



Looking for a mission trip? Check page 7



Part II of My Journey North continues on page 8



YIG activities this spring on page 11



The gift of hospitality highlighted on Page 16



THE NEW BRUNSWICK ANGLICAN



A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

MARCH 2019

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON



MISSION IN MOTION: international

PWRDF PHOTO

THE PURCHASE OF GOATS WAS A POPULAR ADVENT PROJECT in the diocese, with two parishes purchasing 54 goats and livestock for two entire farms through the PWRDF World of Gifts catalogue. Read about the great goat fundraisers on page 9.

'Deep Roots' diocesan gathering planned for June

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Remember the days of frequent diocesan workshops, conferences and other annual training events? What if, instead of having several throughout the year, we had one big one that covered a lot of ground?

That was the thinking behind a meeting last year when four team chairs — Spiritual Development, Stewardship, Mission & Outreach and YIG (Youth and Intergenerational) — got together to come up with something different.

"It was an attempt not to have individual days — but a chance for a diocesan gathering with a ministry focus, not a business focus," said Cheryl Jacobs, chair of Spiritual Development. "We've had this on our list for ages, but there was always so much going

on."

"As we were sitting there talking, the idea came up of how to pool resources to bring people together," said parish development officer Shawn Branch. "It morphed into a diocesan gathering."

That's how the Deep Roots diocesan gathering came about. No doubt you've seen the ads on the diocesan website and in the NB Anglican. It will take place June 14-15 on the University of New Brunswick campus in Fredericton.

It begins on Friday afternoon with registration, plus a unique sharing event where selected people in various ministries will be sharing their stories, in short form and in an open forum.

Deep Roots continued on page 2



Don't miss an issue

Confirm your subscription

Dear Reader,

We're asking you to confirm your *Anglican Journal* subscription. Here's why.

Your subscription to the *Anglican Journal* (and, where included, your diocesan newspaper) began when your parish church added your name and address to the subscription list. When a person's address changes, for whatever reason, the parish office is asked to notify the circulation department. Often that happens, but often it does not.

In a recent survey of a large number of subscribers, 10 per cent of the surveys mailed were returned as "unknown at this address."

That is, at least 10 per cent of newspapers (*Anglican Journal* and diocesan papers) are being mailed to people who don't live at that address.

This means a waste of thousands of dollars each month. So we are verifying the subscription list to avoid this waste.

If you wish to continue to receive the *Anglican Journal* (and any diocesan paper mailed with it), please complete the confirmation and return it. If we do not hear from you, your subscription will come to an end with the June 2019 issue.

With every blessing,

Michael Thompson

Michael Thompson
General Secretary,
Anglican Church of Canada

Dear Reader:

Contact us with your name and address and we'll ensure you continue to get your Anglican newspapers.

EMAIL: yes@national.anglican.ca with your name, address, phone number and ID# (from label, if available).

MAIL: Fill in and mail to Anglican Journal, 80 Hayden St., Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2

PHONE TOLL-FREE: 1-866-333-0959

ONLINE: Go to anglicanjournal.com/yes

☒ Yes, I would like to continue to receive my Anglican newspaper

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Church: _____

ID# (from label, if available) _____

Comments: _____

MAR-JUN 2019

DIOCESAN SYNOD NEWS

Keynote speaker is BELLS author Michael Frost

Deep Roots continued from page 1

“It’s sort of like a slide presentation but with real people speaking about their ministries,” said Cheryl.

Bishop David Edwards will kick off the evening, followed by the first keynote address by Michael Frost.

Yes, *that* Michael Frost, author of the book, *Surprise the World*, which synod delegates heard about at the 2017 synod, and which many parishioners studied during the Easter season last year. This little mission book has had a huge impact on a lot of people and parishes, and its author will speak at the gathering three times.

The first keynote will be followed by a kitchen party, wrapping up the first day of the gathering.

Saturday after breakfast and Morning Prayer, Frost will deliver a second keynote, followed by deep dives and toolbox



Michael Frost

SUBMITTED PHOTO

sessions.

There are two deep dives scheduled, which are half the length of keynotes and will delve into the topics of church leadership today and reaching the next generation.

Toolbox sessions aren’t workshops, but quick, multiple opportunities to hear about such things as Godly Play, stewardship, Alpha, Messy Church, parish communications, social enterprise and Ignatian spirituality. There will also be many groups set up with information booths so everyone can browse and learn more about ministries within the diocese.

Saturday afternoon will

include deanery circles, where people from the same areas can reflect on what they’ve heard so far and chat about shared plans for future missions. One final keynote by Michael Frost will end the gathering in the late afternoon.

Various forms of worship will be enjoyed throughout the weekend — Morning and Evening Prayer, Compline, and music.

Details are still in the works, but delegates would stay at UNB, with meals at McConnell Hall on the campus. Childcare will be offered during large group sessions. The 5th Mark of Mission will be respected, with delegates asked to bring their own water

bottles, mugs and pens.

After the idea to plan a diocesan-wide gathering was on the table, Bishop David asked Shawn to take the lead on planning. He gathered an ad hoc planning committee, which will disband after the conference. Should more annual conferences come about, they will be planned by another ad hoc committee.

It was Shawn who pitched bringing in Michael Frost. Both had been at the same ministry conference in Chicago not long ago and they had mutual acquaintances.

“I said I’d reach out to Michael Frost to see if he’d like to come to Canada and he said yes,” said Shawn.

Frost will also be the speaker at a one-day non-denominational workshop on the Tuesday following the gathering, June 18, at Hillside Baptist in Moncton. For those not able to attend the gathering, it’s a rare second chance to meet the author, professor and missionary.

At Diocesan Synod 2018, which did not take place, a motion would have been introduced called intentional discipleship.

It would have urged fellow Anglicans to accept the Anglican Communion’s invitation

to enter into a season of intentional discipleship, until 2025, to strengthen our identity in and mission to New Brunswick communities.

This motion would have been a follow-up to the *Surprise the World* Easter study of last year and serve as a kick-off to the Deep Roots conference. As it never happened, the gathering will forge on as a discipleship initiative with strong missional undertones.

“Out of discipleship comes missional behaviour, including a concern for stewardship, a green focus and the deeper spiritual roots ideas — and the tools to do it,” said Cheryl. “It will have a missional flavour.”

Shawn’s aim for the gathering is this: “I would love to see as many as can be come from across the diocese, so we can start walking together and being more intentional in our lives as Christians and in our ministry together, regardless of where we live.”

Clergy, lay leaders and anyone with an interest in discipleship, missional behaviour and growth as a Christian is welcome. Online registration and more information, including cost, is available at anglican.nb.ca/deeproots

FROM THE EDITOR...




This is the second month 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 the goat fundraiser on page 9, the bowling tournament on page 4 and the mission trip to South Africa on page 7. Watch for others as you go through the paper.

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 April edition of the New Brunswick Anglican is March 1. Send submissions to gmcknight@diofton.ca



www.anglican.nb.ca

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON
A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

The Rt. Rev. David Edwards Bishop and Publisher

Gisele McKnight Editor

Published 10 times per year. Price of subscription \$10.00

Please send news and photo submissions to
115 Church St., Fredericton, NB E3B 4C8
Phone: 506-459-1801; E-mail: gmcknight@diofton.ca

Please send subscription renewals and changes of address to:
The New Brunswick Anglican, c/o Anglican Journal Circulation Dept.,
80 Hayden St, Toronto, Ont. M4Y 3G2
circulation@national.anglican.ca OR 1-866-924-9192 ext. 259

Printed & mailed in North York, Ontario
By Webnews Printing Inc.

THE BISHOP'S PAGE

The healing of the cross

As we approach Lent, I am going to centre our thoughts upon the cross. A few months ago, I said that I would develop a series of articles using Brian Zahnd's book *Water into Wine*; this is the first one.

In Christian thought, the events at the cross are seen as atonement, or as is often said, "at-one-ment." This has to do with the restoration of the broken relationship between God and humanity, made possible by the actions of God in sending Jesus into the world.

Much has been written and spoken about how what happened at Calvary accomplished this. The result has been the development of several "theories of atonement."

You can read about these elsewhere. I want to step beyond them to think about the effects, rather than how the crucifixion made them possible.

When we look at the cross, what we can see is the Tree of Life. In Genesis 2: 9 we are told that there is such a tree in the midst of the Garden of Eden. Human disobedience meant exclusion from the presence of the tree, not merely for people, but for the whole of creation.

To see Jesus' death solely as providing salvation for us is to



undersell what was happening.

The Calvary events signal the movement away from sin, decay and death towards restored life for the whole cosmos.

In other words, the promised new heaven and new earth. The tree is mentioned in Revelation 2: 7 and 22: 2, 14 and 19.

As we contemplate the heart of the cross, two major themes come to mind: reconciliation and healing. The outstretched arms of Jesus show us the arms reaching into his creation to draw it back into health.

It is a one-sided act. God was never against us. We turned away from him and he provided the way for us to be reconciled to him. He re-established our status within a restored creation.

This new life potential which is now, but not fully realized, means that in the overarching scheme of things, we have been made whole. Yet as we remain broken, we are to move towards healing.

Our brokenness is long standing and we can be re-broken. Do we recognize this and use it as a springboard to healing?

In order to try to explain this, I am going to be deeply personal. If you find that uncomfortable, I apologize. As an only child brought up in a street where there were no children of my age, and being an extrovert by nature, I always craved company.

What I discovered at an early age was this — if that was going to happen, I had to make it so. I needed to visit friends. It felt as if I always had to work at it, and often I was excluded from their family events, quite rightly, because I was not part of the family.

These situations led me to feel lonely and rejected. As I grew into my teens, such feelings intensified and often led to physical manifestations, such as a sense of panic.

Ultimately, I was extremely fearful of being alone and sometimes almost incapacitated by

the fear.

Throughout my adult life I have spent much time in prayer about this and the sense has eased, though not disappeared.

The fear of rejection has inhibited my life and ministry at times.

The death of Janet has brought back some of the uncertainty of the past. In a sense, I have been re-broken. This re-breaking can either be damaging or restorative, depending upon how I respond.

Jesus's actions on the cross mean that I have what I need to step to wholeness and receive healing. The question becomes, am I ready to accept the grace?

Each of us faces choices, because as we look into ourselves, we see and feel the damage. Perhaps during this Lent, it is time to contemplate the healing of the cross.

What is it that is troubling us deep down, and how can we be relieved?

David Edwards is
Diocesan Bishop of Fredericton.

PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS

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

MARCH 6
ASH WEDNESDAY
SERVICE, CHRIST
CHURCH CATHEDRAL

MARCH 10
PARISH OF THE
NEREPIS
AND ST. JOHN

MARCH 13
PARISH OF
NEWCASTLE-NELSON-
HARDWICKE TALK
SERIES

MARCH 14
BISHOP'S COUNSEL

MARCH 16
DIOCESAN
DISCIPLESHIP DAY -
SCRIPTURE

MARCH 17
PARISH OF
RESTIGOUCHE

MARCH 24
PARISH OF
MUSQUASH; GOD'S
ANNOUNCEMENTS
LENTEN RETREAT

MARCH 25-29
HOUSE OF BISHOPS

MARCH 31
ST. LUKE'S CHAPEL,
BASE GAGETOWN

A WORD OF THANKS FROM THE BISHOP

Once again this year, we have done very well as a Diocese in funding the ministry which is done through our Synod Office.

We realized 98 per cent of the total asked for and every parish was able to make a contribution. I am very grateful for this, as I have been in previous years.

I know this is not easy for some of us to accomplish and I appreciate your diligence concerning this matter.

In addition, I wish to thank the Diocesan staff as they have sought to work to budget and have kept expenses down. This is not an easy task and the effort required is not always fully appreciated.

Thank you again.

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"

**Farraline
Place
has one
vacancy.**

**Welcome
to a life
of ease in
downtown
Fredericton.**

**Information:
506-455-6443
or
farralineplace.com**

BOWLING TOURNAMENT

MISSION IN MOTION: childhood hunger

Bowling tournament will again support child hunger programs

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Last year, several dozen bowlers and their supporters raised enough money to provide thousands of lunches for kids.

"If you take what the average meal costs — \$1.60 for a child — we fed about 8,000 kids, and that's just in Fredericton. It makes an impact," said the Rev. Kevin McAllister, incumbent in the parishes of Marysville, and Minto & Chipman.

Making an impact is what Kevin is aiming for again this year, with bowling tournaments planned for Fredericton, Moncton, and the Kennebecasis Valley, with the hope that it will expand elsewhere in the diocese.

This is the third annual, and the second one to go outside Fredericton and to address the problem of childhood hunger in New Brunswick. But why this particular cause?

"It's not going away. It's growing in our area," said Kevin.

"The vision at All Saints is to have a diocesan-wide bowling tournament to combat child hunger," he said of his church in Marysville. "One in five live in abject poverty and it's worse in some centres like Saint John."

Last year, the archdeaconries of Moncton and Kingston & the Kennebecasis joined Fredericton for the bowling tournament, which raised more than \$25,000 for the cause.

This year, on Saturday, April 6, Kevin hopes most, if not all of the seven archdeaconries will be on board, bowling for the sake of hungry children in their com-

munities.

He's in the process now of contacting archdeacons for support and welcomes anyone who wants to help organize in their parishes, deaneries and archdeaconries to get in touch with him.

This year, cooler/lunch bags with the tournament logo are for sale for \$15 each and available soon.

"It's a seven-can cooler bag," said Kevin. "We won't tell you what to put in them but it will hold seven."

Parishes that might want some for sale should get their orders in promptly, said Kevin.

Kevin envisions that on April 6, bowling alleys around the province will be filled with Anglicans and others who are mindful of childhood hunger, and cheered on by supporters as they bowl a string to help alleviate hunger in their communities.

Each archdeaconry can choose which food-based charity to donate to. In Fredericton, the proceeds will go to the Fredericton Community Kitchen's Student Hunger program, which feeds students in need.

"358 students in 15 schools need lunches every day in the city of Fredericton," says the organization's website. It manages that with the help of several corporate sponsors, a large group of volunteers and many donations.

This year, as in the past, has not been without some rivalry.

"As the defending champs, we are looking forward to another year of fun and friendly competition," said the Ven. Brent Ham, archdeacon of Moncton.



SUBMITTED FILE PHOTO

BOWLING IN MONCTON, SEEN ABOVE, was particularly successful, with the Moncton Archdeaconry raising over \$12,000 to combat childhood hunger. Below is a prototype of the cooler bags for sale for \$15. Orange is not available. Contact the Rev. Kevin McAllister for information (506-897-2686).

"Last year we had two parishes that were unable to participate and they are eager to strut their stuff and join the excitement. Look for the 'kingpins of the east' to retain their title and the bragging rights."

It gets more intense the closer you get to Fredericton.

"I think it's pretty obvious that we're not only going to win this year, but we're going to look better doing it," bragged the Rev. Paul Ranson, who, without fail, has chided Kevin and his parish each year.

"I'm hoping Kevin will be flexible enough to actually roll something down the lane this year," said Paul. "He chickened out last year."

"Those AST guys are pretty shaky on a lot of things," said the Wycliffe graduate and rector of the Parish of Douglas and Nashwaaksis, which is next door to Kevin's parish.

If your archdeaconry or parish wishes to participate, contact Kevin by phone (506-897-2686) or by email. micksizetint@yahoo.ca .



*Saturday, April 13
Christ Church Cathedral, 2-4 p.m.*

You are invited to an ACW gathering that will feature a display and informative talk by the skilled members of Lucy's Sewing Group and the magnificent ecclesiastical fabrics of Christ Church Cathedral. The designs based on 'Saints, Signs and Symbols' of the Church are executed with a variety of stitch designs.

Come and enjoy this informative afternoon.

Notice regarding Bishop McAllister College

As of last fall, the Anglican Diocese of Fredericton has administered scholarships and donations to Bishop McAllister College in Uganda. That means all cheques for sponsorship and donations to the college must be made out to the

Anglican Diocese of Fredericton. Send to 115 Church Ave., Fredericton E3B 4C8, with a notation of Bishop McAllister College scholarships. Alternatively, you can donate online via our website: anglican.nb.ca and click donate at the top of the page. Please note: The annual fee to sponsor a child is \$435. Special thanks to St. Augustine's in the Parish of Quispamsis for their work on this project over the years.

DIOCESAN NEWS

New Camp Medley director announced

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Finally, the Rev. John Galbraith, 54, has the job he has always wanted — director of Camp Medley.

He had it once, from 1989-1992, but other opportunities took him away. But since then, you might say he's been a bit obsessed with the Anglican summer camp on the banks of the St. John River at Upper Gagetown.

"I have never stopped thinking about Camp Medley," he said. "Everything I do, everything I see, I process through the eyes of Camp Medley. I've never been able to let it go."

He always knew when he left the first time that he'd be back, and he's been preparing ever since he left.

Wherever he went camping, he'd have a good look around, noting the layout, what worked, what programs were offered, taking mental notes for the time when he'd put them to use.

Now is that time. The role began the first of January, is part-time and year round. It involves oversight, managing and marketing a facility that has a lot of untapped potential for rentals, retreats and other uses.

Former acting director Allyson Caldwell will take on the role of summer camp manager,

dealing with the day-to-day demands of operating the summer program. John, a priest in the Parish of Douglas and Nashwaaksis, will continue there part-time.

John's first introduction to Camp Medley came while he was still in high school in 1982. Someone called him and asked if he'd like to be the canoe instructor at Camp Medley.

He'd never been in a canoe in his life and he had never even heard of Camp Medley. It was a church secretary in Saint John whose sister was dating John's brother that thought John might be a good fit for camp.

So he took a weekend canoeing course, and he asked his mother about the camp. It turned out she was very well acquainted, having taken hundreds of girls from a Saint John orphanage and Girl Guides to the camp every summer for years.

"Even my grandmother would go and help the cook — and I never knew any of it," said John.

John considers that first summer at camp pivotal in his life. He had been Anglican as a child, then switched to the United Church with a friend in his teens, and he was a Christian. But working at camp cemented his life's path.

"There was this guy at high school that was different from everybody else," said John. "I wanted to get to know him but I never had the chance. He was older than me. On the first day of camp, he was the first person I saw — (the future Rev. Canon) Chris VanBuskirk."

"We were roommates, and that summer was a big part of changing my life," said John.

John continued as the canoe instructor for two more summers. But by then he'd graduated from high school, was studying carpentry and took a job at Moosehead Breweries. And he spent a summer on a mission trip to Honduras.

He arrived back just in time to be a counsellor for senior teen week.

"That's when I met my future wife," he said. "I was standing there with some other guy and saw her and said 'who's that?' The guy said, 'you don't have a chance!'"

It took him seven years to convince Jackie Mollins to marry him! In the meantime, he came back to camp in 1987, rising to director in 1989.

Through these years, John attended Ontario Bible College studying youth and camping ministry. He and Jackie married in 1993 and for several years



John Galbraith



Allyson Caldwell

John worked with inner city kids in downtown Fredericton through Christ Church (Parish) Church.

It was the Rev. Canon Pat Drummond who asked John if he was going to apply for the youth ministry job open at St. John the Evangelist on the north side of Fredericton. He hadn't known about it, but he applied and got it.

With a short break of 18 months along the way, John has been there ever since, 'falling in love with parish ministry,' he said.

"I've done ministry my whole life, but being a priest was not really my intention," he said. "It's not that I didn't think about it, but it wasn't mine to pursue. I had to wait until God opened a door."

God opened the door using Bishop David Edwards, who made the suggestion one day

during a meeting the two were having. That led to his ordination as a deacon in 2017, and as a priest in 2018.

Now that John and Jackie's children are teenagers, John believes the timing is right to pursue his camp calling. His congregation at St. John's has already pledged support for him at camp, he said.

"It's my calling, to grow the ministry of camp," he said. "One of my greatest assets is hospitality, and I think that's an important component in ministry."

"My goal is that everyone who comes through the door at Camp Medley feels ministered to when they leave. They'll know it was worth it — campers, staff and volunteers."

"The timing of this is unbelievable," he said. "I think I'm ready and prepared for the task at hand."



DOT LARSEN PHOTOS



LEFT: CHRIST CHURCH WAS FULL TO THE DOORS for the Dec. 1 Christmas concert.

ABOVE: The Pillay family, at right, were accompanied by Michael Groom and Derwin Gowan. They entertained with a carol in Zulu.

Christmas near and far

Christ Church in St. Stephen was full on Dec. 1 as a multitude of residents and visitors turned out to enjoy a Christmas concert in support of a local charity, We've Got Your Back (near); and a distant group of children who attend the Bishop McAlister College in Uganda (far). We've Got Your Back is a school program that provides weekend

food for needy school-aged children in five local schools.

The money for Bishop McAlister College is earmarked for tuition. Money raised totaled \$1,389.30.

Thirteen acts of talented musicians entertained those gathered with a plethora of Christmas music. Variety abounded with carols in English,

Dutch, German, French, Latin and Zulu.

Music was the great unifier as everyone gathered to recall the reason for the season.

Each of the last three years has seen both the crowd and the number of entertainers willing

to share their time and talents grow larger.

The offering was divided between the two charities, and the parish looks forward to planning

another again next year.

Keep watch for an ad in the NB Anglican in the fall so that you can make your plans to attend.



CHRISTIAN FORUM

Public presentation tackles a tough question

'Why does God allow evil?' discussed in Fredericton forum

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

The second public Christian forum organized by the Diocesan Mission & Outreach Team took place Jan. 31. The speaker was Dr. John Stackhouse, a professor at Crandall University, whose noon-hour presentation was entitled *Why Doesn't God Do Something? An Honest Look at the Problem of Evil*.

This talk took place at Christ Church (Parish) Church in front of about 70 people. Stackhouse gave a second talk at UNB the evening of Jan. 31, again hosted by the Mission & Outreach Team, called *The Recent Death of Reason: Are We Now in a Post-Truth Age?*

At the noon-hour talk, Stackhouse began by saying the question of why doesn't God do something about evil is a problem only for some — those who believe in God.

"It's a problem for believers — a big problem," he said. "The bible shows us that God's own people wrestled with the way God ran the world."

Why do the wicked prosper? All through the Psalms, plus Job, Moses and Jeremiah, to name a few, all asked that question, and the church continues to struggle with it even today.

"Because it's such a problem for believers, it's unlikely we're going to solve it here today in Fredericton," he said.

However, he proposed that if God wants our allegiance, our trust and our obedience — and he does — then in the face of evil in the world, he has three ways he could go about it.

First, God could tell us what he's doing, which is surely our preference.

"Sometimes in church, especially at funerals, we hear promises along that line: 'We don't know why this terrible thing happened, but someday we will.'

"That's not true. There's not a single verse in the bible that says God's going to tell us," he said.



MCKNIGHT PHOTO

DR. JOHN STACKHOUSE DURING HIS PRESENTATION Jan. 31 in Fredericton at Christ Church (Parish) Church.

There will be no seminar for billions of people where God reviews our life and says, 'you see here when you were 12 and that girl broke your heart, here's what I was doing there...'

"I don't think we have the intellectual capacity to understand, nor the moral excellence to judge that God did the right thing," he noted.

Second, God could demand faith: 'I'm God. You're not, so believe.'

Stackhouse talked about Job and his ordeal. Readers know more about Job than Job knew about Job because we have the back story of the bet between God and Satan. But what God said to Job was, 'You can trust me even though it looks like you can't.'

"But God doesn't just demand faith from Job, he gives good reasons to trust," said Stackhouse. "Faith is always dependent on what we think we know."

However, humans cannot will themselves to believe something without some knowledge of it. He told the audience that he watched everyone come in and sit in a pew, "but nobody did a proper structural review of the pews when they sat down."

You didn't, he said, because you had some knowledge to believe that the pew would not fail. You've probably not fallen

through a pew, nor seen it happen to others, so your brains said it's OK to sit.

"You don't know for sure, but you're pretty sure because of past knowledge," he said. "We trust as far as we can, only if we have knowledge adequate to our faith."

Thirdly, if God wants our allegiance, he must give us good grounds to trust him.

"He asks us to trust him even in the teeth of cancer, Alzheimer's, flood, war," he said. "It's a lot to ask."

But there are good grounds, he said.

"Think about the world as a good world after all. Is it possible to think of the world and conclude that it's the kind of world we need, even if it's not what we want?"

In order to be happy, which is what we all seek, we must recognize the unhappiness.

"We need to get our heads around our bad news, and we can't fool ourselves by thinking we're 'a little bit sick' when we have a lethal problem."

He cited the beginning of the 20th century when it looked like life was a dream come true — peace, prosperity, culture, innovation and so on. Europeans believed they were living in a gilded age. It took only 14 years for those countries to go to war against each other, and everybody — on each side — thought God was on their side,

he said. Savagery, misery and death unlike anything before it ensued.

Life continually challenges us, and it takes a long time to become our best selves, he said, though the world gives us all kinds of opportunities to grow up and be better than we are. To be a better person, we must go through the process of developing good habits.

"We have to grow, and that means experiencing some evil," he said, noting the answer to the big question lies with Jesus.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus knew what awaited him, but still he prayed to God for another route to avoid suffering.

"I have three boys, and if I can help them avoid suffering, I do it. It's automatic!" he said.

God is the father of Jesus, and even though Jesus prayed to him three times, the answer was the same.

"God can't rescue Jesus from evil if the purpose is to be fulfilled," he said.

Can we use that same example in our own lives?

Martin Luther, in the 16th century, had the same doubts as we do — a God seemingly hidden in the darkness who doesn't tell us why there is evil in the world. In fact, the doubts were so great he sought advice from his spiritual mentor, who told him this: 'you must flee the hidden God and

run to Christ.'

"It's almost heretical, but when you wonder if God can possibly be good because of the way he runs the world, run to Christ.

"Christ is not just a fine Christian fellow. If we believe Jesus is good, kind, holy, compassionate and believe Jesus is God, then God is good.

"When I feel it, and I feel it frequently, I flee the hidden God and run to Jesus," he said.

Stackhouse told the story of his grandparents. His grandmother was a saintly Christian who suffered from multiple sclerosis. His grandfather was not so saintly. He eventually gave up alcohol and cigarettes but he still had a very bad temper.

His grandmother's health became so poor that her husband had to quit work to look after her. He did that for 20 years.

Through that process of caring for his wife, "he became radiantly different in the last 15 years. The only thing that changed was his caring for her.

"I don't think God lets people have disease for no reason."

Stackhouse's presentation ended with several questions from the audience.

The Mission & Outreach Team plans to continue holding public forums. The next one will be in the fall.

Dr. John G. Stackhouse is the Samuel J. Mikolaski Professor of Religious Studies and Dean of Faculty Development at Crandall University in Moncton. A graduate of Queen's University (First Class Honours), Wheaton Graduate School (summa cum laude), and the University of Chicago, he formerly taught at Northwestern College, the University of Manitoba, and Regent College. He is the editor of four books and author of over 800 articles, book chapters, and reviews, while his tenth authored book was released last year, *Why You're Here: Ethics for the Real World* (Oxford). He has lectured at Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Edinburgh, Bristol, Hong Kong, Macquarie, and Otago universities as well as across Canada. His work has been featured by media as diverse as The New York Times, The Atlantic, The Times Literary Supplement, ABC News, and CBC Radio.

MISSION TRIP

Interested in missions? Julian Pillay is looking for you

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

It's not surprising that the Rev. Julian Pillay is planning a mission trip back home to South Africa. It's one of the things he mentioned when the NB Anglican went to visit last year after he and his family arrived at their new home in the Parish of St. Stephen.

And now Julian is looking for people 18 and over who want to make a life-changing trip to Durban, SA this summer.

He's hoping for 10-15 people with a maximum of 20, which includes his wife, Michele, his son, Julian Christopher and himself.

Who is it for? — "Anyone [who] wants to serve others and engage in ministry the African way — youth groups, church leaders, lay workers, or any Christian who want to share the life-changing message of Jesus Christ," he said.

There are plenty of opportunities in South Africa to share your talents. Julian listed a few: youth development; children's

ministry; family empowerment; ladies' enrichment; men's fellowship; skills development; sports clinics and coaching; music and drama; counselling; medical, building projects and any others a missioner could think of, he said.

Julian is very familiar with the city of Durban as it is his hometown. With a population of about 3.5 million, it is ethnically diverse and boasts the busiest port in all of Africa.

After Apartheid ended, black Africans were permitted to move to Durban, which led to shanty towns forming all around the city — and their frequent demolition. With both great wealth and great poverty, it will provide "a good all-round experience," he said.

A two-week trip to South Africa, however, does not come cheap. Julian is suggesting \$5,000 is necessary, based on advice from their travel agent.

Airfare is very expensive and accounts for much of that figure, he said. Side trips, travel insurance and spending



MATT ARTZ ON UNSPLASH

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WILDLIFE is rather different from what you find in Canada. At right are the Rev. Julian and Michele Pillay.

money are extra.

"Ideally, if individuals could raise money, that is best," he said, adding a few people have shown interest.

In South Africa, Julian was heavily involved with a charity called Shepherd's Heart, and the group will be partnering with them on the ground after arrival, he said, adding that building lasting friendships and partnerships between the two groups would be a wonderful outcome of the trip.

Julian knows the value of these trips, not just for those

on the receiving end, but for the missioners.

"One thing I'm trying to do is spur people on in their walk with Christ," he said.

"When you are in a different country out of your comfort zone, hopefully God uses that experience to spur you on. I've been involved in many trips and I always came back fired up."

If you're thinking about going, a heart for missions is the basic requirement, said Julian. But it's not just for Anglicans, nor is it only for Anglicans



MCKNIGHT FILE PHOTO

who hold positions in their parishes. It's for any Christian looking for a significant, life-altering experience, he said.

Contact Julian via telephone (506-321-5427) or shepherds-hearts@gmail.com.

Making money serve grace



Michael Briggs

Yesterday we received our copy of the Anglican Journal and NB Anglican. It was interesting to read the bishop's column as it seemed to me that we were both making some of the same points, albeit from a different viewpoint and direction, but both using a book as well as scripture to illustrate what we

wrote.

Admittedly the bishop quoted scripture more extensively than I did.

Expanding on last month's column, there was another example of money serving grace in the NB Anglican in the article on the pew cushions and chairs donated to St. Luke's in the Parish of Woodstock.

These will make services more comfortable and were initially donated anonymously as the donor did not want a fuss made. She saw a need and used her money for worship, making her money serve grace.

There was an article in both papers on the use of Bishop's Court for a homeless shelter

over the winter we are experiencing. Once again it shows use of an asset to serve others, both in the building and also in paying for the heating of it.

Finally I came across another example last week. We had travelled to Nova Scotia for the funeral of my wife's last living aunt who had just died the week before.

The funeral was in a small Baptist church outside Parrsboro and was in good condition, which somewhat surprised me.

While speaking to one of her cousins, my wife learned that a few years ago an Anglican couple had donated some money for the upkeep of the church as they lived in this

little community and there was no Anglican church there. Again — making money serve grace.

I am sure you can all think of examples you have come across over the years. Unexpected generosity can come from family, friends or strangers. It is the intent of the giver that is important more than the amount.

Recall this passage from Mark 12 (NSRV) 41: *He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. 42 A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. 43 Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are*

contributing to the treasury. 44 For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Jesus is reminding us that what matters is not the amount, but how much of what you have that counts. The widow was using what little money she had to serve grace.

Lent is a time of reflection and I urge you to reflect on what I have written. If you follow the Stations of the Cross in your parish as you do this, reflect on the gift that Jesus gave us, the ultimate gift of all, as you follow his path to the cross.

Michael Briggs is the diocesan stewardship officer. He lives in Moncton.

MY JOURNEY NORTH

MY JOURNEY NORTH

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 two of three.

My next stop was Wawa, and there I had a problem — I had run out of money! I stopped at the information centre right by the famous Wawa Canada Goose statue. I spoke to the staff inside who were very negative about my finding any help in any of the Wawa campgrounds.

But it seemed to me as though the Lord was leading me to the Good Sam campground, just north of the town of Wawa.

There I met Renée, a delightful lady who owns the campground. I told her my problem, and asked if she could let me camp on a small site (without any services) until my pension came in at the end of the month when I would pay her. Then she said, "I'll do one better than that — stay as long as you like and I won't charge you!"

The Lord had gone ahead of me again and prepared the way! I was very thankful!

But there were more blessings in store at Wawa! One of the seasonal campers met me, and seemed quite excited to discover that I am an Anglican priest!

Next thing I knew she was coming back, bringing another lady with her. Apparently the Anglican Church in Wawa hadn't had a priest in quite a while, and the people were excited to find one in their midst.

I met a group of the ladies, went to church with them on Sunday at the United church.

Back at the campground, Renee was concerned — apparently there was a large storm coming — and she offered me a cabin which she doesn't rent: rough but warm and dry, with a comfortable bed as well as its own toilet!

Thank you, Lord! My trip was uneventful until I arrived in Saskatchewan to visit a friend of my New Brunswick neighbour, Bill.

I had parked right at the corner of their driveway, so as to leave plenty of room if one of the three vehicles parked there needed to get out. Then I left with the owner of the farm to find my friend who was working in the fields.

Surprise, surprise! When I returned I was greeted by Janice, the owner's wife, with a very sheepish confession that she had backed into my truck while I was away!

On our initial inspection, the truck did not seem to be very badly damaged.

However, once we lifted the hood, it

became very apparent that the damage was extensive. She had backed up doing at least 60 kph, and had driven the crash bar (behind the bumper) right through the radiator! My antifreeze was all over the driveway!

The hood, bumper, fender, grill, and lights all had to be replaced as well as the radiator and compressor.

The farmer loaded my truck onto his flatbed wagon, and hauled it off to his auto repairman, who did an excellent job.

Actually he had all the necessary parts the next day, but the two insurance companies (one in Saskatchewan, the other in New Brunswick) could not or would not communicate.

The family gave me a comfortable room to stay in and fed me much too well, but the week-long wait was not a problem.

It was the middle of harvest on that 12,000-acre farm, and the harvest of both canola and wheat was in process.

I had a wonderful time riding in the tractor and the combines as well as the truck transports which are used to haul the grain to the storage bins.

At first my ability to get up into those vehicles was questioned (the tires are taller than I am!), but I said, "Oh, sure I can!" and climbed up! I spent some of my growing-up years on a farm, and it was a real joy to be farming again!

We ate lunch together out in the field, the combines and tractor all gathered around, and a delightful meal spread out on the header of one of the combines. (The header is the 40-foot frame on the combine that supports the blades that cut the grain.)

The weather was hot and glorious, and I had the time of my life! Thank you, Lord, for such an interesting break in the middle of my trip!

And thank you too, Lord, that in



SUBMITTED FILE PHOTO

THE REV. BRENDA MCKNIGHT KAYAKING during the 2016 Clergy Conference.

fixing the damage to my truck, my air conditioning was fixed too! You sure do work in wondrous ways!

Once back on the road, my journey was fairly uneventful. I camped outside Regina at a beautiful provincial park on the shores of a lake, where I had a brief visit with my friends Charlie and Carla Yost, whom I met camping last year in southern Saskatchewan on my way back to New Brunswick.

We really hit it off during the two days that we camped together then, and it was great to see them again. I had no further interruptions in my travels for a while.

I camped in Vermilion, Alberta, where I found a provincial park right in the town.

I was surprised at its size, and managed to find a quiet tent site surrounded by lovely aspens. I spent two nights there, but the second morning I awoke to pouring rain!

I was warm and absolutely dry until I got out of my tent. I packed up what I could inside my tent, and then packed

the car as fast as possible.

I put my cat out — at first I don't think he realized he was getting wet because he had never experienced rain before!

My tent was soaked through before I managed to get it rolled up and in the truck, and I was soaked to the skin!

I towelled the cat as dry as possible and then put him in his dry carrier. He looked like a drowned rat!

I turned on the heater in the car, and took off my jacket. I thought that both cat and I would get dry faster that way.

Next month: The final leg through British Columbia and Yukon.

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.



INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Go for the goats!

Two parishes saw great efforts to raise money during Advent. It all went to purchase 54 goats and two whole farms through the PWRDF World of Gifts catalogue.

The little Sunday school that could

BY SIOBHAN LASKEY

When their priest made the announcement to them, he sang out, “Baaaa-by goats...” and got an unrehearsed reply of bleating in imitation of baby goats. The immediate response was laughter.

But, given how much goats had been on their minds of late, it should not have come as a surprise.

Each year St. Agnes’ Sunday school, which serves the Parish of Derby and Blackville’s three congregations, has taken on a challenge of outreach during Advent. This year they decided to support the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund’s (PWRDF) “World of Gifts” program.

They were determined to “purchase” at least a few goats for someone in the world who, in turn, would raise them and use them to breed, as food, and for milk.

One past recipient of goats has related how they were able to have milk for their own use and to sell the excess to support the family in other ways. It is, as others say, a gift that keeps on giving.

The Sunday school made plans for how they would raise the monies for this project. They contributed through their individual means, invited everyone in the Parish to join with them, and decided to have a bake sale following a regular Sunday service.

Very quickly, contributions to their project began to grow. They also learned that some of the items available to purchase were earmarked by federal government programs for matching funds.

One goat was matched with funds for six more, so their goal of aiding others was growing exponentially.

They had funds to buy a few goats and, encouraged by the support they were receiving, began to dream what they thought might be an impossible dream. They wondered if, together, purchasing a whole farm was possible.

A goat cost \$30. A whole farm — a cow, a goat, two pigs, five sheep, 40 chickens, 20 guinea fowl, 20 kilograms of seed and farm tools — is a big dream with a price tag of \$470.

That’s a lot of change! But part of what they had been learning together was about trusting in God and putting

faith into action.

Each week the Sunday School contributed a report for inclusion in the weekly bulletin. Funds raised were noted in dollars, but also measured in the number of goats that translated to.

By the first week of Advent they had raised \$287 — or 67 goats. So close to that whole farm, but still so far away.

Recipe ideas were shared. “Marketing plans” made. And, advertising done for their upcoming bake sale.

The crescendo of all of their plans came when they realized their new total was \$891. Enough for that dreamt-of whole farm, and almost enough for a second!

Their goal was to have all their work done so that an announcement of a grand total could be made at their annual seasonal presentation on the third Sunday in Advent.

After the skits, the singing and traditional dramatization of the Nativity story, it was time for the announcement of the final total. And that’s where their priest’s use of the popular little ditty circulating through social media came in.

Some sat on the edge of their seats. Had they raised enough for two whole farms? In the end they raised \$1035.50, which translated into two whole farms, three goats and a small donation to the PWRDF’s general fund.

But it also translated into a determination to find other ways to reach out to their brothers and sisters in Christ, in coming together to work on common goals and to remember that thankfulness is the heart of prayer.

Parish raises a lot of cash for a lot of goats

BY THE REV. CHRIS HAYES

For the second consecutive year, the Parish of Salisbury & Havelock took on a fundraising effort to help others beyond their region by adopting PWRDF’s World of Gifts catalogue entry — a goat — as their Advent and Christmas gift to others.

This past season, they raised money for a whopping 51 goats!

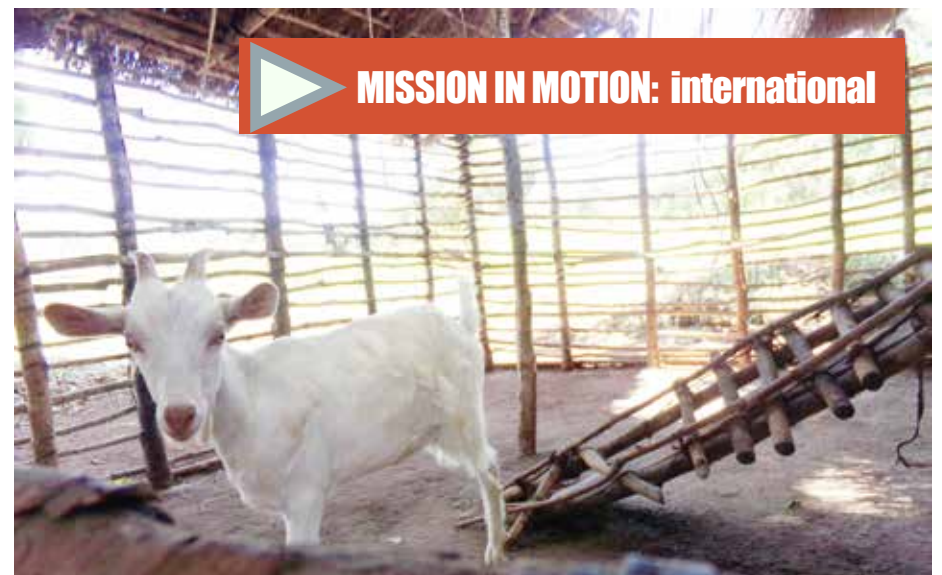
Last year, they raised money for 39 goats, a wonderful effort in itself, considering the combined average Sunday attendance for the parish is in the mid-60s.



HOLLIE STURGEON PHOTO

ST. AGNES’ SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKED HARD to raise money during Advent for, as it turned out, much more than just goats. Back row: Hollie Sturgeon, Dalton Sturgeon, Dustin Stewart, Valerie Stewart, Kerri Ann Sturgeon. 2nd row: Carter Stewart, Abby Sturgeon, Susie Ahern, Jerrica Manderville, Dixon Gillespie. 3rd row: Garland Manderville, Ellie Jardine, Evan Ahern, Eden Jardine. Front row: Cameron Innes, Davison McIntyre, Kate Sturgeon, Lynzi Manderville.

Below is a goat from Ngapa Village in Tanzania, provided through PWRDF.



PWRDF PHOTO

Parishioners commented that a goat’s sustainability was an important factor — ongoing milk supply, breeding to provide additional kids, and an eventual source of food — and therefore seemed to have more bang for the buck (no pun intended!).

With the federal government’s matching program providing six times the parish donation, this meant that the \$1,530 given by the parish becomes a total of \$10,710 after government additions!

Great generosity was shown by individuals, families and groups in the parish for this project.

There is no way to know how many

people, families and villages will be helped by the addition of goats into their midst.

How many health emergencies will be avoided by better nutrition? How much suffering will be abated?

We won’t know, but we are thankful for the contributions made by members of this parish (and all those who enabled PWRDF to give such gifts of help to so many).

Thank you, PWRDF, for providing the opportunity and the catalogue through which help can be given in ways that show — in part — what that help can do. Go goats!



DIOCESAN COUNCIL

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? What parish do you worship in? Who is Jesus to you? What is your hope for the diocese?

...

David Bell, diocesan chancellor

On becoming involved in Diocesan affairs I realized I'd been preparing all my life. As a child I used to pass the time during sermons by reading the historical prefaces to the Book of Common Prayer (they are tucked in at the back), particularly the one on why some ceremonies are abolished and some retained.

I also became familiar with the 39 Articles. These proved precocious signs of the interests that would lead to a career in law and to some writing in NB religious history. All turned out a useful apprenticeship for work on the Council.

A chancellor (legal advisor to the bishop) sits on the Council automatically. People on Council obtain an overview of diocesan affairs that's available nowhere else.

The four years I've been there have been encouraging, but on any large leadership group there's always a tension between taking the meeting's time to express your own views on one hand and fear of becoming a rubber stamp on the other.

Richmond is my parish. My particular congregation enjoys the richness of Home Church during Epiphany and Lent, and then in July and August we host Wednesday Evening Prayer services that can be quite special.

Jesus is the human face (or mask) of otherwise ineffable God. After the hard brainwork of reading Paul, it's a relief to turn to the words and actions of Jesus as depicted in the gospels.

Since coming back to Christianity I've kept on reading what contemporary historians have to say about the gospels and Paul. It's historical writing that would once have been quite corrosive of faith but now somehow isn't.

Every church and chapel should be recorded and inventoried with care. Some should then be turned over to community centres, some conveyed to heritage societies and the rest demolished. Parish corporations should be abolished. Off with copes.

Liberated from such alluring distractions and hindrances,

directed by the Holy Spirit and guided by the bishop, we could then press forward towards truer worship, fuller healing and better collective ministry. The Church in NB needs to be born again.

The Rev. Canon Tom Stradwick

I am the rector of Trinity Church, Sussex and have served in the Diocese of Algoma as well in the Diocese of Brandon.

In the Diocese of Brandon I served in two parishes in both southern Manitoba and in northern Manitoba, both parishes were rural farming communities.

Northern Manitoba parish was predominately aboriginal farming communities within the parish. I did serve on the Diocesan Executive as Rural Dean, Archdeacon and Bishop Commissary.

In the Diocese of Brandon we were faced with some of the same issues as here – declining rural population, too many church buildings, etc.

As Rural Dean and Archdeacon, I was involved in trying to help parishes discover new ways of doing ministry so the Gospel message could be proclaimed.

That included amalgamation, forming new relationships with our fellow Christian, Lutheran, and United



David Bell



Tom Stradwick

Churches, such as moving into shared ministry relationships.

I think bringing to the Diocesan Council an experience from the Anglican Church of Canada from other parts of the Church, that may not provide magical answers we are looking for but may provide the starting point to find the solution to issues we are faced with.

I decided to become involved with the Diocesan Council because a piece of ministry was missing. I had been involved with the Executive Committee in Brandon and I missed that involvement after I moved to the Diocese of Fredericton.

Jesus to me is the companion on the journey. Jesus provides the strength to move on in the journey and the consoling arm when needed. Much like the image in the poem,

"Footprints in the Sand."

My hope for the Diocese of Fredericton is that we don't lose the boldness. What I mean by that is I was attracted to the Diocese of Fredericton long before I felt called to come.

It seemed to me that the Diocese was taking bold steps to deal with the issues that confront the Church in the twenty-first century – the Nicodemus Project, the Archdeacon Report, be a missional Diocese, etc.

It seemed that the Diocese was addressing the issues that I didn't see in the diocese where I was serving.

I think that took bold faith to step out in faith to deal with issues and move towards securing the Gospel being proclaimed for the future.

Keeping Christ in Christmas

SUBMITTED BY
ANNE MCINNIS

On the sign outside All Saints Church, Parish of Marysville, "Keep Christ in Christmas" is the message displayed. So what should we do about that?

Accordingly, the Rev. Kevin McAllister of All Saints and Father McGowan of Our Lady of Fatima, put their heads together and decided both congregations should join in a service at All Saints.

Both congregations were in agreement and all Saints offered to supply hot chocolate and apple cider for those attending. Our Lady of Fatima would supply sweets — an

early sign of working together.

On the appointed night, we gathered at All Saints. Unfortunately, All Saints' congregation is elderly with few youngsters. Luckily, our Lady of Fatima has many children, and it was such a joy to see them and to hear their clear, sweet voices.

Father Harris was also welcomed to the gathering. All three priests participated in the service which included some carols. At the end of the service, candles were lit.

While singing *The First Noel*, we proceeded outside to the crèche. It was a bitterly cold night but no one seemed to mind.

After prayers, we gathered in the church basement where Anglicans and Roman Catholics mingled and enjoyed hot chocolate, cookies and conversation.

It was a wonderful evening and while it is great to celebrate the birth of Christ, we must remember that He is with us always and should be remembered always.

So perhaps it would be a great idea to keep Christ in our daily lives as well, and perhaps other joint services can be arranged at others times — for special occasions or just because.

Let us all — hopefully, joyfully, lovingly and peacefully — keep Christ in Christmas.

Anne McInnis is a member of All Saints, Parish of Marysville.

**Springtime
for the
Soul II**

2019 Lent Talks
with Bishop Bill Hockin &
the Rev. Canon Albert Snelgrove

**Mondays, 12:15 p.m. at the
Crowne Plaza, Fredericton**

March 11 - The Scandal of the First Responders (Luke 10)
March 18 - Remember the Time... (Luke 15)
March 25 - Getting the Most out of Church (Luke 18)

All Welcome!

YOUTH & INTERGENERATIONAL

Two great youth / youth leader events coming up this spring

NEXT is sure to boost your kids' ministry

If you are a Sunday school teacher, youth leader or volunteer that works with children under 13, then NEXT is a conference you should attend.

NEXT is a children's ministry conference designed to encourage and equip you (leaders and volunteers) to make a difference in the lives of kids and families. The day is full of lots of practical workshops to boost your kids ministry immediately.

This year NEXT is in Halifax on Saturday, April 6 at Full Gospel Church. The keynote this year is Sheldon MacLeod.

Sheldon serves as the regional director for Atlantic Canada with the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, and as the director of student services at the University of New Brunswick.

He has also served as a pastor, para-church ministry executive director, and chief enrolment officer and chief student affairs officer for faith-based and public universities.

He has over two decades of service assisting people and organizations as they navigate significant moments of their lives. He is a regular speaker at churches, camps, conferences



and seminars.

He consults regularly with pastors, churches, not-for-profit organizations and post-secondary institutions, in the areas of strategic planning, leadership development, student life, enrolment and growth development, faith and life integration, next-generational ministry, spiritual formation. * (taken from <http://cbacyf.ca/next/>)

Registration is now open with the early bird price of \$40 before March 24 (\$50 after). Register at <http://cbacyf.ca/next/>. Connect with the YIG team to help with registration and accommodations.

NOTE from Jason Smith of YIG: I attended NEXT the last two years in Truro and Moncton and I have left inspired and encouraged. I received materials and ideas that I have incorporated into my ministries. I encourage anyone who is able

to join me and the YIG team.

Calling all youth groups

On May 31-June 1, join the anticipated 2,000+ youth and leaders at the ONE Conference in Moncton.

Last year was the beginning of what we hope will be an annual event for youth to worship, have fun and be together with other Christians from different denominations.

Over 2,300 were in attendance last spring, enjoying great speakers, music, worship and fun activities all weekend long.

This year's speakers:

- Sadie Robertson, well known for her engaging smile and energetic personality, but there is a lot more to the 21-year-old star of A&E's *Duck Dynasty*.
- Carlos Whittaker is a People's Choice Award winner, a former recording artist signed to a major label, a social media maven who currently spends the majority of his time writing books and speaking on stages around the world.
- Kellen Moore is a self-proclaimed comedian, speaker and middle school pastor who

brings a lot of energy and inspiration.

Worship is led by world-renowned Passion, which includes hits like *Worthy is Your Name*, *Even So Come*, *Glorious Day* and many more.

The YIG team is encouraging youth groups and leaders to organize their grade 6-12 youth and join them at ONE.

Registration opens Feb. 1 and the early bird fee of \$75 ends March 15. Regular registration is \$80 each.

Each parish/church can

register themselves, but please contact the YIG team (yigfton@gmail.com) if you plan to attend because YIG will help with accommodations.

YIG is also planning a barbecue lunch on the Saturday for parishes of the Diocese of Fredericton.

This is a great opportunity to connect with other Anglican youth and experience something inspiring, uplifting and worthwhile. Information can be found at onecon.ca or www.facebook.com/YIGfton.



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



Deep Roots



"They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither." [Psalm 137]

2019 DIOCESAN GATHERING
JUNE 14-15, 2019
UNB FREDERICTON CAMPUS

FEATURING:



DAVID EDWARDS
BISHOP



MICHAEL FROST
AUTHOR, MISSIOLOGIST

with:
The Rev. Lisa Vaughn
Leadership in the Church, Today
The Rev. Renée Embree
Reaching the Next Generation

Registration opens in March | Cost: \$75/person
(not including accommodations)

For more info: nb.anglican.ca/deeproots

COMMENTARY



AT THE CROSSROADS

A self-guided spiritual retreat for people turning 40 (or undergoing any major life transition)

BY TERENCE CHANDRA

For my fortieth birthday, Jasmine gave me a gift that any introverted, middle-aged priest would appreciate: a private, 48-hour spiritual retreat at a nearby Cistercian-Trappist Monastery — specifically, our Lady of Calvary Abbey in Rogersville, New Brunswick.

It's a special place for both of us — a place whose very atmosphere has been worn thin by the perpetual prayer of generations of monks, thereby making the partition between this life and the eternal seem somehow delicate and ephemeral.

It is a place where, for me at least, communing with God seems as effortless as breathing.

While there, I wanted to make the most of my time. So I put together a self-guided retreat program that would allow me to take serious stock of my life — past, present and future.

It's possible that this program may be of some use to others. In fact, it's with this hope that I offer it to anyone interested. Perhaps you too have a birthday with a zero in it and, for this reason, feel the need to seriously

reflect on your life.

Or, perhaps you've reached a major milestone — the birth of a child, the loss of a loved-one, a change in career, the beginning/end of a marriage — and you feel the need to put the whole of your life into perspective.

If that's the case, then what I offer you here may be of some use.

Preliminary Comments

The entire program is based around four sessions. The first two sessions involve answering a series of questions regarding the past. The last two sessions, questions about the future.

You can respond to the questions in several ways. For example, you can write them out in a journal or dictate them audibly on a recording device.

It took me roughly three to four hours to get through each session with breaks in between to eat meals, go for walks, pray and read.

I could not have done this self-guided retreat at home with texts and e-mails coming in, my children running around and the constant temptation to watch TV or engage in social media.

Therefore, I would highly

recommend going to a retreat centre or monastery. Don't bring a tablet or laptop unless you possess the self-discipline to shut off the wifi and keep it off.

Session 1: Learning from the Past and Experiencing Forgiveness

Spend twenty to thirty minutes in prayer and/or meditation.

Prayerfully read Psalm 139.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- What do I regret most in my life? What do I wish I had done instead? Have I forgiven myself for these past mistakes? If not, how can I forgive myself and move on?

- In what ways have I hurt others? Have I sought forgiveness from them? From God?

- In what ways have others hurt me? Am I being called to extend forgiveness? If so, what might that look like?

Not surprisingly, this first session was — although extremely cathartic — also quite difficult. Here, I found it helpful to be gentle and go easy on myself.

I should also offer the following piece of advice: If you have suffered major trauma in your life — especially during your childhood years — it might be wise to do at least this section of the retreat under the supervision of an experienced spiritual director or licensed counsellor.

To put it simply, there are some things that can be extremely difficult to face alone.

Session 2: Celebrating the Past and Experiencing Gratitude

Spend 20-30 minutes in prayer and/or meditation.

Prayerfully read Psalm 116.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- As I look back on the past, what are some of the best decisions that I made? (As you think of things, thank God for giving you the guidance and strength

to make those decisions).

- As I look back on my life, what sort of things have I done that I can be truly proud of? When have I been particularly noble, self-sacrificial or courageous? (Take time to celebrate what God has done in your life).

- Looking back on all the people I've ever known, who has blessed me the most? Have I told them how much they mean to me? (Thank God for them).

Session 3: Looking to the Future with Courage

Spend 20-30 minutes in prayer and/or meditation.

Prayerfully read Luke 3:7-17.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- As I think about my future, what am I most afraid of? What are my greatest fears regarding my professional life? What are my greatest fears for my marriage and/or family life? How can I learn to be at peace with these fears?

- What are some negative or destructive attitudes and habits that I presently hold? How will these things negatively impact the people I love? What might my life look like in 10 years if I refuse to change? What about 20 years? What about when I'm 80 years old? What can I do to begin the process of change now?

Session 4: Looking to the Future with Hope

Spend 20-30 minutes in prayer and/or meditation.

Prayerfully read James 4:13-16.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- Imagine you are 20 years older (or any other duration of time that you feel is most appropriate). Imagine that, in this ideal future, you are fulfilled and happy. Now, ask yourself the following questions:

- In this ideal future, what does my family/personal life look like? What about my pro-

fessional life? How is my health? Be vivid and specific. Now ask yourself: What can I do within the near future to begin making this vision a reality?

- What major things do I feel God calling me to do within the next 20 years? (again, specify another duration of time as you feel most appropriate).

Conclusions

I can't tell you that this two-day retreat was easy. It forced me to revisit dark parts of my past that I had left buried and untouched for many years. It forced me to confront my greatest sins and fears and regrets.

But it was truly worth it. There were moments when I felt enveloped in an immense and awesome love — a love that was so kind, benevolent and forgiving that it made me weep with joy.

Indeed, not only did I feel the love of the Living God himself, but the love of countless family members and friends that He, in his infinite goodness, has placed in my life.

How incredibly fitting, then, that my return to Saint John would be marked by a surprise birthday party that Jasmine had planned — a birthday attended by an astonishing variety of people (friends, family and church members) each of whom have come to mean so much to both of us over the years.

If you choose to undergo this or a similar kind of spiritual retreat, my hope and prayer for you is that you would experience healing, refreshment and, most importantly of all, the divine love that envelopes us all.

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

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: Who? Why? Where? with Bishop David

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

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



CAMPING MINISTRY

What is camp?

A special place of blessing

BY DON ADAMS

Our Christian camps are a special place. Children of all ages attend and for some, this is an experience they have never had before.

A lot of the kids are not church-going. They have had little exposure to the teachings of Christ.

So what would you expect their reaction would be to being surrounded by Christian values and faith-based programs for a whole week? The findings would surprise you.

My involvement, as with other camp chaplains, puts us in a special place in the camp. You see, chapel sessions play an integral role in the spiritual development of the children.

But they do more than that. They set moral and ethical boundaries the kids must abide by.

They instill behavioral attitudes that reflect on interre-

lationships — how to interact with one another, treat each other with respect and fairness, and accept each other as being God's creation, regardless of one's flaws.

In essence, we teach kids that we are the children of God and are loved despite our human condition.

I guarantee you at the end of the week, the kids are so much closer to knowing Jesus and God than many older people who are struggling with their faith.

Last year, at Camp Brookwood, my theme for the week was based on Michael Frost's book, *Surprise the World*, where he introduced the concept of "Bells" — Blessing, Eating, Listening, Learning, Sent out.

The kids were very interested, especially with the eating part of the sessions and also with the blessing part.

They learned that it doesn't take a lot to bless others —

thanking others for what they do, offering words of encouragement and building others up with kind words.

They were encouraged to sit with others at meal time and to befriend others not in their cabin. Also, they engaged others in games that built up relationships.

All in all, the sessions went very well. The kids were happy, had lots of questions and showed each other kindness. God was with us.

On the final Thursday evening chapel service, I asked the children and camp staff if they wanted to come forward and receive a blessing and an anointment. The congregation lined up from the door to the front and came forward.

I gave each a blessing and a holy anointment. For some, this was totally amazing. After the last child came forward, a young man about 11 years old asked if he could bless me.

I was flabbergasted. I said



SUBMITTED FILE PHOTO

CHILDREN AT CAMP MEDLEY during the 2016 season.

yes.

I stood in front of the alter and knelt down. I then asked him to repeat the words of blessing and anointment after me. He said no thanks, he wanted to say his own words. I will paraphrase his words.

"Dear Lord, who created the universe, bless Don and give him strength and wisdom. And protect him. And I anoint him with this holy water."

I had tears in my eyes. I had been blessed by God through

the words of a child. Pretty amazing stuff!

And you ask how could an old man do this? I do it because God inspires me to do it.

The camps are our connection in a small way to so many kids that otherwise wouldn't see God in all his wonder and love.

I can't wait. God bless all of you.

Don Adams worships in the Parish of Douglas and Nashwaaksis.



The Rev. Lidvald Haugen-Strand's appointment as interim priest-in-charge in the Parish of Westmorland has been extended to July 31, 2021 under the existing Covenant of Ministry.

Invitation from St. Mary's ACW
780 McEvoy Street, Fredericton
Monday, March 11 at 1 p.m.

Chief Leanne Fitch of the Fredericton Police Force will speak on the issue of Faith and Life:

the intersection of faith and her career in policing. Those who know Chief Fitch, and those who witnessed her professionalism and strength during last summer's tragedy, will have some sense of her personal courage. As a life-long Anglican raised in Fredericton, she knows both the community and the role of faith in difficult times.

A Q&A and light refreshments will follow the presentation.

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

PARISH OF HAMMOND RIVER



MISSION IN MOTION: foot care

Helping hands for feet

Imagine our surprise in the Parish of Hammond River when 222 pairs of socks arrived (via parish development officer Shawn Branch) from the Rev. Canon Fran Bedell's parishioners at St. John the Baptist Anglican & St. Paul's United Church in Edmundston!

It all started during a lively conversation between two friends - Canon Bedell and Cleo Cyr, the parish nurse at Holy Trinity Hammond River. Holy Trinity has an active health ministry including clinics and workshops such as the recent one concerning Brain Health and Aging given by Lisa Guidry NP, and a Flu & Shingles Clinic with pharmacist Melanie Cromwell.

However, when Fran learned that the parish also has an inner city foot care ministry in Saint John and had collected over 100 pair of shoes, but that socks were also needed, a seed was planted.

Over a three-week period in December, the parishioners in Edmundston collected 222 pairs of all sorts and sizes of socks for the foot care ministry at Holy Trinity. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts and 'soles!'

Quilts, not crèches!

Parishioners at Holy Trinity in the Parish of Hammond River held a sixth annual Christmas festival Nov. 30 & Dec. 1.

However, after five consecutive years of hosting a very successful crèche festival with displays of nativity sets from around the world, this year they decided to feature Christmas and seasonal quilts as well as wall hangings — many made by parish quilters and their friends.

The festival also featured a community lunch, ACW bake and craft sale and a fabulous kitchen party.

Proceeds from this event, and events leading up to the festival, were donated to mission activities such as Outflow, the Central Saint John Community Ministry, Bishop McAllister College and food banks.



THE MABEL C. DEAN MEMORIAL BURSARY

- For post-secondary education of clergy children
- \$1,000 annual bursary in support of children of diocesan clergy at university, college, or other post-secondary institution.
- Based on financial need and academic standing.
- Preference to applicants graduating from high school.
- May be awarded to the same applicant in two or more years provided satisfactory academic standing is maintained.
- Mabel C. Dean Special Bursaries may be made to qualified students in a financial emergency, provided funds are available.
- Deadline: March 31. Apply online: <https://nb.anglican.ca/resources/financial-assistance>



MORE THAN \$30,000 HAS BEEN AWARDED FROM THIS SCHOLARSHIP OVER 30 YEARS.

LENT 2019

Spiritual preparation

RENEWAL

SACRIFICE

**FOR LENTEN
RESOURCES
VISIT:**

[anglican.nb.ca/resources/prayer/
pages/lenten-studies](https://anglican.nb.ca/resources/prayer/pages/lenten-studies)

MUSIC COLUMN

Switchfoot's back after a real rest

The name Switchfoot is synonymous with staying power and progression in Christian music circles.

For almost 22 years, and 10 studio albums (plus several live albums and compilations), Switchfoot has been a slam dunk for great songs, better lyrics, and yes, money in the bank for the record company.

In December 2017, when the band announced they were taking a break from touring and recording, a strange and ominous hush descended upon many.

"Hiatus" is so often a term for "not sure if we'll keep going," and often is the signal of a group's coming breakup. I for one also felt this, as I have been a huge Switchfoot fan for a long time.

I have often thought of lead singer Jon Foreman as a music poet, maybe not on the level of Bono or Leonard Cohen, but certainly one whose lyrics and writings I've followed closely.

After the shock of hearing about a break, my respect for the group began to grow. It's not easy to walk away for a



while, from anything, much less the thing that is your livelihood, a large part of your identity, and the things that many fans clamoured after for so long.

If a rest, a break, a change, retreat was what they needed, then I was impressed that they rose above the expectations of others to see this, and to act on it. I just really hoped it didn't lead to a coming announcement of an end to the band.

It didn't. Roughly two years later, the announcement I hoped to come, did: there would be new music.

Native Tongue, the band's 11th studio album, was announced, with the lead single being the title track. On Jan. 18, the album came out. And what an album!



I have yet to come across a real dud of a Switchfoot album, though every album has its share of hits and misses. In the case of a comeback or return album, there is often more intense critical discussion, and this album is no different, as a quick Google search will confirm.

As an alternative rock band, Switchfoot has never fit into any one particular genre of popular music, and that gives them a lot of freedom, musically and sonically speaking.

I feel, and always have, that Jon's writing is superior, or beyond the music the band makes, at least in terms of

complexity and breadth of scope, but that's just opinion.

There is a great variety of style here, with the anthemic, "Let It Happen" to the Beatles-esque "Dig New Streams" (which is a wonderful quirky little tune that reminds me of the Beatles' "Maxwell's Silver Hammer" - though NOT with the same message!).

"The Hardest Art," featuring fantastic singer Kaela Sinclair, is a surprisingly electronic-based song that leaves you thinking about its text for some time.

Ballads such as "The Strength To Let Go" may not push innovation in any way, but the lyrics continue to grab the listener's attention, and challenge them to hear something important. And they stick in your ear for a while.

If the album has a theme, it is that of love. Now that sounds generic, especially for a band made up of Christian people.

Love, in tumultuous times, might be a more specific theme, along with love without barriers might better describe

the album. These themes are easily found all over the texts of the songs.

Like most Switchfoot albums, one hears things the first time that are attention-grabbing, and subsequent listens reveal new things — deeper things that weren't noticed the first time.

For me, this gives the album depth, and shows how important it is to spend time with a project. Just like Switchfoot spent time away from music, I believe this album deserves some of our extra time.

The rewards, partially immediate, will be greater for this extra effort.

I believe this album has great things for many people to hear, and I hope that happens. Many thumbs and fingers up! **Next Month:** Why the Christian music industry can do better than awards shows!

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

TWO MINUTE INTERVIEW



The Rev. John Galbraith, assistant clergy in Parish of Douglas & Nashwaaksis; director of Camp Medley

Favourite book of the Bible - James

Birthplace - Saint John

What you love most about God - He does not leave us alone

Favourite place on Earth - Chapel at Camp Medley

Farthest you've been from home - Honduras

Favourite meal or dessert - Steak

Biggest fear - You know when you were in school and had an essay to do? It is now waking up and having that feeling you forgot to do the essay.

Hidden talent - I used to be able to swim, actually race, and was quite good. Well, I sure have hidden it behind my 125 lb. frame.

Favourite movie or book - *Warrior Poets of the 21st Century* by Robin Mark. It brought clarity to my ministry calling.

Your hobby - My hobbies have been taken over by my children and their sports, but I do love putting, carpentry, guitar, camping.

Three things always in your fridge - Eggs, bacon, milk

Favourite sports team - Other than the ones my children are on, I like to see the Toronto Maple Leafs play well.

MR. LOWELL HENDERSON, LAYREADER EMERITUS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

ON DEC. 30 MR. LOWELL Henderson, a diocesan layreader in the Parish of Hammond River, was honored as Layreader Emeritus by Bishop David Edwards following a joint service of Holy Communion with the Parish of Hammond River and the Parish of Quispamsis. Many of Mr. Henderson's family attended, including two great-grandchildren. Mr. Henderson, a leader in many areas within the parish, has decided to retire after nearly 30 years as a layreader. The parish is forever grateful for his service and ministry. Here he is seen at left with the bishop and the Rev. Michael O'Hara.

MISSION IN MOTION



DINNER WITH THE NEIGHBOURS



The Parish of Fredericton's annual community Christmas dinner was held Dec. 15. Dedicated church members of Christ Church (Parish) Church helped with prep work, served the dinner and cleaned up afterwards.

The parish invited locals who live alone, those with various challenges, seniors from St. Anne's Lodge and women from Grace Homeless Shelter. Entertainment was by the Rev. Garth Maxwell. The Resource class from Bliss Carman Middle School looked after set up.

Dinner went very well, with approximately 70 people enjoying the meal. Each was given a Christmas goodie bag.

- 1 - JILL MESMAN, JEFFREY BARRIEAU, DOUG CAWKER, Gladys Lacey-House, Geneva Anderson.
- 2 - Chef for the supper was Darren Hanscomb.
- 3 - In the background: Bernadette Coburn, Elaine Crawford, Sel Perry and Jim Galpin, and at right is Doug Cawker
- 4 - Frances Williams serves guests



DEBBIE CAWKER PHOTOS