwash. I'll pick up the bottles. But I can't see the needles."

She fears for her daughters, and asked why people can't sleep in city hall or the public library at night.

Bishop David was in attendance but did not speak. Afterwards he was interviewed as several media outlets were on hand to report on the decision.

"I'm glad the PAC was able to grant the variance for Bishop's Court. This is a good outcome for the homeless in the city," he said.

"But we should also get ourselves into a place where this conversation doesn't have to happen again at the end of 2019."

He was referring to the need for more affordable housing in Fredericton, known for high rents and low vacancies. The average rent for a one-bedroom apartment is \$710, while a single

person on income assistance receives \$537 a month.

The CAGH has been working to build micro homes on small pieces of land in an effort to alleviate the high number of people needing emergency shelter. That initiative continues.

THE TWO PHOTOS AT RIGHT show the packed gallery in the council chambers of city hall, indicating the huge interest in allowing Bishop's Court to go ahead as an emergency shelter. Many who spoke had been homeless at one time and pressed for the need to approve the variance, which the Planning Advisory Committee did with no nay votes.



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS

FROM THE EDITOR...



This month, and every month hereafter, readers will notice a tag on stories and pictures that says "Mission In Motion." We've decided to tag those items in the NB Anglican that illustrate a key component in our diocesan strategy — mission.

If you've been paying attention, especially to the bishop, you will have noted this diocese has a passion for mission. Our bishop lives and breathes it, our last diocesan synod committed to it, and we learned about the BELLS model of mission from the *Surprise the World* book by Michael Frost. The tags on stories and photos are a good reminder — and an inspiration — to keep that vital concept at the top of our lists as Christians.

This month, you'll see Mission In Motion tags on several stories, like Advent Talks, the Bishop's Court emergency shelter story on page 1, and the feature on layreaders at St. John the Evangelist Church who have officiated a service every Sunday morning at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital for two decades.


You'll also see the tag on many articles and photos sent in by parishes: Christmas carolling in the parishes of Bright and New Bandon; Mothers' Union passing out cookies to stressed university students during the exam period; an Alpha report from Saint John and a gift to PWRDF in the Parish of Cambridge & Waterborough, to name a few.

We hope you enjoy these stories and photos, grow used to the tags, recognize them as a reminder of our mission commitment, and take that commitment to heart.

Gisele McKnight



DEADLINE for news and photos for the March edition of the New Brunswick Anglican is Feb. 1. Send submissions to gmcknight@diofton.ca



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THE BISHOP'S PAGE

A book that began a journey of change

In November I promised a series looking at Brian Zahnd's book *Water into Wine*.

Several things, including Janet's death, have intervened. All being well, I will begin next month.

One of the items which has greatly affected my thinking during the past few weeks has been the advent of the Out Of The Cold shelter, temporarily housed in Bishop's Court. This has led me to reflect upon how we respond to those who are in need.

My thinking on this subject was sparked by the book *Bias to the Poor* published in 1983 and written by David Sheppard, then Bishop of Liverpool in the UK. Sheppard's ministry was spent in poor urban areas and he argued that God has care for the poor as an essential part of his being.

This made me think, because I come from a tradition of the need for the soul to be saved, with less concern about the material well-being of people.

Sheppard's book made me consider how these two aspects of the Gospel — the message of salvation and the imperative of caring for others — could be brought together. It has been a journey for me to gain an understanding of this and I still have a great deal to learn.



The first five books of the Bible, the Pentateuch, set the scene for the people of Israel. Amongst the information found there is how the people of God should live. In the two passages which follow, we see that the outsider is to be looked after and that in matters of justice, there is to be fairness.

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.

You shall not render an unjust judgement; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge

your neighbour.

Leviticus 19: 10-11 & 15

As time went by, the nation developed in such a way that justice for the poor became more of an issue. The Old Testament prophets spent a great deal of their time addressing the matter of injustice. The verses below from Isaiah give a flavour of this.

Ah, you who make iniquitous decrees, who write oppressive statutes, to turn aside the needy from justice and to rob the poor of my people of their right, that widows may be your spoil, and that you may make the orphans your prey!

Isaiah 10: 1-2.

In the case of Jesus' ministry, we have the obvious passage from the Gospel of Luke, spoken in the Synagogue in Nazareth:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

Luke 4: 18-19

These are just representative of many passages in scripture which speak to the responsibility of the people of God to be aware of the condition of the poor and to treat them justly.

As we read the Bible, we see that there is no comment made about what the Victorians called the "deserving or undeserving poor."

There are occasions when their actions are questioned, but there is no sense that as a result of this they should be cut off from the resources of God (one exception to this is found in 2 Thessalonians 3:10, but in context it is particular to Paul's situation).

It should also be noted that passages such as those from Leviticus 19 suggest fair dealing is God's ideal. In other words, ideally both rich and poor are to be treated equally, which is undoubtedly the case.

I would suggest that the burden of the Biblical message is that if inequity emerges, the poor or the outsider are to be given preference in order that they might be restored to a place of peace.

David Edwards is
Diocesan Bishop of Fredericton.

PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS

JANUARY 27
PARISH OF KENT

FEBRUARY 3
PARISH OF UPPER
KENNEBECASIS

FEBRUARY 4
PARISH OF
MILLIDGEVILLE -
CELEBRATION OF
NEW MINISTRY
OF RYLAN
MONTGOMERY

FEBRUARY 10
PARISH OF SACKVILLE

FEBRUARY 17
PARISH OF BRIGHT

FEBRUARY 23
DIOCESAN COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 24
PARISHES OF
WATERFORD
AND ST. MARK

MARCH 1
WORLD DAY OF
PRAYER - ST. PHILIP,
MONCTON

Make your wealth work — for others



Michael Briggs

Dethroning Mammon - Making Money Serve Grace

The above is the title of a book written by Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. It was also his Lenten study for 2017 and I can recommend it as a very

thought-provoking read if you are looking for a Lenten study for yourself or your parish.

As an example he writes as follows:

"The wealth of the world is given by God for the benefit of every person in the world. To amass an unfair proportion is thus to deprive others. It calls for a vision of God that overcomes, in its beauty and generosity, the innate selfishness of our society.

One of the most beautiful things we have to understand about the love of God is that in what we receive there is freedom to serve others, to ensure there is a world without extremes of

deprivation.'

The main point of his writing is to expand on what is written in Chronicles: 'All things come of thee and of thine own have we given thee.'

He is not saying it is bad to be wealthy, but we must use that wealth wisely for the benefit of others. In other words, use money to serve grace and not worship mammon.

In your life how do you make money serve grace; are you being a good steward of all that God has given you?

Stop and think as we approach Lent which begins in March.

Take time to take stock of where you are on your journey with God and what he has done for you and what you have done for others, not just in the past and present but also think of your plans for the future.

When I look around our province and see the need in many unfortunate cases, it is incumbent of all of us who can afford it to help those less fortunate.

I know many of our parishes already do this with programs to feed street people, give them a place to do laundry, or just sit and have a conversation.

All it takes is a time commit-

ment as much as cash to assist in this. Some of us work in breakfast programs at our schools, and some help children improve their reading.

In all of this we are giving back and being an example to others of the power of God's love for us and the whole world.

...

Justin Welby, 2016, 'Dethroning Mammon: Making Money Serve Grace,' Bloomsbury Continuum, an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc.

Michael Briggs of Moncton is the diocesan stewardship officer.

WHEN YOU ... listen with all your heart • HONOUR YOUR ELDERS • encourage young people to take over the church often and loudly • choose good over evil • welcome the stranger • write the government about the issues that matter • INVITE A CO-WORKER TO CHURCH • help your dad do housework • get messy with your Sunday school kids • SAY "THANK YOU LORD" AND MEAN IT • Tweet your blessings one by one • introduce your grandchildren to nature • READ AND SHARE GOD'S WORD • ...THEN YOU ARE LIVING THE MARKS OF MISSION www.anglican.ca/marks



"SHARING HOPE & HELP"

LAY READERS

A weekly service at the hospital, thanks to many willing hands

Service continued from page 1

whose vision was that patients at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital should have a regular Sunday worship service."

Some patients are one-timers, there only for a short stay in hospital. Others have been in hospital for months, waiting for a nursing home bed, and become regulars. Shirley Smith usually leads, a role she inherited from Richard Carr, though she figures she's been part of the service for at least 18 years.

"I go to the 8 a.m. service [at St. John's] and then it's off to the DECH," she said. "It's something we love. We see patients and how it's so helpful for them. This works."

They never know how many people — patients and family members — will attend, but it's usually between 12 and 20. The 2015 ministry report shows 49 services with 987 attending, including 379 in wheelchairs. The 2017 statistics indicate a decline, with 52 services with 792 in attendance, including 291 in wheelchairs.

No matter the numbers, Shirley and the group hear from patients and their families, both after the service and even in letters, thanking them.

"Patients enjoy it," she said. "Some of them may not fully understand what's happening, but

others listen very closely to the sermon. It gives us satisfaction that we're helping others but it's helpful for us to be part of it too. I think anyone can get fulfillment from helping others."

Barb Hart was involved even before Shirley, though she's had to give it up recently due to health. A retired VON RN, she enjoyed being back with so many people she knew working in health care.

"It was interesting because sometimes you could have three ministers in the congregation!" she said. "Everyone loved the singing. They would ask for special prayers or hymns. It's been very worthwhile."

Judy Jones, layreader, does double duty as keyboardist. She believes she's been involved for 19 years.

"There was a need for more volunteers, and I thought it was something I would like to do — to meet people and share God with them," she said.

When Marjorie Butler Gray passed away, it was Judy who stepped in to play the keyboard.

"The patients were very encouraging and obliged to look over any mistakes I made," she said.

Judy sees the service as a blessing for everyone — volunteers and patients alike.

"We enjoy going there. You become family because they

open up and talk. Everything is confidential. They look forward to seeing us and we look forward to seeing them."

The Rev. Paul Ranson says he's blessed to have inherited such a ministry at his parish.

"It's such a privilege to be part of a church that's done this for more than 20 years," he said. "The human component our volunteers and layreaders have with patients is irreplaceable. It's not just the service, but the interaction before and after that makes it special."

"The love and compassion expressed by our layreaders and volunteers cannot be measured. It's right in line with Jesus's command to visit the sick. They're carrying on that mandate beautifully."

The success of the Sunday service relies on volunteers, and the group finds itself in need of more — both layreaders and volunteers to bring patients from their rooms to the chapel and back again. Volunteers don't have to be Anglican. And layreaders needn't be from the Parish of Douglas and Nashwaaksis.

"There's a need," said Paul. "If this is a ministry that appeals to you, give St. John's a call."

You can reach Paul at 506-458-9411. All volunteers must provide a criminal records check to work with patients.



MCKNIGHT PHOTO

SHIRLEY SMITH IN THE CHAPEL AT the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital in Fredericton.

BELOW: Current and former members Darrell Jones, Olive Harris, Judy Jones, Marjorie Butler-Gray, Barb Guggenheimer and Barb's sister from Peru.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

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2. BITE FROM DOG AS A RESULT OF DOOR-TO-DOOR NURTURING WORK
3. CRUSHED TOE CAUSED BY A BAKED BEAN TIN FALLING FROM A GREAT HEIGHT AT THE SOUP KITCHEN
4. HEAD INJURY SUSTAINED WHILST ATTEMPTING TO TRANSFORM THE UNJUST STRUCTURES OF THE QUEUING SYSTEM AT THE FOOTBALL GROUND
5. SCRATCHES CAUSED BY MY ATTEMPT TO STRIVE TO SAFEGUARD THE INTEGRITY OF AN OVERGROWN FLOWERBED AND SUSTAIN AND RENEW THE LIFE OF THE PATIO AREA

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"SHARING HOPE & HELP"

ADVENT TALKS



Advent Talks, Part III, with Dr. Barry Craig

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

The final Advent Talk of 2018 took place Dec. 10 at the Crowne Plaza in Fredericton in front of a full house. Retired Bishop Bill Hockin introduced Dr. Barry Craig, the third speaker in the Advent series.

Barry is from Woodstock, N.B. and served as a priest here until he joined the academic world. He rose to academic vice-president at St. Thomas University before leaving in 2016 to become president of Huron University College in London, Ont.

Huron is the founding college of Western University. It has 1,100 students in theology, arts and social sciences. About 50 per cent of its students come from private schools in the Toronto area.

Barry noted his family, godparents and good friends among the Fredericton crowd.

"It is a joy to be here," he said.

He recapped Albert Snelgrove's and Bill Hockin's talks from the previous two weeks. Barry's was entitled "A Grace With Great Benefits."

As Bill did, Barry quoted David Brooks, an editorial columnist with the New York Times who has written on the polarization of American society into the right and the left factions, with a vanishing middle ground.

Barry made three points: first, the two groups actually represent a very small percentage of the American population, about six and seven per cent on each side. The majority, in the middle, are largely willing to listen and

compromise.

Second, the six and seven per cent on either political side are some of the wealthiest citizens in the country.

Third, much of the polarizing narrative is ideologically based. It's not really about jobs or anything material or tangible. And their motivation is more about fear than anything, he said.

Fear leads to anxiety, and Barry sees a great deal of that among his students at Huron, who worry about student loans, courses, relationships, marks and careers.

Barry told the story of Bruce Springsteen, a gifted songwriter and musician who has suffered from anxiety all his life. His father's cruel treatment of him as a child put Springsteen in therapy for 30 years.

"But he had a breakthrough, a little ray of light," said Barry, adding he managed to turn that little ray into love. "What he described was grace. There is love to be seen.

"Grace is the great antidote to fear. It frees us from fear," he said. "I stand here at 58 years of age realizing how thoroughly I have been sustained by grace."

But sometimes we hesitate to grab grace. He told the story of a phone call from a man who told him he was donating a million dollars to the university. It was a great surprise to get such an unsolicited donation, and the person on his staff responsible for fundraising was overjoyed when he told her.

Then he asked her what she had planned for the rest of the day. Tedious chores at her desk

TOP LEFT: DR. BARRY CRAIG spoke on grace at the final Advent Talks presentation Dec. 10.

TOP RIGHT: Retired Bishop Bill Hockin introduces Dr. Barry Craig Dec. 10.

RIGHT: This year's Advent Talks speakers were Dr. Barry Craig, the Rev. Albert Snelgrove and retired Bishop Bill Hockin (front).



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS

was the answer.

"I told her to take the rest of the day off. Buy some champagne, call her husband. Celebrate," he said. "Don't let grace just walk on by."

Just as Albert said in his Advent Talk two weeks before, "grab all the Christmas you can!"

Barry talked a bit about his role at Huron, noting this year there was a 400 per cent increase in international student enrollment, partly because parents and students are looking for the one thing Huron has that's missing from every other post-secondary institution in North America — a community service component as a requirement for graduation.

Every student has to commit to working, without pay, in a community organization during their time at Huron. It could be a women's shelter, a food bank or a refugee camp far afield. That desire to be a better citizen has a broad appeal and led to a staggering increase in student numbers the year before as well.

Barry recently hired a new chaplain he'd known for 40 years, urging him to tailor his work, not to the 35 theology students on campus, but to the

1,065 others. The chaplain hired four students to work as chapel assistants. Their backgrounds are not Christian: they are Japanese, Chinese, Hindu and Jewish.

In recent weeks they've celebrated several religious holidays, culminating in a Service of Lessons and Carols, with students from many religions and backgrounds taking a role in reading the scriptures.

"The average Sunday attendance had been three," he said. "But we've now had three sell-outs in the last three weeks. They're drawn together through a need for community.

"It was electrifying! And the whole thought was just to allow God's grace to fill the space. We don't need to build a box and make people fit into it."

While on a recruiting trip to India this year, he visited private schools and wealthy families, hearing that instead of just wanting the best careers for their children, "parents are also concerned with their kids' souls, their character — that they be good people."

Over 2,000 years, the Christian church has evolved and split, first into East and Western

Christians, said Barry. Then came Protestantism, Roman Catholics and the Eastern Church, and far greater divisions over the past few hundred years.

"All the time we Christians have become narrower and narrower, yet God's grace is as broad as ever," he said.

"This Christmas, let us let grace shine. Let's not keep it shut in," he said. "We have opportunities to be that grace in the lives of others."

Bill ended Advent Talks as he does every talk, with the Peach Tree Benediction:

And now go in peace, and as you go, please remember that it is by the goodness of God that you were born. And also remember that it is by the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ that you are redeemed, forgiven and set free. As well, remember that none of us leaves this place alone; He goes with us; He promised he would. And while some out there may call us servant, He calls us friend. Therefore, in the strength of that great friendship, we go now from this place to love and to serve, until we meet again.

"SHARING HOPE & HELP"

DIOCESAN COUNCIL



CATHY LASKEY PHOTO

WILLIAM ROSS, ROBERT TAYLOR AND THE REV. DEBBIE EDMONDSON were some of the many who gathered at the end of November at Villa Madonna for the Diocesan Council retreat.

Report on Diocesan Council's retreat

Retreat was a blessing

Diocesan Council gathered Nov. 30-Dec. 1 for what is becoming an annual retreat.

Last year, an orientation retreat was held to help form the new council after the Diocesan Synod session.

This year, the Diocesan Spiritual Development Team offered to lead the council in retreat with an emphasis on prayer. They used the BELLS habits for the theme.

The retreat began with the Scriptural Stations of the Cross, guided by the Rev. Dr. John Paul Westin.

The Scriptural Stations come from an initiative of Pope John Paul II to have

a more ecumenical version which only included stations based on Scripture.

These themselves make a good Advent reflection. A version of these can be found at: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/stations-of-the-cross/scriptural-stations-of-the-cross.cfm>

After a shared supper, we participated in Evening Prayer at which John Paul spoke on blessing and eating using the text of the beatitudes in Matthew's gospel.

Members were then divided into smaller groups to consider some questions, particularly focusing on asking how we, individually and corporately, can be present with others.

Next was a social time where members were able

to get to know others better, followed by a service of Compline, with a focus on listening, led by the Rev. Debra Edmondson.

Members were then asked to reflect, as we prepared for sleep, on what rhythm or habit could be incorporated into the daily routine that would strengthen our relationship with God.

Saturday morning, during Morning Prayer, parish development officer Shawn Branch spoke on learning and being sent.

His text was also from Matthew, where Jesus calls us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

The service was followed by a time of silent reflection where we were to consider what new invitation God

might be extending to us at this time.

We then met again in our smaller groups, particularly looking at what it means to be "salty" in our current context. The retreat portion ended with a Eucharist service presided over by Bishop David Edwards who spoke on incarnational mission.

Many members expressed their thanks for this time. One lay member indicated she was nervous about having to spend most of an hour in silence, but by the end wished for more time.

It was truly a blessing to be present together and thanks are extended to the Spiritual Development Team.

The retreat concluded with a short Diocesan Council meeting where the Rev. Paul

Ranson, rector of the Parish of Douglas and Nashwaaksis, was accepted as the new member representing the Archdeaconry of Fredericton.

He replaces the Rev. Christian Persaud who has moved to Calgary.

The council also passed a budget for 2019 and set the date of Saturday, Nov. 2, 2019 for the 137th Session of Diocesan Synod.

Submitted by Cathy Laskey, executive archdeacon; with Cheryl Jacobs, chair, Spiritual Development Team and retreat facilitator.

More on the Diocesan Council retreat on page 7.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL



CATHY LASKEY PHOTO

SHARING A MEAL AT THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL RETREAT are, from left, the Rev. Paul Ranson, parish development officer Shawn Branch, diocesan chancellor David Bell, Bishop David Edwards and council member Robert Taylor.

Diocesan Council retreat musings from Kathy Asch, DC member

It was an encouraging and inspiring team from the Spiritual Development Committee who organized an early December weekend retreat at Villa Madonna in Rothesay for Diocesan Council members.

Our first one was a year ago, successfully focusing on orientation and getting to know each other. With the “mystery” of who we each are gone,

we approached each other in the spirit of reconnecting and, of course, reconnecting in prayer with God — and growing in personal spiritual development.

While we did some council business on Saturday afternoon, we began Friday evening (Saint Andrew the Apostle), and continued the next morning, with the business “of putting on our habits” or wearing our faith out in the open for all to see, of BELLS: Blessing, Eating, Listening, Learning and being Sent.

We walked the Stations of the Cross with the Rev. Dr. John Paul Westin to begin our time away from our usual

distractions.

We followed each other in song and prayer, crunching through the snow and climbing around a felled tree, to pause and perhaps deepen our faith at the 14 stations.

We were not the crowd that Jesus sat before as he taught the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12), but we were about 35 rapt listeners as a seated John Paul later provided his wonderful interpretation and meditation on them during Evening Prayer.

We contemplated ourselves as being the blessed ones after the reading of the eight blessings. Feeling blessed before we bless!

There were many opportunities for prayer, listening, reading scripture, learning, reflection, meditation and thanksgiving.

We met at Evening Prayer, Compline, mealtimes, a social hour, small group discussions, Morning Prayer and Eucharist. We spent time alone in silence. It was a retreat that was prayerful, thoughtful and peaceful. Yes, I am grateful.

As we considered the following questions, we thought of BELLS and our lives as council members. Are we “the salt of the earth” — “light of the world” people? Are we, as disciples, anything like the apprentices to the early rabbis?

Do we, or will we, emulate God’s son, mindful that he created him in his image? And what rhythm or habit could we incorporate in our daily routine that would strengthen our relationship with God?

When Bishop David offered his Meditation on Mission Incarnate, we sat with him considering What is Jesus doing? (WIJD); What could I do? What could you do?

Perhaps we will all “Surprise the World!”

BELLS is a concept from the book *Surprise the World* by Michael Frost. Kathy Asch lives in Woodstock.

Going outside the walls: An Alpha report



In an innovative venture at the Three-Mile tavern and restaurant, the leaders and facilitators from the parish of Coldbrook St. Mary hosted a successful Alpha course which has blessed those who attended.

We saw 40 or so people participate and believe that all or most of them were truly blessed in being drawn closer to their Lord and in their commitment to the faith which was clearly presented.

Almost all of those who attended have some degree

of background in the faith and we received many reports on how they were touched through the teaching and fellowship.

With a gracious response from the manager of the venue, we also enjoyed excellent meals which added to the success of the program.

Next year our plans are to perhaps hold two more courses, in the spring and fall, at the same location.

We have been led by the imaginative vision of our rector, Canon Greg McMullin, to

go outside the walls in order to reach the lost and we have a hope that this vision can be embraced by a greater number in our congregation as time goes on.

In future efforts we will seek to draw others who have no church background and who have been estranged from knowing the love of Christ and what He can do in their lives.

We appreciate support received from the Founda-

tion for Life program and we look forward to building upon our sense of mission and the enhancing of the kingdom in our midst.

It seems like a fair statement to say that there may indeed be more openness towards the Gospel in the secular world around us than we often imagine. Try it out. You may be surprised!

Submitted by the Ven. Keith Osborne

“SHARING HOPE & HELP”

LEGACY

A comfortable LEGACY

Back in June 2018 when Marjorie Perley learned she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and that her prognosis was about three months, she decided to give a gift to St. Luke's church in the Parish of Woodstock.

In conversation with the rector, Rev. Shirley Noseworthy, Marjorie indicated that she was determined that there would be comfortable seating for St. Luke's Church and hall and requested that we order cushions for the church pews and chairs for the hall.

At that time, Marjorie asked that her donation be anonymous, simply because she did not want all the attention. Pew cushions were made by McBride Upholstery, installed, and were dedicated by Bishop David Edwards on Sept. 23, when he was at St. Luke's for the ordination of Harold Boomer to the diaconate.

While Marjorie was not well enough to attend the dedication, she had been in church on two occasions and sat on a new pew cushion. She was so pleased.

The chairs were ordered from Comfortek and, while Marjorie saw a photo of them, she knew they would be manufactured and delivered from the warehouse in Lethbridge, Alberta, sometime in November.

Marjorie passed away peacefully at Hospice House in Fredericton on Nov. 3. After her funeral, her son, Dan Perley, gave permission to let folks know that the gift of both pew cushions and chairs were from his beloved mother, Marjorie.

The chairs were delivered on Monday, Nov. 26, and will be used in the hall for worship during the winter months, to save on heating the church.

Marjorie was a faithful member of St. Luke's Church and she will be remembered for her devotion to her church, and for this generous gift, which will provide comfort to many for years to come.



FROM THE TOP: THE DELIVERY TRUCK ARRIVES; the chair crew; Marjorie Perley; the Rev. Shirley Noseworthy tries out a new pew cushion at St. Luke's; unloading chairs one by one.

OUTREACH



FIFTEEN MEMBERS OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF NEW BANDON, as well as four people from the greater community, gathered on Sunday, Dec. 16 to spread the Christmas message in song. They visited 13 homes as well as the Bay Chaleur Manor. At the conclusion of the visit a short prayer was said and the group left a bag of homemade cookies that had been made by the Bathurst High School culinary class. Following the door-to-door visitation, they, along with seven other parish members, gathered at the home of Terry & Laura McNulty for a supper of seafood chowder, meat pie, salads and a variety of desserts.

TOP LEFT: back row, L to R: Dave Daley, George MacGillivray, Giles Murty, Betty Ann McLean, Kay Addison, Shanaw Whelton, Mary Rhona Francoeur, Nancy Hodnett, Rev. Richard McConnell, Ron Jagoe and Kevin Mann
Kneeling, L to R: Audrey MacGillivray, Dorothy Knowles (receiving visit) Lorna Murty, Louise and Craig Whalen. Missing from the photo: Ev Daley, Peggy Jagoe, Bill McLean and Laura McNulty.

MISSION IN MOTION: caroling



Margaret Good and Lorna Murty

LAURA MCNULTY PHOTOS

OUTREACH THROUGH CHRISTMAS CAROLING

WHAT A REWARDING EVENING! Eleven parishioners from All Saints Anglican Church in Keswick Ridge (Parish of Bright) joined by Liz Clavet from Keswick Ridge United Church went Christmas carolling to some sick, elderly and shut-ins in the area on Dec. 10. They delivered homemade cookies, hot chocolate and music. Hearts were touched and tears were shed knowing what blessings abounded from such a simple gesture. Being kind does not have to always involve a lot of dollars. This came from one of the individuals visited: "Knowing someone cared enough to come to visit" — that was the great reward that remained with the carollers even after the evening was over. At bottom left is Ruth Gilmore. At bottom right are, left to right: Lois Poore, Elizabeth Clavet, Mary Lou Price and Bob Poore.



EUGENE PRICE PHOTOS



"SHARING HOPE & HELP"

MOTHERS' UNION

'God is on the Move' with Mothers' Union parenting program

BY KATHLEEN SNOW

'God is on the Move' was the theme of our Mothers' Union Biennial Conference in November, and He is on the move with the Mothers' Union parenting program called Parents Supporting Parents.

Plans are underway to hold a training course for facilitators for the parenting program in the Diocese of Moosonee.

Initially we held conversations about establishing the program in the diocese of the Arctic, and later in the diocese of the Yukon, but these plans did not come to fruition.

More recently with the able assistance of Ruth Corston, I was invited by retired Bishop Tom Corston to attend the Diocese of Moosonee's clericus conference to share information about the parenting program.

I attended the meeting Sept. 11-14, 2018 in Timmins, Ontario and met over 30 lay people and clergy.

Half of those attending were of the indigenous population and residential school survivors, living on reserves in the diocese in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec surrounding James Bay.

I heard many stories and shared much during the week. National Indigenous Bishop Mark MacDonald spoke to us about the Sacred Circle, discipleship and self-determination.

He shared with us that God is calling people to a spiritual movement and that we are on the cutting edge of this movement.

He spoke about God having a plan, God being present in creation, and that the Word of God is always trying to become flesh.

Bishop Anne Germond of the Diocese of Algoma and incoming bishop to the Diocese of Moosonee, spoke on the theme of the conference Go Therefore and Make Disciples. Anne has since been made the Metropolitan of the ecclesiastical province of Ontario.

She shared with us the two

demands Jesus made of us — to 'go and make disciples of all nations', and to 'remember that I am with you until the end of the age.'

Anne posed two questions for us — what does this mean for me as a disciple of Jesus, and what does it mean for us as leaders in the church? She stressed that Jesus doesn't send us out without being fully equipped.

Dell Bornowsky from the Diocese of Qu'Appelle was our chaplain for the week and led us daily in our Bible studies.

He spoke to us about forgiveness. He shared that forgiveness is a freely made decision that "you don't owe me."

He spoke about apology being different from forgiveness and that we need to ask for forgiveness, not just say that we are sorry.

Norm Wesley, an Anglican priest and member of the Cree people from Moose Factory, stated, "We have to peel away the layers bit by bit, one layer at a time, of the hurt and betrayal of residential schools."

"It is like peeling an onion. At the heart of it is the love of God. The only other thing we have going for us is forgiveness."

I have many, many other stories from these amazing people of God. They are a wounded people — our ancestors have wounded them. But they are strong in their faith and their culture.

We do not need to carry them. They are strong. They are capable of finding their way. They already have a way.

I shared the work of the Parents Supporting Parents course with the attendees, including the facilitators' training course. There was enthusiasm to move forward, and much interest in running the course.

Tentative plans have been established to hold the facilitator training course in Moose Factory, Ontario in the spring or summer of 2019 with 5 or 6 teams of two people from different communities in the



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



TOP: WOMEN ENJOYING FELLOWSHIP, INCLUDING the Rev. Catherine Murkin (Kirkland Lake, Ont.); Grace Delaney (deacon in Moose Factory, Ont.); Marion Maybee (sitting - deacon in Moose Factory, Ont.); Archbishop Anne Germond, Metropolitan of Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario; Kathleen Snow; Ruth Corston; Agnes Flam (deacon from East Main, Que.)

ABOVE LEFT: The Rev. Norman Wesley, Moose Factory, Ont. and Kathleen Snow

ABOVE RIGHT: Indigenous Bishop Mark MacDonald leads fellowship in song.

RIGHT: Rev. Deacon George Matoush (Waskaganish First Nation) and Rev. Deacon Agnes Flam (East Main, Que.) lead worship during the conference.



diocese.

The teams would be trained for 4-5 days by regional trainers for the program (Lena Edmondson from Guyana and Kathleen Snow from Canada) and then return to their communities to facilitate the Parents Supporting Parents program.

They will make the program their own, to suit the needs of

their communities.

It was an honour and a blessing to meet with the clergy of the diocese and to share in the work of Mothers' Union and the parenting program.

It has taken many years, and much prayer to reach this point for the Canadian Mothers' Union.

I must remind myself that it is in His time and in His place

— God is never in a hurry, but He is always on time.

Kathleen Snow is the Zone B (the Americas) trustee on the Mothers' Union worldwide executive, and a trainer with the parenting program. She is also the parish nurse at Christ Church Cathedral.

"SHARING HOPE & HELP"

NB TO YUKON

MY JOURNEY
NORTH

BY BRENDA MCKNIGHT

Editor's note: Last summer, the Rev. Brenda McKnight, 85, moved from Kingston, N.B. to Whitehorse, Yukon — alone. This is an account of her trip, part one of three.



Circumstances seemed to conspire against my leaving for the Yukon as soon as I had hoped! I had spent time in hospital in March/April, and my doctor there had taken my driver's licence.

That meant I had a three-month wait until I could take the test and get back on the road.

That delayed everything! Without being able to drive, there were many things that I could not do. Everything seemed to be compressed into the last four days of July.

July was a marvellous month weather-wise in New Brunswick — most people found it too hot, but I love the heat. However, I was stuck inside packing for my move. That was very frustrating.

The movers came on July 30, but only with a small van! That meant their return the next day with a decent sized truck.

I was quite nervous about taking my driver's test, especially the written part. However, I passed both written and practical parts without a great deal of trouble. What a relief!

Then I went down to my car dealership to get another vehicle more suitable for the Yukon.

I wound up with a 2012 Ford Escape, almost the same colour as my Mazda. It has lots of space for the move and also for my camping equipment.

It is AWD, and is much higher from the road — much better for the Yukon. I am really thrilled with this very comfortable vehicle.

Four cylinders, so it is easy on the gas, and it is fun to drive. What more could I ask?

Finally I left on Aug. 2, later in the afternoon than I had hoped. It was a real scramble to get everything done!

My cat had managed to make a hole in my soft cat carrier, so the first stop was at Pet

Valu in Quispamsis to get him a more secure carrier.

In my hurry I tripped up the curb and went sprawling with the cat carrier in my right hand.

I had really hurt myself — bruised ribs, the skin scraped off my elbow and knee. Two passers-by kindly helped to bandage me up, and finally I went into the store and bought a replacement carrier.

Thankfully my cat, Me Too, wasn't badly hurt in the fall — only a little fur missing from the end of his nose!

I was amazed when I realized that the carrier had landed up-side-down, but the cat was right-side-up! How he accomplished that in a carrier only nine inches high I do not know!

Finally I was on the road! I prefer driving on secondary roads, but in order to make up for lost time, I headed for the NB #7 highway north.

I stopped in Fredericton to get the suggested x-rays, and was pleased to find out that neither my ribs nor my right arm were broken; the nurses there also re-banded my knee and elbow.

The drive north on the highway is a beautiful one, affording many glimpses of the magnificent St. John River and the hills surrounding it.

I was not looking forward to the drive on # 30 around Montreal. Somehow I managed to be there during rush hour, and the traffic was heavier than I like.



LARRY FARR ON UNSPLASH

A VIEW OF KINGSTON, ONTARIO, WHERE THE REV. BRENDA MCKNIGHT stayed a few days while on her way to Whitehorse, YT. Below is Brenda during fellowship following a Maudy Thursday service at Christ Church Cathedral.

After that, I almost enjoyed driving the 401 which was quite familiar to me, and the traffic was considerably lighter.

I spent the next night in Smiths Falls, Ont., having had a good visit with Ron and Andrea Hunt. Ron was my supervisor when I did the CPE internship, and we have been good friends ever since.

My next stop was with my friends Vicki and Michael Mence in Kingston. I spent three or four days with them, taking the time in delightful surroundings to recuperate.

Then it was on to Garden Hill, Ont. to spend some time with the Moore Edes. Carol Ann's garden is gorgeous, and it was great to see it in the summer when it was very colourful.

Bill had made the time to plan my itinerary up the Bruce Peninsula in order to avoid the forest fires then raging in the countryside on the east side of Georgian Bay.

So I took the ferry from Tobermory to South Bay, Manitoulin Island, which was a very enjoyable trip.

My cat and I travelled on one of the outside decks in the company of about 5 dogs and their owners!

It was approaching dusk when I reached the mainland again, so I camped at Chutes Provincial Park. It was fun sleeping in my tent once more!

I was very pleased to be driving on Ontario's # 17 again. It is a good road and the scenery along the north shore



MCKNIGHT FILE PHOTO

of Georgian Bay is delightful.

North of Sault Ste. Marie, I camped at Pancake Bay Provincial Park, which is a very long park beside one of the most beautiful beaches anywhere.

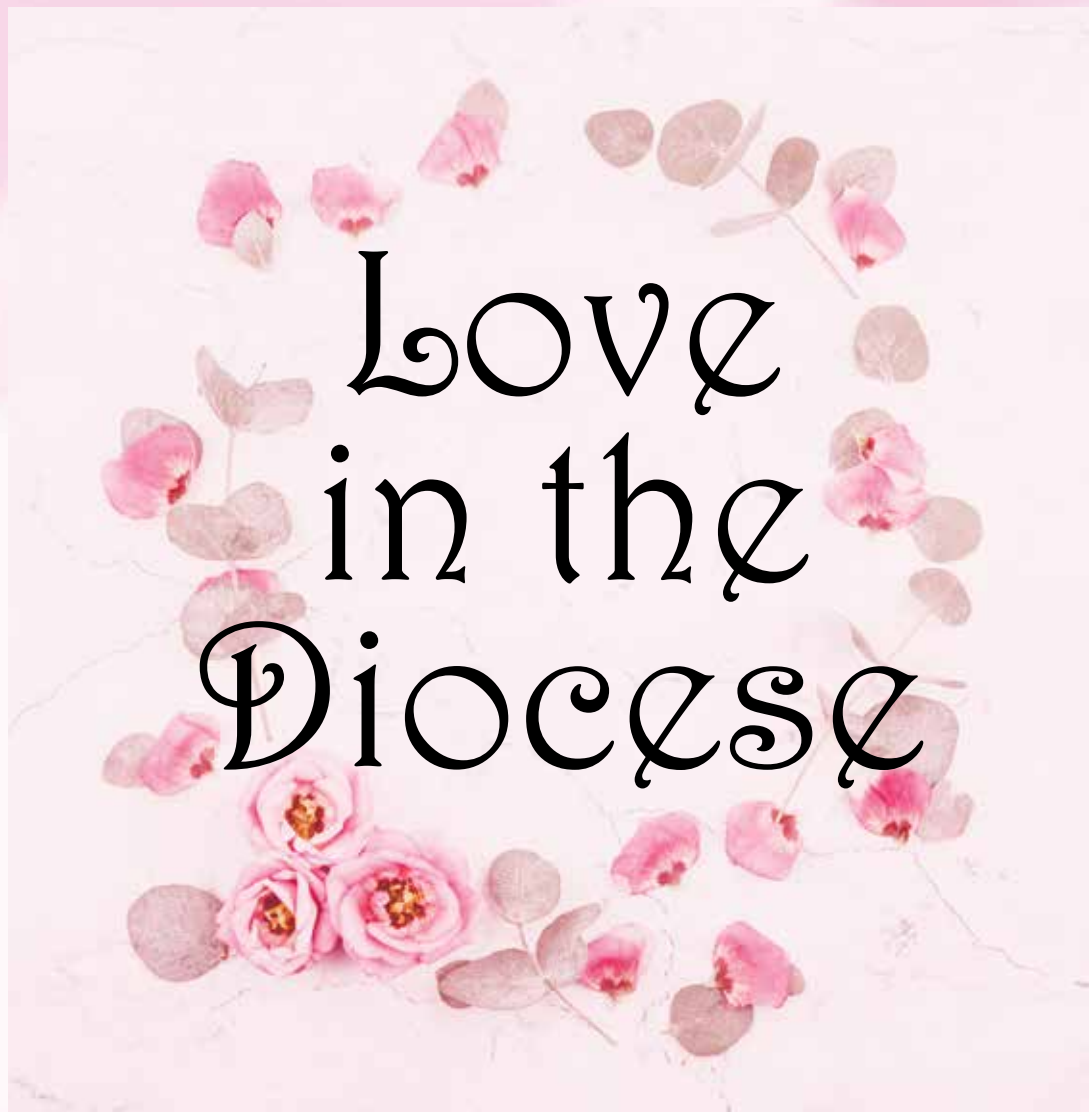
The campground of the park is definitely not one of my favourites, however. It is home to over 300 campsites, which are arranged "cheek by jowl" rather like a monstrous subdivision. The sites are small and there is little real privacy. But it was a place to camp and I needed the rest.

Next month: Broke in Wawa, a serious fender bender, and harvesting grain on the Prairies.

The Rev. Brenda M. McKnight was ordained in the Diocese of Toronto, and served in New Brunswick beginning in 1988 as the director of pastoral care at Saint John Regional Hospital. She subsequently served in the Parishes of Upham and Cambridge & Waterborough until her retirement in 2006. Her most recent position was as honorary assistant in the Parish of Kingston.



Sarah Tabor & Dan McMullen



Erin Hodge & Paul Rideout

Perfect match

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

When the Rev. Dan McMullen moved to Apohaqui a couple of years ago, someone in the community asked Sarah Tabor to contact him.

"You're really involved with the young people in the Apohaqui-Sussex area. Why don't you reach out," was the request.

She didn't have any contact information, but that didn't stop David Tabor, Sarah's father. One day while Sarah visited her parents, her father disappeared, drove to Dan's and got his number for his daughter.

"I was mortified!" said Sarah. "I never did contact him!"

Thankfully, Dan officiated at a family wedding that summer, and the two finally met.

"Before I even got to the wedding, family members were telling me 'he'd be perfect for you,'" she said. "My family — all of them — were doing it, going up to me and then up to Dan at the wedding."

She got the courage to introduce herself, under the guise of her involvement with youth ministry, and they exchanged contact information.

"I got her number, but then she went on a missions trip to Guatemala for two weeks," said Dan. "I never heard from her. I talked to her, got her number and then she left the country!"

But eventually, in September, they met up for a walk to The Bluff in the Sussex Corner area. They talked so much on the iconic peak overlooking Dutch Valley that it was dark when they climbed down.

The first date went well enough that they wanted to see each other again.

The second date was an invitation to hang out with Sarah and her friends, not a good sign, according to Dan.

"At first I thought that was probably not great, but I went," he said. "At the end I asked her to supper. There was a bit more hope after that."

On Dec. 4 Dan had a lot on his mind. It was the Christmas party at the Apohaqui Recreation Centre and he had big plans.

"I knew at the end [of the night] I was going to ask her if we could be exclusive," he said. "But one of the ladies beat me to it! She said, 'is this your girlfriend?'"

From there, the relationship grew, but there was a fear of saying those three words.

"There were a lot of moments when I knew I loved her, but it took me forever to man up and say it," said Dan.

"Before I was brave enough to say it to her, she told me she loved my heart."

He took it as a good sign. They were camping with her friends in Grand Manan at the time and he was talking about his ministry, which prompted that first declaration of love.

Saying "I love you" was not a phrase Dan took lightly. In fact, despite numerous girlfriends, some long-term, he'd never said it before. It was the first anniversary of their first date that the real words came out.

"I said it when he said it," said Sarah. "It was like, 'Oh! Thank heavens.' I'd been waiting and waiting!"

With love finally declared, Dan moved on to the next step — a proposal — even though he'd known for months he was going to ask.

"It was stressful!" said Dan of trying to choose a ring. He was in close consultation with female friends about how to buy a ring and went to several jewelry stores.

"They asked me about clarity, carats," he said. "I didn't know." "I'm just in love!" he told the salespeople.

Dan's plan was to propose on Dec. 4, the anniversary of the 'is this your girlfriend' comment at the Christmas party, "But I just couldn't wait."

So he chose Friday, Nov. 9. Among the things on his mind that afternoon were: "Will she say yes? Will I get chased by a bear? Will I get shot?"

He'd arranged for them to take a walk on his future father-in-law's land in Lower Millstream, but when Sarah showed up, she had orange vests for both of them, it being hunting season, and Dan was dismayed to see there was a lot of evidence of bears.

"I was afraid my plans were dashed," he said. "We're going to get mauled by a bear!"

But the bears stayed away, the question was asked and answered, and they happily hurried back to the car.

"I love you so much," Sarah told Dan as she pulled out onto the road.

"I love you, too, but you might want to drive on the right side of the road," was his practical reply to his fiancée's erratic post-proposal driving.

Despite their hesitation along the way, both knew they'd found their perfect match long before they voiced it. Sarah, an occupational therapist in Saint John, works with children and had long ago decided she'd like to adopt a child.

"I see a lot of kids without families," she said. "I came to the conclusion I'd like to adopt, and he said the same thing. That's when I really knew."

"That was a big moment," said Dan. "I had already thought I'd like to adopt."

Both families are thrilled for the couple, as is the congregation at the Church of the Ascension in Apohaqui where Dan serves. Many there have known Sarah all her life, since she grew up attending it.

Her parents attend St. Marks in Sussex Corner, and she began attending Atlantic Community Church, across the road from the Apohaqui church, when she was a teenager.

But the whole thing could have come off the rails had they each known a crucial detail about the other — their ages. Sarah is 34, Dan is 27.

"After the first couple of times we hung out, I began to realize she was older than me, so I looked it up. I was afraid she wouldn't date me. I tried to hide my age," said Dan.

"I never would have dated him had I known how old he is," said Sarah.

But by the time they finally talked about it, it was too late. Love had blossomed and age didn't seem to matter.

The wedding — an Anglican-Baptist ceremony — will take place Aug. 3 at Sarah's church.

A leap of faith

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

If Father Paul Rideout has a secret weapon for finding love, it would have to be in the form of a rescued Beagle named Dexter.

"The day I 'knew,' we took Dexter to get his nails clipped," said Erin Hodge, Paul's fiancée. "Paul was holding Dexter and Dexter was losing his mind. I thought, 'if this man's heart is so big that he can have such care and compassion for his dog' — well, that was it."

But let's back up a bit. Paul, 33, is from Moreton's Harbour in northeastern Newfoundland & Labrador. He's been a priest for eight years.

"What I was looking for was something different, a unique opportunity," he said. "I'd served in a couple of parishes in Newfoundland & Labrador, and I felt it was time for a change."

The vacancy for the Parish of Rothesay came across his desk, and he contacted the Ven. Cathy Laskey, who once served in NL.

After a period of discernment, and his positive impression of the parish's commitment to mission and outreach, "I felt like that was where I needed to be. And I don't regret it for a moment! I'm busier

than I've ever been — and I served in a three-point parish — but I love it."

Paul had only just arrived in September 2017 when he asked Erin on a date. It was a walking date in uptown Saint John, where Erin works as co-ordinator of the Inner City Youth Ministry under Thresh-old Ministries.

One date led to a second and the friendship bloomed into courtship.

"For me it almost seemed natural," said Paul. "It was so wonderful to meet someone who loved Christ and had a passion for mission. We had so much in common already. This was someone I wanted to continue to know better."

"Seeing the passion she has in her work with the inner city ministry and the relationships she fosters, it showed me her heart. It sealed the deal. I got a glimpse of the beauty of her heart."

For Erin, 28, Paul looked like good boyfriend material from the start.

"I knew this was serious. He was checking every box," she said. "One of the things he shared pretty early on was about his grandmother. I don't think there is much more attractive in a man than his care and attention for his grandmother."

"The obvious care he had for his family

and his deep devotion, his faith and spirituality, and his deep understanding of his vocation and calling."

Last summer, Erin and Paul visited Newfoundland & Labrador, meeting Paul's family, including his cherished grandmother. Likewise, Paul met Erin's parents, Vicars and Carole Hodge. Vicars was a priest in the Diocese of Fredericton from 1999-2012.

Though they had talked about marriage, Paul wanted to propose specifically on Nov. 19, 2018.

"I chose the day because it was the anniversary of my priesting and my grandmother's birthday," he said.

"He felt it was right to make another vocational decision on that day," Erin said, adding she knew a proposal was coming, but didn't know when.

But she was not completely co-operative on Nov. 19. While he had plans to propose to her at the Time Piece art installation outside Market Square, where they had begun their first date 14 months earlier, Erin was oblivious and had a long to-do list that needed attention, including shopping.

"I almost foiled his plans!" she said, adding he did manage to wrangle her back to their special place, where he

asked the question and gave her a ring — one chosen based on hints, answers to questions, Pinterest photos and other scraps of information.

The wedding will take place at St. Paul's in Rothesay on May 25. Erin's father, Vicars, will officiate, and Bishop David Edwards will celebrate the Eucharist and give a blessing. The Rev. Jasmine Chandra will preach.

"We did a count. I think there are 15 priests invited," said Erin.

"I'm on board in more of a consulting role," said Paul of the wedding plans, adding he has booked the venue!

All kidding aside, the two are looking forward to a long and happy married life.

And Erin, as a priest's daughter, knows what's she's in for, "though if you'd asked me a couple of years ago, there was no place in my mind that imagined marrying a priest! I know the challenges first hand. I'm going in with my eyes open."

"It's been an affirmation of faith," said Paul. "I came to New Brunswick not knowing what to expect."

"It was a leap of faith — not only in my parish but with Erin too. I see God's hand in it."

DIOCESAN COUNCIL



PHOTOS BY ARMIN HACKELSPERGER

Despite the rain, about 50 folks gathered on the 1st Sunday in Advent, Dec. 2, for the second annual lighting of the Memorial Christmas Tree at St. Luke's Anglican Church, Woodstock.

Because of the rain, we held most of the service inside. The rector, Rev. Shirley Noseworthy, led the meaningful service, the Rev. Deacon Harold Boomer read the names of departed loved ones whom we remember in a special way at this time of year.

We sang carols, lit candles, and gathered outside for the lighting of the tree. Hot chocolate was served to warm us up! Thank you to Mark and Dot Love for donating a beautiful 10-foot tree from your Christmas tree farm!

Thank you to Mark for delivering the tree and helping to put it in place and string the lights, along with Rev. Deacon Harold Boomer, wardens Richard Wetmore and Jon Tait, and Armin Hackelsperger.

Thank you to everyone who came and to all who donated to light up the tree in memory of cherished loved ones. God bless you all!



Meet your Diocesan Council members

Diocesan Council members were asked to answer the following questions: What is your background and/or career, and how has that prepared you for your work on DC? Why did you decide to become involved with DC? Who is Jesus to you? What is your hope for the diocese?

Sandra Craft, lay vice-chair

I have a science background and I volunteer with the Canadian Red Cross and Girl Guides. The first would, I like to think, make me orderly in my thoughts and how I approach Diocesan Council, while the other volunteer activities are people-oriented. Mixing these makes a good combination for Diocesan Council.

I'm active in my parish church — Holy Trinity in New Maryland and I was elected a Synod delegate. There I heard about Diocesan Council and wondered what it was all about. When I was asked by Bishop Miller to be a member at large, I thought, now I can find out. I think Diocesan Council over the last few years has become more geared to sharing back to the parishes what was discussed.

Jesus keeps me grounded. In our city and our world today, it is really easy to get exasperated and annoyed at what is happening around us, from rude behaviour to fascism and the open dislike of anyone and anything that's different.

This is very sad and definitely not what Jesus taught us. When I'm getting more than annoyed at the stuff that goes on, I stop, take a deep breath and say to myself, 'what would Jesus think or do?' and I feel much better, and much happier.

Continuing with that theme, what would Jesus like us to do in the diocese? To share, to act, to teach compassion and caring. We must live the two great commandments — love God, love our neighbours. What a great diocese we would be, showing to all what Jesus is about!

• • •

The Ven. Sandy MacPherson

After graduating from high school, I went into the retail



Sandra Craft

business and over 38 years I have held various positions starting as a clerk and moving up to store manager, then onto merchandising supervisor over Atlantic Canada and then merchandising manager, and then senior category manager before retiring in 2013. I was being called to something else and began studies in 2010 while working.

As an Archdeacon I automatically became a part of Diocesan Council. I like to see how



Sandy MacPherson

all the different parts and the processes of the Diocese work as a whole.

I serve in the Parish of Bathurst.

Jesus is my saviour.

I pray that we remain united and continue to reach out to others so that they have a relationship with Jesus. I also pray that we have an ever-growing presence throughout the province of New Brunswick.

HISTORY

THE MONKS OF CANTERBURY

BY BOBBIE ANN COLE

Monastic orders flourished in Canterbury for a thousand years, from 597 when Augustine and his monks came to England and founded St. Augustine's Abbey, to King Henry the Eighth's smashing of the monasteries in 1538, during the Reformation.

Prior to the Norman Conquest of 1066, Benedictines were the only monks in England. Possibly, Augustine and his monks were early Benedictines: the order was created by St. Benedict in Italy, where they were from, in the mid-500s.

A second monastic community, Christ Church Priory, attached to the cathedral, was founded at Canterbury by Archbishop Dunstan in the late tenth century and expanded after the conquest by Archbishop Lanfranc, himself a monk.

It was not uncommon for boys of seven or eight to enter orders and never set foot outside the precincts again. Their lives, spent in devotions and work, were regulated and safe.

They fared better than outsiders during famines—the image of Robin Hood's portly Friar Tuck may be fact.

Good grub may have afforded them some ammunition against the Black Death of 1348, which killed about 50 per cent of Europe's population. They fared better through it than the population at large.

Both the abbey and priory were broadly laid out in typical monastic style. The abbey was surrounded by a high wall, marking the separation of religious life from the secular, with vineyards, orchards and gardens outside.

A plan of the priory features on an 1165 Waterworks Plan, found in the Eadwine Psalter, showing the monastic buildings and cloister located to the north of the church, where to the south would have been usual.

Within the precincts were stables, granaries, a barn, bakehouse, brewery and laundries. In the great cloister, the cellarer distributed food and drink and the monks would sit in silence after meals. Holes in one wall demonstrate that there were once desks for writ-



Bobbie Ann Cole

ing manuscripts, in addition to those in the scriptorium.

Monks assembled daily at the chapter-house, a vast room which still stands today, to hear a chapter of the Rule of Saint Benedict — a handbook on how to run a monastery — discuss business and remember the dead.

The ruins of the priory's infirmary for sick and infirm monks with its own cloister, chapel, hall and kitchen can also be seen beside the cathedral.

The main dormitory was a rectangular room with beds along each side. In later medieval times, curtains were added to divide the room into cubicles. At night, monks would pad to the cathedral in slipper-socks, that came above the knee, for Night Office at midnight, Lauds at 3 a.m. and Prime at six. The socks eased long hours spent on their knees.

There was a fancy latrine that looked like a Norman hall, with 55 seats! A stream ran through it from end to end, clearing waste.

Impressive, too, was the kitchen, always a separate building because of fires. It was square, with a pyramid roof and a courtyard, plus butteries and pantries. The abbey's refectory was a long, rectangular hall with a raised dais for the head table, above which was a wall painting of Christ in Majesty.

Monastic entertainment could be lavish — one rule of Saint Benedict was to welcome visitors as if you were welcoming Christ himself. Two buildings were reserved for hospitality at the priory. Sadly, the almonry, for distributing relief to the poor, was sited far from these buildings.

The priory and abbey were



THE RUINS OF THE DORMITORY ARE NOW A peaceful herb garden.

The cloister

The 12th century water tower. Many monks needed much water, piped through the lead pipes from afar.



BOBBIE ANN COLE PHOTOS

substantial, self-contained, self-sufficient concerns that benefited hugely from the throngs of pilgrims that converged on Canterbury following Archbishop Thomas Becket's murder in 1170.

As well as hosting and shepherding pilgrims, there was a wide variety of work for monks to do. Some specialised in farming or husbandry, some in medicine, others in study or teaching. There are many examples of their most creative work, writing illuminated manuscripts.

By the late Middle Ages, the city had become famous for its great libraries. The impetus for this goes back to the 7th/8th

centuries when Anglo-Saxon Abbot Hadrian and his successors founded what would become known as the Canterbury School.

Beautiful, highly decorated manuscripts were produced for religious and everyday uses, like remedies, recipes or farming guides. Scribbling in such treasures was not taboo back then: we have dozens of books featuring notes and drawings by Clement of Canterbury, a monk in the 1400s.

In 2018, a rare medieval Bible was returned to Canterbury Cathedral after it mysteriously disappeared, 500 years earlier.

Written and illustrated on

vellum in 13th century Paris, this pocket-sized, travelling Bible was the property of a 14th century monk named William Lighfyld, who signed his name in it. It is known as the Lighfyld Bible.

Bobbie Ann Cole is a Christian book coach and author of two Amazon #1 bestselling memoirs available through Amazon and Lighthouse Bible Bookstore in Fredericton. She is a former resident of the Parish of Pennfield. She and her husband, Butch, now live in Canterbury, UK, where she is an assistant guide at the Cathedral. Contact her by email bobbie.ann.cole@gmail.com.

COMMENTARY

Want some discipleship with your Christianity?

Discipleship is a buzzword often used in church, but what does it really mean?

For Christians, it is about growing and learning fully what it means to be Christ-like: modelling and living a life as followers of Jesus Christ.

Discipleship is actually modelled after the Jewish tradition of rabbis teaching and raising up students.

Students would commit their lives to learn everything their rabbi knew. They lived with him, studied his actions and responses and eventually began to live just like him.

Just the same, we are invited to commit our lives to learn everything about Jesus and as much as possible, live like Him.

For the church, this *should* be a cyclical process – meaning once we are discipled, we are to disciple others, and so on.

One of the most important characteristics of being a disciple is to develop an intimate relationship with God through Christ rather than just learning about Him.

Discipleship equips the



Branching Out
SHAWN BRANCH

Christian with God's Word, prayer, doctrine, worship, encouragement and service.

Another important facet of discipleship is about building a relationship with others. We learn from each other's stories and journeys — the highs and lows.

Throughout history, the use of stories has played a significant part in knowing ourselves and those around us. This is also true when we look at our parishes.

How likely are we to feel connected without knowing the people we worship with?

Do you feel connected and valued when you arrive as worship starts and are the first one out the door?

It is unlikely that a strong connection will be built with just a passing nod while walking up to receive the Eucharist or a quick handshake during The Peace.

Discipleship training takes commitment, vision and understanding the Scriptures. In reading the words of Jesus, we see that discipleship is not just an option for believers.

"Jesus came and told his disciples, 'I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

"Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'" (Matthew 28:18-20)

This is the mission and purpose of the Church. We are to

equip and grow disciples who in turn go out to equip and disciple others.

You'll notice, hopefully, that as a diocese we will be placing an emphasis on discipleship over the course of this next season.

One of the highlights that came out of our study of *Surprise the World* last year, was the need to focus on intentional discipleship in our parishes and diocese.

The global Anglican Communion has launched an initiative until 2026 to encourage dioceses and parishes across the globe to be intentional about discipling those connected to us.

As leaders in the Church, it is our responsibility to ensure that people have the opportunity to know and live what they profess to believe.

In 2019, we will be offering some discipleship days to begin this process — to lay a foundation.

You are encouraged to attend any that are of interest to you. These days are not only about teaching, but about building a relationship with

those across the diocese.

In June, a diocesan gathering will be held here in Fredericton to encourage all members of our diocese in their life and ministry.

Michael Frost, author of *Surprise the World*, will be our keynote speaker, with Bishop David Edwards and other great deep dives and workshops.

Retreats and parish resources will be made available as well throughout the year.

"God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him." (John 3:17).

Now as much as any time in history, we are in need of good news and hope.

What better opportunity for us as believers, as a community, as a fellowship in the diocese to be equipped and prepared to offer good news and share our hope with those around us.

Shawn C. Branch is the parish development officer for the diocese. He can be reached at the Synod Office or via email: sbranch@diofton.ca

Episcopal Announcements



The Rev. Chris McMullen will retire as rector in the Parish of Lancaster effective July 1.

...

The Rev. Jonathan Springthorpe's term as Incumbent of the Westside Anglican Mission has been extended to June 30.

...

The Rev. Bonnie LeBlanc will retire to half-time ministry in the Parish of Stanley, effective March 1.

...

The Rev. John Galbraith has been appointed as director of Camp Medley (part-time), effective Jan. 1. He will continue as priest in the Parish of Doug-

las and Nashwaaksis.

...

Allyson Caldwell has been appointed summer camp manager (part-time). She continues as part-time assistant to the director of Youth and Intergenerational Ministries.

...

MISSION IN MOTION: international



PWRDF
The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

For the past few years the Parish of Cambridge & Waterborough has chosen the Advent season to fundraise for PWRDF. Using the World of Gifts publication, we initially donated towards kits for community health workers.

However, last year we decided to donate towards goats and we haven't looked back.

During our 2018 Advent Challenge we donated towards 37 goats, five bicycle repair kits and two piglets for a total of \$1,190.

All donations are matched six times by Global Affairs Canada towards the actual cost.

We share our success to encourage other small parishes to get involved. *Submitted by Mary Anne Chrisjohn, PWRDF parish rep. Visit pwrdf.org*

Deep Roots



"They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither." [Psalm 135]

2019 DIOCESAN GATHERING

JUNE 14-15, 2019
UNB FREDERICTON CAMPUS

FEATURING:



DAVID EDWARDS
BISHOP



MICHAEL FROST
AUTHOR, MISSIOLOGIST

Registration will be open in March 2019.

Estimated cost: \$75/person (not including accommodations)

For more info: anglican.nb.ca/deeproots

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Parish hosts Dickens Christmas reading

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Following in the footsteps of Charles Dickens himself, the Parish of Salisbury and Havelock presented a dramatic reading of *A Christmas Carol* on Wednesday, Dec. 5 at St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Petitcodiac.

Charles Dickens' novella about a miserly businessman turned joyous, generous neighbour on Christmas morning has been a popular seasonal story since its publication six days before Christmas in 1843.

In fact, it sold out by Christmas Eve, prompting a second edition. Within a year, 13 editions had been released and it's never been out of print since.

Dickens began public readings of the story in 1849, repeated 127 times until 1870, the year of his death.

"Charles Dickens reworked the text of his novella into a script for public reading, and had travelled to all sorts of places to read it," said the Rev. Chris Hayes, rector of the Par-

ish of Salisbury and Havelock.

"His wishes were that wherever it was read, it was to raise funds for those in need, and that the ticket price for the event never be made out of reach for the masses."

Tickets for this reading were \$10 and all proceeds — \$400 — were split evenly between two food banks in the parish — Helping Hands in Salisbury, and S.P.O.T. ("Serving People of Today") in Petitcodiac.

"I felt this was a wonderful, unique way to raise funds for food banks at this time of year, as Dickens had wanted," said Chris, adding this is the third time the parish has hosted the fundraiser.

"We have local 'celebrity' readers, including a village councillor, a retired teacher, a school librarian, a grocery store owner, and a Mennonite pastor," said Chris.

The entire story is read in five staves, as Dickens called the chapters, with musical interludes. This year, the music was a group carol sing.



CHRIS HAYES PHOTOS



TOP: LOCAL SCHOOL LIBRARIAN DONNA WATSON READS PART OF A CHRISTMAS CAROL. **BOTTOM:** The audience gathers before *A Christmas Carol* begins. **LEFT:** Organist Cheryl Young leads the community carol sing.

DISCIPLESHIP DAYS

March 16 - See Through The Scriptures with Bishop David

April 13 - Jesus: His life and ministry with the Rev. Paul Ranson

May 11 - The Church: Our History and Future

These events will be held at
St John the Evangelist, Fredericton,
9:30AM to 3PM.

For more info, costs or to register visit:
nb.anglican.ca

An opportunity for us, as a diocesan family, to grow in our knowledge and love of Christ.



COMMENTARY



JASMINE PINA-MESSINA ON UNSPLASH

BY JASMINE CHANDRA

What do you think when you hear that someone is on “welfare”?

For most, the word “welfare” has become associated with shameful or unfavourable connotations. We may think of people in line ups for assistance, people who are poorly dressed or unkempt.

The more embittered may think of able-bodied men and women who get to sit around watching TV all day, while the rest of us are hard at work.

The fact that the word welfare was changed to social

assistance or income assistance is certainly a sign that it had some bad P.R.

And the notion that many, if not most, of the people who are receiving monthly cheques are somehow abusing the system persists no matter what words are used.

We’ve all heard of “so and so’s” friend or “so and so’s” relative who clearly is a drain on taxpayers’ hard-earned dollars.

We put up with the system and still allow it to exist because we acknowledge that there are those who, due to life circumstances, are just not able to work.

We know that there are heartbreaking stories that make welfare or social assistance necessary. And so it lives on.

But we also want to make sure that it is as unlikely as possible for someone to take advantage of the system.

We want to make sure that those who are receiving this ‘free’ money are really the ones who cannot live without it.

We want to make sure that checks and balances are in place and that rules are clearly laid out so that no abuses of money can take place.

As I’ve gotten to learn more about social assistance, I’ve been surprised at the number

of rules that are in place. Some of them quite limiting — especially the ones around income.

You can find these regulations though the Government of New Brunswick’s policy manual http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/social_development/policy_manual.html

I thought that a few things from this policy were worth highlighting:

1. Individuals can have a maximum of \$1,000 in the bank and families a maximum of \$2,000.

If at any point there is more than this in the bank, they are no longer eligible for assistance. And upon death, any cash left over is to go to funeral expenses. You are allowed RESPs for kids, but no other savings.

2. If you are self-employed and have tools or equipment for work, you can keep them for the first 12 months you are off, but if you are still on assistance after 12 months, you have to sell your tools and the money you earn from them will be considered income. (Another reason why the Saint John Tool Library is a good idea).

3. You are not eligible for assistance if you have any type of employment, even if this employment is very sporadic and is not enough to live on.

If you have been on assistance for 30 days or more, you are allowed to keep a portion of your wages.

A person living alone can keep up to \$150 a month, while a person living with others is allowed to keep up to \$200 a month.

Any earnings above these amounts are directly taken off

your assistance cheque.

4. If you are an individual on assistance you will receive about \$576 a month. A family receives anywhere from \$887 for one adult and a child to \$1508 for a family of 13.

Two adults without children receive \$903, and a dual parent family with one child receives \$938. Considering that room rentals average around \$400 a month and 2 bedroom apartments are generally around \$750, this does not leave much to live on.

Housing assistance is available but there is a very long waiting list. I was recently speaking with someone who was wondering if she would have enough money to put seeds in a bird feeder.

We may think that once you get on income assistance (or welfare), that you are able to access the very basic necessities of life.

But what about getting off of income assistance? What about saving for a rainy day?

What about keeping your family unit together? What about getting back into the workforce?

Please consider what it would be like for you and your family to live under the same rules. Would you be able to get by every month?

And those who read this who are on assistance, what do you think needs to change? I know I am offering more questions than solutions today.

The Rev. Jasmine Chandra and her husband, the Rev. Terence Chandra, run the Central Saint John Community Ministry. Reprinted with permission from their blog, penniesandsparrows.org.

WOODSTOCK CHURCHES CELEBRATE ADVENT TOGETHER



ARMIN HACKELSPERGER PHOTO

Thank you to everyone who came out for a great ecumenical Festival of Advent Lessons & Carols on the 1st Sunday in Advent at St. Luke’s. Despite the snowy and rainy day, about 55 people attended from the community representing various churches in Woodstock.

The offering amounted to \$216.56, which supports the work and ministry of the Woodstock & District Ministerial.

Thank you to the combined choir, representing various churches, who sang in four-part harmony. The singing was glorious! Thank you to the lay and ordained participants from the area (Anglican Parish of Woodstock, Anglican Parish of Richmond, Woodstock Salvation Army, Bethel Pentecostal Assembly, St. Gertrude’s Roman Catholic, St. James United, and St. Paul’s Presbyterian) who read scripture, telling of God’s plan for salvation.

Thank you to St. Luke’s Guild and anyone else who brought refreshments. It was a spirit-filled time of fellowship, worship and praise as we began preparing our hearts during the season of Advent for the coming of Christ!

Pictured from left: Majors Marlene & Angel Sandoval, Shannon & Pastor Ron Ecker, Rev. Shirley Noseworthy, Fr. John Beaumaster, Les Jackson.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Dr. Beverly Sheehan receives parochial layreader licence

Dr. Beverly Sheehan arrived at Trinity Church in Saint John around mid 2017 when she decided to return to Saint John after a full career in the deep south.

In her words, "Saint John was always home" and home she returned.

During this transition, she reflected upon God's call on her life, while faithfully attending worship and weekly bible study at Trinity, from which a deeper sense of calling to the ministries that layreader studies opened up. Beverly searched, heard and answered God's call on her life.

Through the layreader educational program that Cleo

Cyr, warden of layreaders, has shepherded, Beverly began to explore layreader ministry.

On Dec. 9, the Parish of Saint John, Trinity Church, officially welcomed Beverly as the parish's newest layreader, joining diocesan layreaders Susanne Sutton and James McKenna.

Beverly's parochial layreader license declaration was witnessed by her childhood and best friend, fellow Trinity parishioner Nancy Smith.

Following the service of Holy Communion, a time of fellowship followed in the Bennett Room where Beverly was greeted more informally by her parish family.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

DIOCESAN LAYREADER JAMES MCKENNA, the Rev. Steven G. Scribner and Dr. Beverly Sheehan, parochial layreader.



Got some parish news to share? Send in photos, stories and other information for publication in the NB Anglican. Please ensure all photos are at least 1 MB in size. Send to gmcknight@diofton.ca

MISSION IN MOTION: laughter



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A MINISTRY OF LAUGHTER!

Laughter is an amazing gift God had given us, and He must certainly have had a smile on his face after the November dinner theatre presented by St. George's in Bathurst.

The parish's ministry of laughter was a big hit in the community. It spoke volumes of our love for each other through comedy and that we are listening to God's message: "Whoever lives in love, lives in God and God in them."

This year's show, titled *Politically Incorrect*, featured song, dance and skits on the cutting edge. The three-act show also featured a sumptuous turkey dinner.

Of the more than 70 people involved, 44 were members of St. George's. We drew on the community for many different roles.

Mary Wolfe was the writer/director.

In the photo: men with panama hats (during rehearsal): Bob Comeau, Kevin Mann, Jim Chamberlain, Russell Bechervaise, Ken Pitre, George McGillivray, Edgar Frenette.

God's Announcements

2019 LENTEN RETREAT

MARCH 24-25, 2019

VILLA MADONNA RETREAT CENTRE, ROTHESAY NB

- Listen to and hear God -

Facilitated by the Rev. Dr John Paul Westin

Join us for 24hrs in Lent as we take time together to grow closer to God and learn to hear His voice. All are invited to join us this coming Lent as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter Celebrations.

Preregistration is required, to help with logistics and preparations. Cost will be \$100/person and includes overnight accommodations, meals and materials.

For more information and to register, visit: nb.anglican.ca/events/lenten-retreat

Some funding is available for those who might need it, contact Cheryl Jacobs or Shawn Branch for information.

Sponsored by Bishop David Edwards & the Spiritual Development Team



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL



CHRISTMAS TEA
AT THE CATHEDRAL



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS

The Cathedral Health Ministry Team held its Christmas Medley Tea Dec. 6, again in Christ Church Cathedral to allow better accessibility for those with mobility issues.

This was the second month at the new location and numbers are building. The month before, the team welcomed 27. In December, 37 people came out to chat, enjoy refreshments and sing along to carols led by Cathedral organist David Drinkell.

For the festive occasion, Isabelle Hockin dressed up as Mrs. Medley, and Isabel Cutler posed as her poor cousin visiting from England. You can see them in the photo at top right.

Michelle LeBlanc was the main organizer of the fun event.



MISSION IN MOTION: fellowship

COMMUNITY
CAROL
SING-ALONG



HEATHER PERRITT PHOTOS

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL held a community carol sing-along Dec. 12. It was a well-attended kick-off to the season and much enjoyed by all ages.

AROUND THE DIOCESE



EUGENE PRICE PHOTO

Christmas gathering

ALL SAINTS' WOMEN OF WORSHIP, Keswick Ridge (Parish of Bright), held their annual Christmas Party Dec. 14. A good crowd was on hand and the event included wonderful fellowship.

PARISH NEWS



BOB LEBLANC PHOTO

Colour of Advent

ABOVE: THE PARISH OF WICKLOW, WILMOT, PEEL AND ABERDEEN decided to do things differently this Advent season, decorating in purple, which is an Advent colour. This is what the efforts looked like at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Florenceville.



BEV DALEY PHOTO

Layreader Emeritus

LEFT: IN EARLY DECEMBER IN THE PARISH OF NEW BANDON, Canon Richard McConnell presented Murray Clouston with a certificate of Layreader Emeritus. After serving in the parish as a layreader for 50 years, Murray has decided to retire his layreading license. The members of the parish wish him well. His service will be missed.

PARISH NEWS

IN RECOGNITION
OF SERVICE

On Remembrance Sunday, as the Parish of Portland (St. Luke's Church) remembered those who fought and those who died on our behalf in order to preserve our freedom, we also took the time to honour David Smith for his many years of ministry at St. Luke's.

In addition to 40 years as a layreader and over 35 years as Sunday school superintendent, David has served the Lord and his people as a warden, vestry member, auditor, Loaves and Fishes team member and our unofficial historian.

St. Luke's has been greatly blessed by David's commitment and service, and it is with thankful hearts that we were able to recognize the many contributions he has made to the life of our parish.

At left is Canon David Barrett, Mr. Smith, and assistant curate Cole Hartin. Below is Mr. Smith's family (from Vancouver, Ottawa, Fredericton and Saint John), including his brother-in-law, retired Bishop George Lemmon.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Clergy Spouses
Conference

May 2 – 4, Villa Madonna in Rothesay

Special speaker will be Karen Stiller, a Christian journalist as well as a minister's wife, and senior editor of Faith Today magazine. Her work has appeared in many publications, including recent writing about being a minister's wife, which appeared in The Walrus and Reader's Digest.

Stiller is a two-time recipient of the A.C. Forrest Memorial Award from the Canadian Church Press for excellence in socially conscious religious journalism, among other writing awards.

Stiller moderates the Religion and Society series at the University of Toronto, a debate series between leading atheists and theologians. She lives in Ottawa and graduated with a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Non-Fiction from University of King's College, Dalhousie in the spring of 2018. Her writing project for that degree is called: "The Minister's Wife: a spiritual memoir of difficult blessings." Karen and her husband, Brent, have three (nearly grown) children.

www.karenstiller.com

Information: Vanessa McMullin, 849-3118 or vanessa.crowther101@gmail.com

The Anglican Diocese
OF FREDERICTON

GROWING TOGETHER...



March 2019

6: Ash Wednesday
16: 'See thru the Scriptures' (Discipleship Day)
24-25: Diocesan Lenten Retreat (24hrs)

April 2019

13: 'Who is Jesus?' (Discipleship Day)
21: Easter Sunday

May 2019

1: Bishop's Banquet [Fredericton Area]
2-4: Clergy Spouses Retreat
7: Diocesan ACW Day [Bathurst]
8: Bishop's Banquet [Moncton Area]
11: 'What is the Church?' (Discipleship Day)
18-20: Teens Encounter Christ
30: Bishop's Pilgrimage Begins

June 2019

9: Pentecost
12: Bishop's Pilgrimage Ends
14-15: Diocesan Gathering - 'Deep Roots'

save the date

For more information on any of these events, visit:
www.anglican.nb.ca

MUSIC COLUMN

2018’s Christian popular music was... underwhelming?

A quick look at any of the year-in-review or top charts for 2018 will show that there are some common names across the charts of Christian music, whether it be a count of album sales, streaming song counts, top artists, or others.

Lauren Daigle, Hillsong United, Elevations Worship, and MercyMe all had great years, if charting well means anything.

But a closer look at the charts will also show some particulars that have less to do with the numbers, and more about the culture in which we live. Here are a few items you may be interested to read about.

Continued gender gaps: While the top album of the year was *You Say*, by Lauren Daigle, who was also named the top Christian artist for the year, women were very hard to find on the charts. Christian music seems continually dominated by men, especially four-piece bands (the same trend is found in non-charting acts, too).

Lack of Innovation: The charts continue to feature predominantly established artists. Cory Asbury is a notable exception, but it seems to show that to have success, you have to have been around for a long time.

This simply isn’t the real-



ity of Christian music acts today. What will happen when Hillsong calls it quits? Or Skillet says they’re done?

Streaming increases, full album sales decrease: This trend is typical across all genres of music, yet in the Christian music market, can make for a real problem.

The financial aspects of contracts with streaming services such as Spotify and Apple Music mean that bands are not making much money per stream — far less than they make selling an album.

Many artists will not be able to make a living off streaming sales, meaning that some musicians with great gifts may never be able to share them with the world. Christian music may become the exclusive domain of those who can afford it.

Cookie-cutter cuts: It has been a common complaint in music for years now, that artists are ever increasingly writing for the market (i.e., sales) and not out of their creative passions — so much more the

DIGITAL SONG SALES	STREAMING SONGS	CHRISTIAN ALBUMS	CHRISTIAN SONGS	CHRISTIAN ARTISTS
1 Reckless Love Cory Asbury	1 Monster Skillet	1 Look Up Child Lauren Daigle	1 Reckless Love Cory Asbury	1 Lauren Daigle
2 You Say Lauren Daigle	2 What A Beautiful Name Hillsong Worship	2 Precious Memories Collection Alan Jackson	2 You Say Lauren Daigle	2 MercyMe
3 I Can Only Imagine MercyMe	3 Reckless Love Cory Asbury	3 I Can Only Imagine: The Very Best Of MercyMe	3 I Just Need U. tobyMac	3 Hillsong Worship
4 I Just Need U. tobyMac	4 Oceans (Where Feet May Fail) Hillsong UNITED	4 How Can It Be Lauren Daigle	4 Who You Say I Am Hillsong Worship	4 Cory Asbury
5 So Will I (100 Billion X) Hillsong UNITED	5 10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord) Matt Redman	5 Therapy Session NF	5 Joy. for KING & COUNTRY	5 Elevation Worship
6 Fear Is A Liar Zach Williams	6 O Come To The Altar Elevation Worship	6 Chain Breaker Zach Williams	6 Grace Got You MercyMe	6 tobyMac
7 Who You Say I Am Hillsong Worship	7 Hero Skillet	7 Lifer MercyMe	7 Fear Is A Liar Zach Williams	7 for KING & COUNTRY
8 Joy. for KING & COUNTRY	8 Feel Invincible Skillet	8 Wonder Hillsong UNITED	8 So Will I (100 Billion X) Hillsong UNITED	8 Zach Williams
9 Head Above Water Avril Lavigne	9 You Say Lauren Daigle	9 Unleashed Skillet	9 I Can Only Imagine MercyMe	9 Hillsong UNITED
10 What A Beautiful Name Hillsong Worship	10 Even If MercyMe	10 Mansion NF	10 What A Beautiful Name Hillsong Worship	10 Chris Tomlin

case in the Christian genre.

Because writing, recording, and touring are all dependant on sales, record labels are increasingly unlikely to take a chance on artists who offer material that is outside the typical three-four minute pop song with clever hook and sing-along lyrics with such themes as hope, faith, or especially hard-times-saved-by-faith (once the domain of country western music only!).

To sum up, the past year in Christian popular music has

been typical of recent years, in that little innovation, with few new artists, and continued over population of male voices was the norm.

If trends in music distribution continue with the remunerations currently offered, the trends of the past years will only become more entrenched.

I believe the industry has to take a leap of faith, and enable more increasingly diverse forms and styles of music to be brought to the spotlight by more and more kinds of

people.

If God made humanity with such great diversity, shouldn’t our music reflect that at all levels?

Next month: Switchfoot. ’Nuff said.
NOTE: Stats in the chart were retrieved from [Billboard.com](#), Dec. 30, 2018

The Rev. Chris Hayes is a musician as well as a priest serving in the Parish of Salisbury and Havelock.



Erin Hodge, Director of Inner City Youth Ministry; Evangelist-in-training with Threshold Ministries

- Favourite book of the Bible** - I think James or maybe Lamentations, depends on the day!
Birthplace - London, Ont.
What you love most about God – The fact that He is incarnational!
Favourite place on Earth - I love Tin Can Beach in the South End of Saint John.
Farthest you’ve been from home - Vancouver B.C.
Favourite meal or dessert - Sushi, hands down.
Biggest fear – Earwigs *Shudder*
Hidden talent – I can do the splits.
Favourite movie or book – 1984. I love most dystopian fiction.
Your hobby – Genealogy research
Three things always in your fridge – Almond milk, eggs, pickled ginger
Favourite sports team - Don’t really have one; I’m a bit out of the loop.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CATHOLIC BOOKSTORE

The Catholic Bookstore in Saint John will cease operation as a retail outlet, effective Feb. 1.

The bookstore will continue as a wholesale outlet, which will allow parishes, churches and commercial accounts to purchase their various liturgical needs.

Current hours are Tuesday to Friday, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

AROUND THE DIOCESE



KATHLEEN SNOW PHOTO

MISSION IN MOTION: baking

TAKING A COOKIE BREAK

MOTHERS' UNION KNOWS THE ANXIETY facing university students at Christmas. Before they can enjoy the season, they must write exams. In early December, MU members had 200 bags of cookies to pass out at Head Hall on the University of New Brunswick's Fredericton campus, which were so popular they were gone in 20 minutes. The looks of joy and gratitude on the faces of students was so heartwarming. So many of them were grateful and moved to tears. MU thanks all those who helped in this resoundingly successful outreach. Pictured here is MU member Donna Crowe giving out one of the bags of cookies to a university student at Head Hall. MU will plan another cookie giveaway in April before spring exams start.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

In Fredericton, Christ Church (Parish) Church's Sunday school pageant was held Dec. 16 and entitled *The Surprise that Changed Everything*. The cast included news anchor - Charlie Hanscomb; reporter - Rochelle Young; Angel Gabriel - Faith Lowthers; shepherd - Emma Lowthers; lion - Nicholas Hanscomb; sheep - Claire Murphy & Arianna Parish.



DEBBIE CAWKER PHOTOS