



THE NEW BRUNSWICK

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DECEMBER 2020

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON

MISSION IN MOTION: compassion



KRISTEN MCGRAW PHOTO

APPLE PICKING WITH SIS

SISTERS SOPHIA AND AVA ROBICHAUD WERE AMONG some of the families who went apple picking after church on Oct. 4 at La Fleur Du Pommier apple orchard in Cocagne. Many of the apples are being used to make apple crisps for seniors, shut-ins and others who need a little reminder that the Parish of Shediac is thinking of them. See more information and photos on page 8.

Bishop's Court, Synod Office sold

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

The diocesan plan to shed buildings has reached a new stage when an offer was accepted for the sale of Bishop's Court and the Diocesan Synod office in late October.

"We have signed an agreement for the purchase and sale, with conditions," said Secretary of Synod David Peer, adding the closing date is Dec. 16.

"The Diocesan Synod has recognized for some time that Bishop's Court and the Diocesan Synod Office do not meet our current needs. Our experience during COVID-19 is that the it will not meet our future needs either."

The Diocesan plan to divest itself of the buildings includes creating a new vacant lot on Church St. The diocese received permission from the City of

Fredericton to subdivide the two large lots to make a third in the middle of the two properties.

"It creates opportunities for the future," said David.

One possible outcome could be the construction of a new synod office building between both properties on Church Street in downtown Fredericton.

Whether that will happen depends on many things, including synod's current and future needs

and possibly a second party to share the construction expense and the eventual building.

"Anything we do has to cost less than what we're paying now," said David.

The operation of both buildings has been a significant expense for the diocese.

The total annual cost over the last two to three years for both properties has averaged approximately \$60,000 — spent on insurance, maintenance and utilities.

Apart from its use as an

Buildings continued on page 2



THE SOLD SIGNS ON the Diocesan Synod Office and Bishop's Court went up in late October.

It's Major Caines now



SUBMITTED PHOTO

MIKE CAINES WAS PROMOTED TO MAJOR AT A CEREMONY OCT. 28.

During the ceremony, from left: Col. Shawn McPherson, 37 Brigade Commander; Mike; and Chief Warrant Officer Parker, 37 Brigade Sergeant Major. BELOW: The Rev. Canon Major Chris VanBuskirk during his 2018 deployment to Kuwait and Iraq.



CHRIS VANBUSKIRK PHOTO

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

As of Oct. 28, the Rev. Michael Caines is also known as Major Michael Caines, Senior Brigade Chaplain for 37 Brigade.

Mike, a Reservist with the Canadian Armed Forces for the past 10 years, leaves behind 3 Field Artillery Regiment, based in Saint John and Woodstock, plus 37 Signals Regiment and 37 Service Battalion. The new post means he will oversee all Reserve military chaplains in New Brunswick and Newfoundland.

"It's like becoming an arch-deacon," said Michael of the promotion.

But he won't be saying goodbye to his old regiment just yet.

"Part of my job is to recruit my replacement," he said. "I'm still a unit chaplain."

MAJOR VANBUSKIRK

The change in role and promotion come because of a position change above him. He now holds the post that the Rev. Canon Major Chris VanBuskirk held.

Chris was recently promoted to Deputy Division Chaplain of 5th Canadian Division, responsible for all Reserve chaplains in Atlantic Canada, though his rank remains Major.

Above Chris is Lt. Col. Shawn Samson, 5th Division Command Chaplain, and an Anglican priest from Newfoundland & Labrador.

Chris explained that there are three types of military roles: tactical, operational and strategic, "and this gets me further away from tactical, which means further away from troops," he said.

"I'm with chaplains more than with troops," he said, adding that the bright side is there are units without chaplains, and filling in there gives him opportunities to be with fellow soldiers.

Chris spent an extended deployment in Iraq and Kuwait in recent years. He was grateful to

his parish for their understanding, and with this latest move in his Reserves career, he continues to feel grateful.

"This ministry is a real blessing. I am grateful to God for that. And I really appreciate the support of my church family and the bishop as well."

MAJOR CAINES

Mike has a long history with the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves, having also been in the Royal Canadian Navy Reserves for seven years.

A military chaplain "lives the rhythm of the unit," he said, adding he takes the same courses, briefings, drills and training as the other soldiers in his unit.

The 'rhythm of the unit' includes training on Thursday evenings; a weekend exercise once a month; and a week-long exercise once a year.

"You tag along and find ways to help out," he said. "And you live for the words, 'Hey Padre, do you have a minute?' You are the front-line faith contact."

A military chaplain is a resource for the chain of command, and a help for soldiers seeking guidance, pointing them to the right resources, if that's what they need.

Mike's new role includes overseeing the work of seven

chaplains, much of it through video conferencing and telephone. Occasional travel to Newfoundland is expected, he said.

"You have to be seen on the ground at least once in awhile," he said of travel to the units.

Mike is bittersweet about the change, as he has grown close to the soldiers he sees every week.

"You get to know members very well," he said. "You are their only faith connection in some cases. I'll miss that, but this is the way it works."

However, he does feel well-equipped for what lies ahead.

"Chris has been a very good leader," he said. "He's prepared me well."

As part of his new role, Mike is looking for interested clergy to join the Reserves as chaplains. There are four vacancies in New Brunswick and one in St. John's, NL.

Recruits must have two years of ordained experience and hold a Masters of Divinity. They must also be physically fit to pass the tests and medical that all soldiers must undergo.

Mike Caines is the rector of the Parish of the Nerepis & St. John in Grand Bay-Westfield. Chris VanBuskirk is the rector of the Parish of Moncton.

Synod buildings sold

Buildings continued from page 1

emergency homeless shelter and a residence for Christian university students, Bishop's Court has been largely empty for almost a decade.

"It's not a practical space for a bishop in 2020," said David.

The house was purchased in 1943, at a time when bishops entertained and were consulted by government, he said.

"Our bishop bought his own home. We have another house in Fredericton future bishops could use, or we could buy another. The better arrangement is for homes that are more modern and better suited," he said.

The synod office was bought in 1985. It was originally a family home and was never meant to be an office.

"The house has practical problems. It's expensive to heat, it's not accessible, and we've fallen behind on maintenance," he said, adding the cost to bring the building up to modern standards, including the installation of an elevator, and the heritage zone limitations that would come with upgrades, are

impractical.

The buyer has purchased both properties with a view to renewing them to their heritage state, he said.


Part of the city rezoning includes the need to demolish the old garage behind Bishop's Court because it is situated on the newly created lot. The demolition plan was reviewed and approved by the Heritage Preservation Review Board.

With almost everyone working from home rather than the Synod Office, the need to vacate the building is not the challenge it might have been had there been no pandemic.


"What we've learned is we can operate totally remotely," said David. "It's not ideal — personal relationships are important — but now we know it can be done."

As for where the diocesan office will be after Dec. 16, "we're investigating options right now of shared space, renting temporary accommodations or leasing back from the buyer," said David.

"A lot is happening in the next six months."



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



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An Advent calendar of hope

As you know, I have to write this more than a month ahead to meet press deadlines. It is now the end of October.

None of us has any idea what the COVID-19 situation will be when you receive this, let alone what we might be facing for the Christmas season.

In our family, the hope is that Debbie's brother, David, might be able to get here from Ontario and that Christy, Josh and the children can go to Quebec to see Josh's folks.

We cannot know whether any of this will happen.

Earlier this week I read an article about a man who was trying to beat the record for highest unsupported jump.

This meant he would leap from a height without a parachute or any other restraint. He did so by jumping from a helicopter into the sea.



Archbishop David Edwards

It turned out that they misjudged the altitude, and he was much higher than intended. The good news is he survived and is clearly someone who can cope with uncertainty.

Most of us are not in that category. We like things to be predictable with no surprises to

throw a wrench into our plans.

This is one of the reasons why we are finding this pandemic so tiring. As I write this, people are chafing at the rules in place.

I fully realize that Advent is a season of penitence, but it is also a season where we look forward to the certain hope we have because of the coming of Jesus — as a baby — and his second coming with the new heaven and the new earth.

Perhaps this year we should accentuate the hope in a time of uncertainty.

As I thought about this, I realized that we have the tradition of the Advent calendar. In some cases when the little door is opened each day, there is a treat inside.

What if we were to create our own calendar of hope? Each day during the season until Christmas Day, we could do something for ourselves or others to show a

sign of hope.

It could be telephoning shut-ins, giving a meal to someone, donating to the foodbank, visiting family (if allowed). I am sure we can all come up with a list.

This could be something we could do as a church in our area as well as individually. Really what we are doing is seeking to bless others, and through that, ourselves.

The light of Christ shines in the darkness. The blessings of the season to you all.

David Edwards is
Diocesan Bishop of Fredericton.



Reflections during Advent

I am writing this just a few days ahead of All Saints Day, but by the time you read it, Advent will be here, or very nearly.

Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year in the Church and a good time to reflect on the past year and on the year to come. And what a year it has been with all the restrictions, hardships and family separations caused by COVID-19!

Church services were disrupted and then online — either live streaming or being recorded and uploaded to Facebook or Youtube. Most of the province has been fortunate to be able to worship again in person.

Christmas services will be different this year. Many services will not have choirs and numbers will be restricted due



Mike Briggs

to physical distancing. I know my parish is holding more than one service to accommodate the usual Dec. 24 attendance.

I am wondering how the Christmas envelopes will match up against previous years. Will our parishioners who have retired be generous?

Some will no longer be travelling due to the restrictions and will, perhaps, have more available income that would

have been spent on a winter in warmer climates or travelling to see family members who live outside the Atlantic Bubble.

It is a good time to reflect on the year. God has given New Brunswick the gift of being relatively unscathed by COVID.

Yes, we have had cases and sadly, some deaths, but when we look at the rest of Canada and most of the rest of the world, we can thank God for his generosity, and for the skill of our medical professionals and the good sense of the citizens following the recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer.

Some people have been suffering in the downturn as tourism was much reduced, but the CERB and recent transition to EI have certainly helped.

We can see examples of parishes reaching out to the community with love and generosity. I was just reading about the Rev. Paul Ranson and his parish in

Fredericton North and the work they have been doing with the support of the congregation.

They simply decided that if they could not be good stewards of their gifts as they were used to, they would find another way. God guided them and strengthened their resolve.

I am sure other parishes out there are pivoting in a similar fashion to help their less fortunate neighbours.

Looking forward to 2021, I would think it has to be a better year with a proven vaccine available so we can resume our pre-COVID lives, see family again and enjoy all the beauty of God's world and continue to be generous with the gifts we have been given by God.

I wish you all a blessed Advent and Christmas.

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

PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS

NOV. 28
ELECTION OF THE
BISHOP OF THE
DIOCESE OF
EASTERN
NEWFOUNDLAND
& LABRADOR

NOV. 29
ARCHDEACONRY
OF MONCTON
LESSONS AND
CAROLS

NOV. 30
CONSECRATION
OF SANDRA FYFE
AS BISHOP OF
NOVA SCOTIA AND
PRINCE EDWARD
ISLAND

DEC. 5
DIOCESAN
COUNCIL

DEC 6
*** PARISH OF**
LANCASTER

DEC 11-12
DIOCESAN ADVENT
RETREAT

DECEMBER 24-25
CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL

DEC. 24 – JAN. 1
BISHOP'S OFFICE
CLOSED

JANUARY 1
CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL

*** CONFIRMATION**

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Advent
resources? Find
them at the
diocesan
website:

[https://nb.anglican.ca/
resources/advent](https://nb.anglican.ca/resources/advent)



ORDINATION

Bob Cheatley ordained in St. Andrews

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

It took a good many years, but finally, on Nov. 1, Bob Cheatley fulfilled his call to ministry.

"My first sense of a calling was many years ago," said Bob in an interview just before his ordination service at All Saints Church, St. Andrews.

But this Toronto native, after earning a degree in agriculture, headed west and worked in feed management for many years. That career brought him and his wife to St. Andrews in 1996, and it was in 2002 that he felt he should begin steering his life towards ordained ministry.

"My work life started to change at that time, so I went into the St. Stephen's University ministry program," he said.

After his first year there, the university was badly in need of a president. He was well-versed in bringing failing businesses back from the brink, and one thing led to another. Technically he was still a student when he became the university's president.

"I thought it would be three years," he said. "I stayed for 16."

He finished a Masters degree last year, and since then, has been working towards ordination.

"Cathy Laskey worked behind the scenes, and John Matheson has been huge in my journey," he said.

THE SERVICE

A large but socially distanced crowd joined Bob and his wife, Marlene, for his ordination to the transitional diaconate. Several area pastors were present, which Bob noted, as were fellow priests Keith Osborne, Kevin Borthwick and John Matheson.

The service was recorded by CHCO TV, allowing extended family to view it, since they could not travel due to COVID-19.

Music was provided by organist Steve Braithwaite. In addition, Ruth Dunfield and Dawn James performed several songs.

During the ceremony, Bob was vested by the Ven. Keith Osborne. Kevin Borthwick acted as bishop's chaplain.

During his sermon, Archbishop David Edwards spoke about the unmistakable mark



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: DURING THE SERVICE, from left - the Ven. Keith Osborne, the Ven. John Matheson, Archbishop David Edwards, the Rev. Bob Cheatley; Dawn James and Ruth Dunfield during one of several songs; the Anglican clergy active in the service included John Matheson, Keith Osborne, the Rev. Kevin Borthwick, Bob Cheatley and David Edwards; Bob Cheatley thanks parishioners and visitors at the conclusion of the service.

of God on Bob.

"God's calling to Bob to ordained ministry is indelible," he said. "It can never be taken away. This call on his life was known before the beginning of time, never to be removed."

But ministry is not confined to the ordained, he said.

"All of us who say we are followers of Jesus Christ are called to minister — some to ordained ministry — but all of us are called. All of this was known before the beginning of time in the mind of God."

That calling includes a basic truth — we are called to be

reflections of God, made in his image.

"On All Saints Day, we are all part of that reflected image of God into the world," he said.

Then Abp David went on to tell the story of a man who played a huge role in his own conversion.

"The person who highly influenced my becoming a Christian died in 1785," he said. "His name was John Fletcher, and he was the vicar of my home parish during the Methodist Revival."

His actual birthname was Jean Guillaume de la Flechere, a Swiss mercenary who moved to England and became John Wesley's designated successor, though he died before Wesley.

Fletcher was known to walk down the hill from the church to the pub, grab people by the hair, drag them up to the church and preach to them.

This was a rough coal-mining town, and the people were not kind to him, even though, ultimately, he had their best interests at heart.

These stories were quite intriguing to Abp. David as a child. So he decided to do a school project on Fletcher. He visited the vicar, who showed him some artifacts and the place where Fletcher used to pray.

"There were dimples in the floor where he knelt to pray," he said, adding there was a piece of plastic on the wall that hid the damp patch formed from Fletcher's breath as he prayed unceasingly for the people of the town.

"I was impressed," he said.

In 1785, as Fletcher was preaching, he had a massive stroke. The people picked him up, took him to the vicarage and put him to bed.

Later, a torch-carrying crowd formed outside the house. They pounded on the door, demanding to be let in.

His wife refused, saying, 'don't you know he's dying?'

'We know,' they said. 'We want to see the passing of a man who loves us.'

"There can be no better epitaph," said Abp David. "We're called to pray like we've never prayed before. To love like we've never loved before, because so many, including ourselves, need to hear it in this time of great need."

At the end of the service, Bob thanked everyone for coming, with special appreciation to those who worked very hard over the last few years, months, weeks and days to help bring this ordination service to fruition.

Bob will serve in the Parish of St. Andrews.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Marking Pregnancy & Infant Loss Remembrance Day

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

A small crowd of women and men gathered for a quiet, reflective service on Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. The service was held at Stone Church in Saint John on Oct. 15.

The Rev. Jasmine Chandra organized and led the service, this being the second annual.

"I find every year organizing this service, it brings back a lot of grief that I thought I'd handled," she told the congregation. "We're here together to support each other, spend time remembering and giving value to lives dismissed a little too easily."

Remembrance, faith and finding a way forward were themes during the short service. Prayers, a reading from 2 Corinthians 4 by Erin Rideout, a message from Jasmine, and music formed the service.

Marie-Hélène Morell played the piano and sang several pieces, notably the hymn *It Is Well With My Soul*. She told those gathered about the songwriter, Horatio Spafford, a wealthy lawyer and property owner, and the tragic events in his life. The Great Chicago Fire of 1871 took almost all he had. Two years later, he, his wife and four daughters planned to sail to Europe, but he was delayed on business while the others went on. The ship his family was on collided with another and sank, with only his wife surviving. It was during the sailing to reunite with her that he wrote the song.

During Jasmine's message, she spoke of a recent dream. She was watching Sam and Naomi play, and a woman approached her and said, 'remember, you have four children.'

While visiting her brother's farm recently, where her two children are buried, and where he planted two maple seeds, she noticed "two maple leaves poking through the moss. It was a good reminder not to dismiss these lives. I have four children."

Jasmine spoke of hope in such difficult times.

"There is hope in being together, hope in joys still possible, hope in how we see our children one day, hope because of God's great love for us. There is hope because



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: THE REV. TERENCE CHANDRA lights candles for the two children he and wife Jasmine have lost.

Erin Rideout reads scripture during the service, with pianist and vocalist Marie-Hélène Morell in the background. Sixteen little lives were remembered with candles lit during the service. The Rev. Jasmine Chandra led the service of remembrance.

in Jesus and in God, death is never the end," she said.

During a prayer, she said, "I take comfort that even though I don't know what my children look like or what their personalities are, you know."

Near the end of the service, those gathered were invited to take a tea light, write the name of their lost child on it, and bring it to the front for lighting. At the end, there were 16 candles lit in remembrance.

Erin Rideout, in an interview after the service, noted that 1 in 4 Canadian women has suffered a pregnancy or infant loss. She is one of those statistics, having lost three children to miscarriage in little

more than a year.

"That means the congregations are full of grieving men and women," she said. "We're doing a disservice if we're not talking about the worst thing that happened in their lives."

Coming to the services last year and this year "is part of my healing process," she said, adding it's important to provide time and space to those who have similar experiences.

But she's not talking exclusively about mothers.

"Fathers get forgotten. It's not just my loss. It's Paul's too."

The Rev. Paul Rideout, her husband, is rector of St. Paul's Anglican Church in Rothesay.

"For me, and I guess for many men, grief around miscarriage can be very lonely," said Paul. "The focus is on the mother. That's important because it's the woman who goes through immense physical and emotional pain, but men are sidelined and expected to hide their feelings, and that is the most unhealthy thing to do."

In their loss of babies they named Rory, Lux and Jude, they vowed to grieve together.

"The greatest strength was found in accompanying Erin through this grief — crying together. That's where we found strength. If you want to heal, you heal together."

Paul noted that in our culture, when a person loses a parent or spouse, family, friends and church gather to help the person cope with the loss.

When a baby is lost through miscarriage, though, "it's kept hush-hush, no one is bringing it out in the open, but the pain is just as sharp. People are usually left to walk through this alone with none of the supports."

But the couple has been determined in talking about their losses to help shine light on a subject that doesn't get a lot of attention.

"We don't want to hide our losses," he said, adding this realization is one of the 'gifts' his babies have given him and Erin. "We want to allow others to process and grieve. We are looking for ways to more tangibly mark these losses."

Like Erin, he sees a role for the church to play, so that a pregnancy or infant loss is acknowledged just as any other loss is.

"SHARING HOPE & HELP"

MY JOURNEY HERE



HEATHER HYND

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Heather Hynds and her husband, Fred, left Northern Ireland a year before The Troubles began. Looking back, they realize they left just in time.

"Things were not good there," said Heather of the conflict. "That went on and got worse."

"The Troubles" is the Irish name for a low-level civil war, pitting Protestants against Catholics, that went on for 30 years — from 1968 to 1998.

In Coleraine, County Londonderry in Northern Ireland, where they grew up, 13 people in total were killed during The Troubles, including several in two car bombings. Two of the 13 victims were civilians with no paramilitary connections.

"We went back for holidays, but it was not the environment we felt we wanted to raise children in, plus we loved Canada."

ARRIVAL IN CANADA

Heather and Fred now live in Quispamsis. Heather attends St. Luke's in Gondola Point and is or has been a member of the choir, ACW, and Altar Guild. She is also a layreader.

The ties to Anglicanism began at birth for Heather. She attended Killowen Parish Church in Coleraine, sang in the choir, taught Sunday school and got married there.

"We left Ireland a couple of weeks after we got married," she said. "We decided before we settled down to see the world. Growing up in a small town in a small country — there's a lot of world out there!"

They thought about Australia, but in the end, the fact that Fred had a brother living in Toronto made the move to Canada an easier decision.

At the time, the Canadian

government was offering a program of 'assisted passage' for £10. Once there, you were expected to get a job and pay back the fare monthly, but it was a great incentive to come to Canada.

The couple decided to make the voyage by ship — when else would they have to opportunity to sail the Atlantic? It took six days.

They arrive in Montreal in late June 1967 to much fanfare. Expo '67, the World's Fair, was in full swing, not that Heather and Fred knew that. They were impressed by the crowds and the celebratory atmosphere, not realizing it was not the norm!

They took the train to Toronto, and Fred's brother, Noel, met them at Union Station.

"The next day, I went to an employment agency. I started work the next week. I really was fresh off the boat!" said Heather.

A week or two later, Fred began a job at the University of Toronto. He worked in administration in the Physics Department, managing the labs, for the rest of his career.

The couple initially lived in downtown Toronto, but eventually moved to Scarborough, where their daughter was born in 1975 and their son in 1979. Heather attended the Anglican Church of St. Paul, L'Amoreaux, where she sang in the choir, joined the vestry and ACW, and became a warden.

"I made a lot of friends there," she said.

With both of them retired by 2005, they thought about moving to a quieter place.

"We had friends we'd met at our very first apartment in Toronto who had subsequently moved to New Brunswick. We'd come and visit every so often."

During one of their visits



SUBMITTED PHOTO

HEATHER HYND AT ST. LUKE'S IN GONDOLA POINT, where she has been a choir member since she moved to the area in 2005.

to the province, they saw a new housing development and marveled at the much cheaper prices.

"Should we?" they asked themselves and their two grown children. The answer was to go for it.

"So we moved to New Brunswick and loved it," she said.

AT HOME IN NB

They built a new home in Quispamsis, not far from their Toronto friends. Heather discovered the builder's wife, Heather Hart, attended St. Luke's, and she invited Heather to choir practice. That was all it took.

"It was such a pretty church. Everyone was so friendly. I've always felt quite comfortable there.

"I remember the first Sunday I went to St. Luke's. One lady and I got chatting and she invited me to get together for coffee."

"The church really helped me settle in here. I even learned to stitch a quilt," she said, adding that sitting around, talking and quilting with the ACW gave her an excellent history of the area she never would have gotten otherwise.

One of perks of being in the choir has been attending the annual Diocesan Choir School, which, for the past number of years, has been held in nearby

Rothsay.

"A group of us has been going for several years," she said. "It's great that a small church and a small choir have the opportunity to work with clinicians. It's amazing what you can learn over a weekend!"

One year, Heather even brought her sister, who was visiting from Northern Ireland, to Choir School.

GROWING UP IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Visiting back and forth is the norm for Heather, Fred and their families. It's much easier now that they're retired and their home country is once again at peace.

"It was very troubling to see Northern Ireland that way," she said. "We'd occasionally hear of some little thing happening at the border, but never anything that affected our lives.

Growing up, they were always aware of the differences between Catholics and Protestants, but the country was highly segregated, with their lives revolving around their churches and their schools. There was little opportunity to make friends and it wasn't until Heather went to college that she mixed with Catholics.

The Ireland she left had no immigrants, and as she said, people were leaving the country, not coming in.

"There was no variety of religions to see or understand,"

she said.

IMMIGRATION

"Toronto, on arrival — it was mind blowing just to see all the nationalities," she said.

In thinking about her life, she remembers the sense of adventure in leaving Northern Ireland at the age of 20, new husband on her arm, taking their first ever flight from Belfast to London, finding their way to Southampton and boarding The Carmania, a Cunard ocean liner.

"We thought nothing of it!" she said.

Recently, she contacted Pier 21 in Halifax. Even though their ship didn't come through Halifax, the museum had their immigration documents and sent her a copy. She was amazed to see her own handwriting on the forms she filled out upon arrival.

Heather and Fred became Canadian citizens in the 1970s, once they realized their lives were here. Their daughter and son-in-law also live in Quispamsis, and their son lives in Halifax, so family is always close by.

"We were going to make our fortune and head back," she said. "We're still working on the fortune!"

"I often wonder what our lives might have been like had we stayed. But we have no regrets."

Liberalism and Christianity: an uncomfortable, intertwined relationship

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Normally the semi-annual Christian Forum is held in Fredericton with a couple dozen people present. This time, it was held online, due to the pandemic, and 57 people from within and beyond the diocese attended.

The forum, a presentation of the Mission and Outreach Committee, was held Oct. 8, with Dr. Tom Bateman presenting. Bateman is a political science professor at St. Thomas University in Fredericton.

Parish development officer Shawn Branch hosted the event. Nancy Stevens, chair of the committee, introduced Bateman, who then delivered his take on the topic “What Liberalism owes to Christianity.”

“We are no longer a Christian society, but we are a society indelibly influenced by the Christian tradition,” said Bateman. “Contemporary liberalism owes a lot to Christianity.”

During The Enlightenment, a period in Europe in the 17th and 18th century, philosophers, scientists and others cast off notions of absolute monarchies and Catholic Church doctrine in favour of reason, logic, science, new political models and the separation of church and state. They practiced religious tolerance and preached individual human rights.

“The thought was Enlightenment cured us of religious influence or the need for religion,” he said. “We had something better: modern life.”

But society’s push towards human rights, freedoms, justice and tolerance did not come from science. Those ideals came from Christianity.

The paradox these days is that as Christianity is suffering its worst blows of shrinking attendance and widespread scandal, Christian ideals and

morals are ever-present.

“There is a difference between the influence of Christian believers, and the deeper historical influence of Christian ideals and moral principles on liberal philosophy and politics,” said Bateman. “Embarrassing as it is for modern secular liberals to admit, the stamp of Christianity is evident all over the place.

But he offered this warning: “If and when that stamp fades, we may barely recognize the moral and political order that will replace it.”

Bateman went back 2,000 years to remind us of the utter shock the ministry of Jesus had on life. At the time of his birth, aristocrats had all the power, the economy flourished because of slavery, women had no power or rights, and unwanted and defective babies were murdered at birth.

“An otherwise unremarkable man claiming to be the Son of the one God walks past the authorities and the notables and directs His attention to the poor, the lame, to women of ill-repute, to widows, and to children,” he said.

The life and death of Jesus and the resulting Christian church “shook things up. Over time, the new ideas had a leavening effect. They shaped the modern world.”

THREE LITERARY EXAMPLES

Bateman cited three works of literature to highlight the presence and the impact of Christianity on secular society since the Age of Enlightenment. The first is William Shakespeare’s *The Merchant of Venice*.

“This is a story of money, love, prejudice, and revenge, and the Christians in the tale do not come out of it looking very well,” he said.

Part of the plot pits Christian against Jew, leading to the famous line, spoken by the



MCKNIGHT PHOTO

DR. TOM BATEMAN GAVE THE OCTOBER CHRISTIAN FORUM lecture on the topic of the bristly relationship between liberalism and Christianity. We are a society indelibly influenced by Christian tradition, much to the annoyance of liberal western society, said Bateman, who noted readers should not confuse liberal society with any particular political party. He delivered the lecture online on Oct. 8.

Jewish moneylender Shylock: “If you prick us, do we not bleed?”

Shakespeare uses the Christ-directed ideals of human dignity and salvation for everyone — sinners, Jews included — to portray Shylock as the victim and the Christian as arrogant and prejudiced.

Bateman also cited lessons from Jack London’s *The Sea Wolf* and Dostoevsky’s *Crime and Punishment* to illustrate the value of life and human dignity over power and selfishness.

CHANGE IS COMING

For liberalism to continue to be successful, it needs economic stability and civil restraint — two things now under threat in Western society. Climate

change, recession, and the rise in fascism all threaten to unbalance the status quo.

“Young people in the Western democratic world now regard democracy with less passion,” he said. “This should be a source of some concern.

“Liberal democratic regimes depend on civil restraint. Culture keeps liberalism on the rails. Are we in the twilight of that culture?” he asked.

After his talk, Bateman took questions from the audience. Topics included censorship, the separation of church and state, liberalism’s definition, and the future of democracy.

“The history of democracy is not that good,” said Bateman. “If people can’t rule themselves, someone will have to rule them. Freedom allows

you to do nothing — ignore your civil responsibilities, ignore personal restraint.

“If it’s not me participating in my rule, someone will do it for me,” he said, pointing to the political climate in the United States to illustrate these statements.

He noted that during the 1920s, “right-thinking” people advocated for the sterilization of “imbeciles” so as not to drag down society.

“Those are not liberal ideas, but I’m looking for the emergence of [them]. If that happens, we’ll know we’ve taken a turn.”

Bateman also noted the term liberal does not refer to a political party, but to a set of ideals that include individual rights and religious freedom.



The columbarium in the front entrance of Trinity Anglican Church in Saint John has niche space for purchase. This beautiful historical church provides a place of remembrance for families wanting that connection with the church. Various niche sizes (individual, couples, family) are available. Inquiries: parish office (506) 693-8558 or email: trinsj@nb.aibn.com.

BISHOP MCALLISTER COLLEGE

Overcoming COVID-19 challenges at Bishop McAllister College

BY PAUL JEFFRIES

Greetings from Uganda! It is has turned out to be a year none of us would ever have anticipated.

We got off to a great start in February. Students had reported for the new school year and had quickly settled into the school routine.

The library was opened and being used for the first time, and even work had begun on the new music department. We were all full of great optimism for what 2020 had in store for us.

It wasn't long before news of COVID-19 began to trickle in to us, but like everyone around the world we had no sense of how bad this was going to be. I was still planning to travel home in March, and everything was going smoothly at school.

At the beginning of March, I could see travel was getting complicated so I cancelled my trip, and tried to prepare the school for what might be coming our way.

No one could believe me, but in less than three weeks all schools in Uganda were closed.

Again, there was no sense of urgency. All of us expected this to be a short-term thing, and we would reopen within a month's time.

Well, within a month, I found myself giving away a month's worth of food before it spoiled. (That food was meant to take us to the end of term.)

As one month became two, then three months and so forth, I began to panic, fearing what this would do to the school and the impact it would have on the staff and students. By July I found it necessary to launch an appeal for help.

The response was tremendous. I'm so grateful for the positive response I received from Archbishop David, the ACWs and churches across the diocese. The funds that have been sent or are on the way are going to make a great difference in the coming months and in the new year.

A few weeks ago, the government decided, in its wisdom, that schools should partially open, and that final-

ists could return to school.

This means the senior students of each section (elementary, middle school, and high school) would return and complete their school year and sit final exams.

For many private schools like Bishop McAllister, partial opening would be very challenging financially. The number of students returning would not cover operating costs, even with cutbacks, before even considering the accumulated costs of maintaining schools while closed or the costs of implementing the SOPs (standard operating procedures) issued by the Ministry of Education. Some private schools chose to simply not open.

But thanks be to God, Bishop McAllister College was not in the same position as others. Because of our unique facilities and financial support from overseas, we have been able to reopen relatively smoothly.

There were a couple of hectic weeks trying to put everything in place, restructuring and organizing teachers who were being called back. We helped them adjust to new working conditions and even subjects they may have not been teaching prior to the schools closing.

I'm happy to report that on Oct. 15, we successfully reopened for finalists. We were inspected a few days before to see that we had met all the new SOPs, and we were given a certificate allowing us to open.

One of the big challenges for most schools was how to meet the requirement of social distancing in classrooms. For many schools it meant taking one class and dividing it into five classes, multiply the teaching lessons and cost by the same number.

But as I mentioned, our facilities saved us. While I might never have anticipated this, the library now houses the two classes from middle school, the dining hall, the high school class, and the Chapel of St. John the Evangelist the elementary class.

It is a whole new world for students (and teachers) as they arrive at the gate. Masks have



PAUL JEFFRIES PHOTOS

A STUDENT DISINFECTS BEFORE HEADING inside one of the school buildings. Below, a sign erected at the left of the school entrance explains the new COVID rules, which are very similar to our own here in Canada.



to be worn before entering (and on at all times).

The next step is to have your temperature checked, then to wash your hands and have your property sprayed.

Throughout the school we have placed new hand washing stations at dorms, classrooms, and kitchen to encourage frequent hand washing, and signs and posters are scattered everywhere offering reminders of what we should be doing.

Wearing our masks, washing our hands, not touching our face, and social distancing are part of school life now. So

far, we are off to a good start. Staff and students will have their temperature checked on a daily basis.

The finalist program will take us up until May 3rd when the last exam will be completed, though normally that happens in early December.

As for all the lower classes, we don't know what the future holds. Their future will be revisited in January, but it is unlikely that anything will change for them before this program is completed.

No doubt the road ahead is long and will be full of chal-

lenges. But I'm confident that we are prepared to meet and overcome whatever comes our way.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the prayers and financial support that have provided us with such wonderful facilities, and the financial support that has come in response to our appeal for assistance.

On behalf of everyone here, thank you so much for your continued love and support. God bless! The Rev. Canon Paul Jeffries is rector at Bishop McAllister College.

PARISH OF SHEDIAC

OUTINGS IN THE PARISH OF SHEDIAC



GOD BLESSED US WITH A BEAUTIFUL DAY ON Sunday, Oct. 4 as 35 people — young families in the Parish of Shediac — went apple picking at La Fleur Du Pommier apple orchard in Cocagne. With COVID-19 we need to think creatively and find ways to keep people connected to the parish family. The kids picked apples for about an hour and then we gave the apples to a group in our church who plan to transform them into delicious apple crisps. The apple crisps will then be given to those we wish to bless such as seniors, shut-ins, and others who may need to know we are thinking about them. Everyone enjoyed the activity and plans are under way to do more family-focused activities that bring smiles to everyone's faces. Pictured here is Charli Williams enjoying the fruit of her labours. Kristen McGraw photos

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THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF SHEDIAC CELEBRATED the baptism of cousins Hailey Welling and Liam Magee in its own way on Sept. 13. They have a beautiful beach attached to the church property which allowed for a special Celebration of Baptism so that people could social distance and also enjoy the beauty of God's creation. (If held in the church, everyone would have been required to wear a mask.) The event concluded with a cornboil/hot dog lunch along with a baptism cake. Servers wore their masks and gloves while preparing and serving the food. The people attending felt blessed to be able to get together with their friends for an event such as this. Sharon Connors photos



CHRISTMAS RECIPES

CHRISTMAS RECIPES

Make Me!

Readers share their favourite Christmas recipes – for your enjoyment

Miniature Christmas Fruitcakes Martha Ritchie, St. Anne’s Church, Westcock (Parish of Sackville)

1/2 cup light molasses; 1/4 cup water (half sherry, if desired); 1 tsp. vanilla; 15 ounces raisins; 1/4 cup mixed peel; 1/4 cup citron; 1 pound candied fruit, chopped; 1/2 cup butter; 2/3 cup sugar; 3 eggs; 1 cup plus 2 tbsp. flour; 1/4 tsp. baking soda; 1 tsp. cinnamon; 1 tsp. nutmeg; 1/4 tsp. ground allspice; 1/4 tsp. ground cloves; 1/4 cup milk (or pineapple, orange, grape or cranberry); 1 cup chopped nuts.

In a saucepan, combine molasses, water and vanilla; add raisins and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for five minutes. Remove from heat and stir in fruit; cool. Meanwhile, in a mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir together dry ingredients; add to creamed mixture alternately with milk. Stir in the fruit mixture; mix well. Fold in nuts. Spoon into paper-lined miniature muffin tins, filling almost to the top. Bake at 325 for 22-24 minutes or until the cakes test done with a toothpick. Cool on wire racks and store in airtight container in a cool place. Makes about 6 dozen.

My mother always made fruitcake but I never felt I could replicate her delicious cakes. I found this recipe in a Christmas Country Woman Magazine 35 years ago. Their popularity spread outside the family and now I make them for Christmas bake sales at our church, as well as for gifts.



Christmas pudding Rosalie Brown, Parish of Woodstock

1 lb each seeded lexia raisins, seedless raisins and currants; 1/2 generous pound of mixed fruit; 1/8 lb of each brown and white sugar; 1/2 lb butter (original recipe called for suet but I substitute butter.); 3 eggs; 1/8 lb of each walnuts and almonds (I use sliced almonds); 1 1/2 cups flour; 1/4 lb fine bread crumbs; 1/2 tsp allspice and nutmeg; 1/4 tsp cinnamon; 1/4 tsp almond and lemon flavouring; 1 cup brandy; 1/2 cup old ale; 1 cup milk.

Mix all together and let stand covered overnight. In the morning put in greased dish, cover with double layer of waxed paper and tie down. Steam 8 or 9 hours, depending on the size of your dish. Remove waxed paper and put in 350 oven with dish of water on bottom rack. Bake one hour.

This recipe has been passed down in my family for several generations. If you use two smaller dishes rather than one large, cut down on steaming and baking time. Keeps very well and can be frozen for months.



Christmas Bread Fran Miles, Christ Church Cathedral

Boil 5 minutes: 2 c. water; 2 c. raisins. Dissolve 3 tbsp. margarine or butter in with raisins and let cool.

Add: 1 c. white sugar; 1 egg; 1 tsp. vanilla
Sift together: 2 3/4 c. flour; 2 tsp. soda; 1/2 tsp. salt

Add to flour mixture: 1 c. glazed whole cherries (half red, half green); 1 c. walnut pieces.
Add and mix well to the raisin mixture.
Bake in one large or two small loaf pans, 1 1/4 hrs. at 325 degrees.
Check at one hour.



Almond Fingers, Diane Cameron, Trinity Church, Saint John

Preheat oven to 325°F. Mix together thoroughly: 1 cup butter, softened; 1/3 cup light brown sugar; 2/3 cup ground (or blanched and finely chopped) almonds
Sift together and add: 1 2/3 cups white flour; 1/4 tsp. salt. Then add 1/4 tsp. almond extract.

Hand roll and shape each cookie into a 2 1/2 inch length, finger width, barrel shaped. Place on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 8 to 10 minutes until set, not brown. Let cool slightly on pan. While warm, carefully roll each cookie in a mixture of 1 cup white sugar and 1 teaspoon cinnamon. Makes 5 dozen. Enjoy.

Mom made these cookies only at Christmas. They were a lot of work. She used to shell the almonds, blanch and skin them before chopping them to make these cookies. These are my favourite Christmas cookies.



Divinity fudge Sharon Connors, Shediac Cape

In a saucepan: 4 cups sugar; ½ cup corn syrup; 2/3 cups water; Pinch of salt

Boil til soft ball stage (5 minutes). Beat 2 egg whites stiff in big electric mixer bowl. Pour hot syrup slowly over egg whites while mixing (5-6 minutes). Add 1 tsp vanilla.
It has to be a bit cool before spooning onto waxed paper. Makes 60.
Variation: Add green food coloring and/or ¼ -½ tsp. peppermint extract.

My husband’s grandmother, Jessie Murray, and Helen Bateman made this fudge for my husband every birthday and Christmas! They wrapped it for him usually in a shortening box. We have carried on the tradition of giving gifts of divinity fudge (her recipe) to our friends and relatives at Christmas.

Recipe: Seafood Casserole

Cleo Cyr, Parish of Hammond River

Sauté: 2 cups chopped onion; 3 cups chopped celery; 3 tbsp butter; 1 tsp salt; 1/4 tsp. pepper

In a separate pot, whisk 1/2 cup melted butter and 3/4 cup flour into five cups of heated milk. Add 1 lb of cream cheese and stir until cheese melts and is well blended (mixture will be slightly thick). Add onion and celery mixture and stir.

Then add cooked seafood: 10 oz lobster meat; 1/2 lb crab meat; 3/4 lb shrimp; 1 lb scallops.
Top with bread crumbs and bake at 350 F for 30 minutes. Serve with baked potatoes.

Our family absolutely loves this recipe! We serve it with baked potatoes, veggies and homemade rolls but it can also be served as an appetizer in smaller dishes (or shells). We typically serve it New Year’s Day. This recipe won’t be a disappointment whenever you serve it!



Cherry Pound Cake — Cheryl Reid St. George’s Anglican Church, Moncton

1 cup butter; 3 egg yolks / 3 egg whites; ½ cup cold water; 3 cups flour; ¼ tsp salt; 1 large bottle of red cherries (cut in half); 1 ½ cups white sugar; juice of one large orange; 1 tsp almond flavoring; 1 ½ tsp baking powder

Instructions: Grease tube pan. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Cream butter and sugar. Add egg yolks, orange juice, water and almond flavoring; beat thoroughly. Sift salt, flour and baking powder and mix with first ingredients. Fold in beaten egg whites; then cherries. Bake about 1 hour, until toothpick comes out clean. Cut in small slices to serve. May be frozen.

This is an old family recipe passed on from my grandmother, Jennie Francis Steeves. It is a must-have cake in our house, plus I make some for gifts.



Oysters Rockefeller, Laura McNulty, Parish of New Brandon

24 small or 18 large oysters: Open oysters. Cook in shell.

TOPPING: 5 oz of frozen spinach; 3 tablespoons butter; 1 tablespoon minced onion; 1 tablespoon fresh parsley; 1/8 teaspoon tabasco sauce; ¼ cup bread crumbs; 2 slices bacon diced; parmesan cheese; lemon wedge

Melt butter. Add onion, spinach, parsley and tabasco cook until soft. Add bread crumbs. Divide evenly among oysters. Top with parmesan cheese and bacon. Cook approximately 10 minutes at 425 degrees.

More recipes on page 12

CHRISTMAS RECIPES

MAKE ME!

Favourite Christmas recipes from readers

Chocolate Mint Parfait Bars

Laura McNulty, Parish of New Bandon

1 pkg chocolate devil's food cake mix with pudding
1/3 c butter, softened
1 egg
1 envelope unflavored gelatin powder
1/4 c boiling water
4 c powdered sugar
1/2 c butter, softened
1/2 c shortening
1/4 tsp peppermint extract
3 drops green food coloring
6 oz chocolate chips
3 tbsp butter
Heat oven to 350F. Grease 15 x 10" baking pan. In large bowl, combine cake mix, 1/3 cup butter and egg. Beat at low speed until crumbly. Press evenly in bottom of greased pan. Bake for 10 minutes. Cool completely.
In a large bowl, dissolve gelatin in boiling water; cool slightly. Add 2 cups of the powdered sugar; blend well. Add 1/2 cup butter, shortening, peppermint extract and food color. Beat 1 minute at medium speed or until smooth and creamy. Blend in remaining 2 cups powdered sugar until smooth. Spread filling evenly over cooled base. In small saucepan over low heat, melt frosting ingredients: chocolate chips and 3 T. butter. Stir constantly until well blended. Spoon frosting evenly over filling, carefully spreading to cover. Refrigerate until firm. Cut into bars. Let stand at room temperature about 20 minutes before serving. Store any remaining bars in refrigerator. Makes 48 bars.

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Pineapple Upside Down French Toast

Cleo Cyr, Parish of Hammond River

8 thick slices of bread (crusts removed)
7 eggs
1 1/2 cups milk
1/4 cup sugar
1 tsp vanilla
1 tsp cinnamon
1 tbsp margarine
3/4 cup brown sugar
8 round slices of canned pineapple



IMAGE BY NICKYPE FROM PIXABAY

Place slices of bread in a large shallow pan. In a large bowl, beat eggs with milk, sugar, vanilla and cinnamon. Strain mixture over bread. Turn bread over and allow to soak for at least 10 minutes (up to overnight in refrigerator). Brush margarine over the bottom of a 9x13 baking dish. Sprinkle bottom evenly with brown sugar, pressing sugar into bottom of pan. Arrange slices of pineapple on the brown sugar in a single layer. Place a piece of soaked bread over each. Bake in a preheated 350 F oven for 30 to 40 minutes or until bread is puffed and browned. Remove from oven and cool for 5 minutes. To serve, cut around each slice of bread and serve each piece upside down with a slice of pineapple and some juices on top. Serve with maple syrup. This is a family favorite for New Year's Day! Each place setting is set with orange juice in champagne flutes and grapefruit halves with cherries. We gather as a (large) family, thankful for our many blessings.

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Eggless Christmas Pudding

Vivian Osborne, Saint John

3/4 cup all purpose flour
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. mace
1/4 tsp. cloves
1/4 tsp. allspice

1/4 tsp. ginger
Mix the above mixture and sift twice. Then add:
1 cup of brown sugar
1/2 cup (scant) minced suet
1/2 cup currants
1/3 cup sultanas
1/3 cup seeded raisins
4 tbsp. candied peel
1/3 cup blanched almonds
1 tsp. lemon juice
Mix well. Add 1/2 cup grated raw carrot; 1/2 cup of grated raw potato; 1/2 cup grated raw apple. Combine thoroughly. Turn into a greased pudding bowl filling 2/3 full. Cover with several layers of wax paper & steam for three hours.
Brandy Sauce
1/4 cup butter
1 cup of icing sugar
2 tbsp. brandy
2 well beaten egg yolks
1/2 cup of milk or cream
2 beaten egg whites
In a double boiler cream the butter, add the icing sugar gradually. Add the brandy very slowly, then add the beaten egg yolks and the milk/cream. Cook until it thickens like custard. Pour over the beaten egg whites and mix well. Pour the sauce over individual pieces of the pudding.
My paternal grandmother was a First World War bride from England. Every year around August she would make her Christmas pudding. She used to say the earlier the better. On Christmas Day & New Years Day it would be steamed again to warm up, then we would all gather around to watch Grandpa pour the brandy on it and set it afire

— a beautiful blue flame that was a highlight for all the children! It would be served with a custard-like brandy sauce. Many of us in the family still carry on the tradition today. I still have one of her metal pudding pans. Merry Christmas everyone!

• • •

Cheesecake

Cheryl Young, Parish of Salisbury & Havelock

Base:
30 graham wafers, crushed
1/4 cup butter, melted
1 package ground almonds
1/4 teaspoon almond extract
Cook 5 minutes at 350 degrees in 10-inch springform pan
Filling:
3-8 ounce packages cream cheese
4 eggs, separated
1 cup sugar, divided
1 teaspoon vanilla
Beat cream cheese and 1/2 cup sugar. Add egg yolks and vanilla. Beat egg whites. Add other 1/2 cup sugar then beat until still. Fold egg whites into cream cheese mixture. Bake 350 degrees for 50-60 minutes. Cool for 30 minutes.
Topping:
Mix 2 tubs sour cream, 2/3 cups sugar and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Spread on top of cheesecake. Bake in 350 degree oven for 10 minutes or until bubbles on top. Put cherry pie filling on top to serve.

I received this recipe from a friend and I love it. I have never served it to anyone who has not liked it. Delicious!

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Dark Fruit Cake

Betsy O'Donnell, Parish of Douglas and Nashwaaksis

2 cups brown sugar
1 cup molasses
1 cup butter
1 cup cooled tea or coffee
3 eggs
2 tsp. soda
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 teaspoon cloves, 1 teaspoon nutmeg, 1 teaspoon allspice, ginger, cinnamon
4 1/2 cups flour
1 jar of apple jelly or cherry or strawberry preserves
1 375 ml bottle of cherries and juice
1 1/2 lb raisins
1 lb currents
1 lb dates
1 can mixed peel
1/2 lb nutmeats

Line pans with parchment paper. Bake at 275 degrees for 2 1/2 hours or less, 1 hour 20 minimum with glass pans, 1 hour for tiny pans. Keep a pan of water on lower rack under cakes.
My mother (Grace Parker) and I made these fruit cakes every spring and put them in a container in the basement until Christmas. I still make them.

DIOCESAN NEWS

New book-keeper begins at diocese

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Justin McCoy is the new book-keeper and administrative assistant with the Diocese of Fredericton. His first day of work was Oct. 15. He replaces Nicole Chouinard, who moved to Newfoundland and Labrador.

Justin, 29, is just graduating this fall from the Faculty of Business Administration at the University of New Brunswick. He is also a graduate of Leo Hayes High School and NBCC's business accounting program. He and his wife, Katherine, have no children.

"I've always liked math and physics," he said. "I like making numbers work."

Ben Bourque, personnel and Safe Church officer, has been training Justin during a



Justin McCoy

MCKNIGHT PHOTO

time when the office is rather empty most days.

"This is my first full-time position after graduating," said Justin. "I'm looking to put what I've learned to the test."

Having kept the books for a local church, and still keeping the books for a sports association in town, he has become

well-immersed in working for non-profits.

"I enjoy working for non-profits. It's not just about money."

And after a week with the diocese, he said, "I'm happy to be here. Everyone seems professional but fun so far."

Newfoundland bishop dies suddenly

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

The Rt. Rev. Geoffrey Peddle, bishop of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador, died suddenly on Oct. 8.

The bishop was in the process of retiring. An episcopal election had already been scheduled for Nov. 28 to replace him. It will go ahead as scheduled.

In his obituary, he was described as a husband, father, grandfather, brother, servant, priest and bishop – but mostly friend, and above all, a child of God. His life and his work exemplified his favourite words from the Prophet Micah:

"What does the Lord require of you but to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

He is survived by his wife, Kathy; sons Benjamin and Adam; daughter-in-law Magdalena and granddaughter Josefina; as well as several siblings; his Synod Office and Church families, including fellow Bishops, Priests and Deacons; the parishioners throughout his beloved Diocese; and many colleagues worldwide. He also leaves a wide circle of dear friends.

A funeral is planned when



The Rt. Rev. Geoffrey Peddle

family and friends can gather more freely. His obituary ended with these words:

"Even though Geoff's light has changed, it is still everywhere and in every place."

"Geoff exercised leadership in the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador during a period of transition and led them to discern new ways of working in that region," said Archbishop David Edwards. "Geoff will be missed in the diocese for past care of both clergy and parishioners."



JANIE HEPDITCH VANNIER PHOTO

FAREWELL

THE FINAL SERVICE LED BY the Rev. Geoff Howsen was marked on Sept. 27 at the Church of the Ascension in the Parish of Grand Manan. From left to right, layreaders Adele Peacock, Geoff Howsen, Joan Brown and Elsa Tate.

The Anglican Diocese of Fredericton

Advent Retreat

December 11-12, 2020

Online

with

Archbishop David Edwards

Live teaching & prayer
with times of guided reflection.

For more info or to register:
nb.anglican.ca/Advent-2020



ACW celebrates 110th anniversary in Hammon River

BY CLEO CYR &
GAIL EASTWOOD

In October the Anglican Church Women of the Parish of Hammond River celebrated 110 years of faithful service, love and caring within the parish and beyond.

When formed in 1910 the ACW was originally called the Hammond River Branch Women's Auxiliary.

The original membership fee was \$0.10 with an increase in 1924 to \$0.15 and 'modest' increases since then.

Needless to say, many events have occurred since 1910, a significant one being the loss of the original Holy Trinity Hammond River church building to a forest fire on May 18, 1920.

Much of the furniture was saved and is still used in the 'new' Holy Trinity building consecrated in Hammond River in 1923.

A delightful 'Historical Sketch' written by Mary Caroline Prince dated Oct. 20, 1970 highlights a section of previous minutes dated in 1953 that "A special Thanksgiving Prayer was offered, having in mind



SUBMITTED PHOTO

LYNN BROWNE, KATHY FERGUSON, Brenda Bowron, Gail Eastwood and former president Karen Kalverboer (who died July 2020). This picture was taken at our "Crazy Hat" party where we invited ACW members from St. Luke's Gondola Point and St. Augustine's Quispamsis.

the narrow escape experienced at the railway crossing a few minutes earlier by five of the members enroute to the meeting in a heavy snowstorm;" and in 1960 that three members vividly remember escaping serious injury in another near accident.

Ms. Prince goes on to reflect that are not these events "per-

haps an illustration of the same Divine Providence that has guarded and guided this Hammond River Branch throughout its 60 years, through two great wars, through fire, which left us without a church building, and through flu — the worst epidemic in history?

"Sometimes our work has seemed very insignificant, and

we have often felt discouraged, but looking backward now, over the far view of 60 years, we are thankful and proud to have been permitted a share in the Master's work."

This wonderful 12-page historical sketch depicted a vibrant community of women who actively supported their parish and community. Al-

though members have changed over the years, the past 50 years have been no less eventful.

Over the past 110 years many great causes have been supported including Foster Parents, the Red Cross, Save the Children Fund, The Jubilee Fund, Sunday School by Post and Radio, the Canadian Bible Society, Camp Medley and years and years of donated quilts, to name but a few.

More recently the group's focus has been to support various women's groups, the Parish of Hammond River mission work and young women attending the Bishop McAllister College in Uganda.

As we celebrate this 110th anniversary, we mourn the loss of all members, but most especially and most recently our past president Karen Kalverboer.

We dedicate this 110th anniversary to her and to all the wonderful women who "held together" over the years in mission, prayer and faithful service to our Lord and Saviour.



Apohaqui ACW — pie day

It has been a difficult year for everyone, this COVID year of 2020 — a few gains and many losses. For the Apohaqui ACW it has been such a year.

Each year, as fundraisers, we organize plant sales in the spring. During the summer we host a tea, decorating Medley Hall with silver, doilies and antiques; and late in the year, we hold a very popular Christmas Tea & Bazaar.

But with COVID restrictions, all events were cancelled. In late September, our ACW president, the late Marylou Wiggins, suggested that the ACW make/sell apple pies, with hopes that we might get 100 apple pie orders.

It has been a daunting task, but with the help of community friends, we've worked together, all the while social distancing, filling orders for 180 apple pies on Oct. 24!

We are delighted with this accomplishment, but saddened with the recent loss of three Apohaqui ACW members: Betty Main, Laura Stockdale and Marylou Wiggins.

Submitted by Nicole Bent, Apohaqui ACW president

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Peters shines at annual speaker's dinner

BY THE REV. STEVEN SCRIBNER

Trinity Anglican Church in Saint John held its 4th Annual Speaker's Dinner at the Union Club on Oct. 22.

Since 2017, Trinity has offered a sold out annual spring fundraiser at the Union Club where the patrons enjoy an evening of fellowship, fine dining and entertainment by captivating speakers selected for their historic and current ties to world events.

Upon review of the current COVID-19 parameters, Trinity worked with the Union Club management, and was able to move forward with a reduced

seating of 50 from previous years where upwards of 100 were received.

On Oct. 22 Trinity once again held a sold-out evening as guests were treated to a salmon dinner followed by a captivating presentation by David Peters, acknowledged as a leading voice for Black History for the province of New Brunswick.

Mr. Peters' discussion was focused on 'All Lives Matter' and in doing so, very eloquent-

ly created the generational story of Black History and how the black community was actively involved in supporting society of the day.

He traced Black History through a founder, Matthew DeCosta, an African mixed-blood gentleman who originally bridged the racial divide, working as an interpreter to both the French and the Dutch in their pursuits in North America.

Mr. Peters then shared the

story of the Underground Railroad, citing both the Quakers and the Church of England as two supporting communities that took an active role.

The Quakers, through the display of 12 quilt designs, were able to secretly message the Black community and help with safe passages. We were informed by a Quaker descendant, Debra Coleman, in attendance, that there is one of the original 12-quilt sets still in existence, residing in a personal collection in Perth-Andover.

The evening's presentation continued as he touched on Black History and the War of Independence where King George III promised all who would fight for England, would receive their freedom from slavery.

At the end of the war, George Washington restricted any of the Black Freedom Fighters from boarding the ships and demanded they return to their masters and return to slavery.

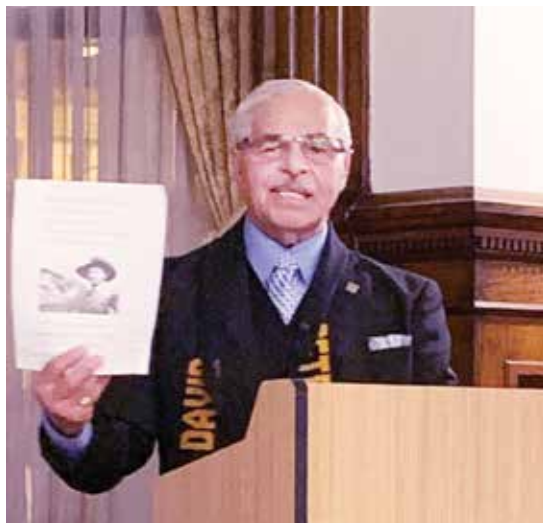
However, the King, even though England was broke,

kept his original promise and purchased freedom for all the Freedom Fighters.

This was followed by a brief discussion on the Black role in subsequent wars, including a ban on Blacks being armed, a refusal to allow them to join the First World War effort, the subsequent and embarrassing request that they join, their role as unarmed builders of roads and bridges, segregation from the enlisted, and some improvements during the Second World War.

Mr. Peters returned to his opening statement, 'All Lives Matter,' where he cited example after example of amazing inventions and achievements. Following the presentation Mr. Peters opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Peters was thanked for his very informative, passionate and at times heart-touching presentation which opened the lens of how we will view the current world's racial events happening in our communities. For this we will be forever grateful.



David Peters

LOUISE DODGE-HALL PHOTO

Memories of St. Peter's

BY ANDY O'DONNELL

I would like to express my thanks for the impact the congregation and rectors of Saint Peters Anglican church in Boiestown have had on my faith over the years.

On Sept. 29, this little country church was deconsecrated. It was part of the Parish of Ludlow and Blissfield.

I am the incumbent of the Anglican parish of Saint Stephens with Saint James, Chambly, and Grace Church l'Acadie, within the Diocese of Montreal.

Much of my 20 years of ministry has been in small multi-point rural settings.

Having grown up in the

parish was of great benefit in preparing me for rural ministry. Without Saint Peters taking an interest, plus its support, encouragement, and prayers, I doubt very much that I would be a parish priest today.

I was baptized by the Rev. Reginald Stockall in 1962. St. Peter's is where I attended Sunday school and I was prepared for confirmation by the Rev. Jim Irving.

Within this small congregation I learned about prayer and worship, how to be a server at altar and how to sing off key.

It is here where I started attending Bible studies, hosted at my great uncles Willard and Wendell Rice. Family and



FRANK MOREHOUSE PHOTO

ST. PETER'S Anglican Church in Boiestown.

neighbors shared their faith stories with me in a way that made the gospel come alive.

In a small community church, I was given lots of opportunity to lend a hand. Whether it was helping to dig a grave, washing dishes at a church supper or working with a crew to replace the tin roof on the church, it was a case of many hands making for light work.

I remember fondly helping my grandfather build new steps on the front of the church; and holding a stepladder at the top of the steeple so Perry McKeil could paint the cross. Perry was somewhat braver than I.

During the wake for my grandfather, Harold Rice, Father Borthwick was concluding the evening with a few prayers, and a very drunk, elderly stranger staggered up the aisle of the church and sat beside one of our widowed neighbors.

He turned to my parents, wife and I and said, 'I'd like you to meet my wife,' much to Patsy's surprise. Shortly after this, four of us were with our knees on the kneeler and our backside resting on the pew. Suddenly, there was a loud crack as the seat split in two and down we went.

I am sure my grandfather

was having a great laugh in heaven at all the goings on during his wake.

I was often given an opportunity to lead worship within the parish, thanks to permission from the Bishop of Fredericton. I was able to baptize my son, Thomas, at St. Peter's. I also officiated at my brother, Brent, and Angela, my sister-in-law's wedding.

As well, I was able to celebrate my parent's renewal of their wedding vows. The last service I was involved in was St. Peter's 100th anniversary celebration in 2013.

Times and situations change. So many of the people that once filled the pews are now gone to their heavenly reward. I remain thankful for the ministry of St. Peter's Boiestown.



Episcopal Announcements

The Ven. John Matheson's appointment as Archdeacon of St. Andrews is extended for a further three years, to October 13, 2023.

...

The Rev. Christopher Tapera has been appointed rector of the Parish of Bathurst, effective

Feb. 1, 2021. Originally from Zimbabwe, he has served as rector of St. Thomas Church in Fort McMurray, Alberta since moving to Canada in 2016.

...

Archbishop David has accepted **the Rev. Jeremy Boehr** into the Diocese of Fredericton

from the Diocese of Saskatchewan. Jeremy and his family live on the Kingston Peninsula.

...

Bob Cheatley was ordained to the transitional diaconate at All Saints Church, St. Andrews on Nov. 1.

DIOCESAN HISTORY

Clergy mysteries
We need your help!

For his continuing book on clergy in the diocese, Frank Morehouse, with assistance from Siobhan Laskey and the Rev. Canon David Barrett, is looking for any information and, if possible, photos, of clergy who have served in the Anglican Diocese of Fredericton.

Below is a list of clergy names that lack information and details. Please contact Siobhan (hal9000@nb.sympatico.ca), David (barrettdavid@rogers.com) or Frank (frankm@nbnet.nb.ca) with your information. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

NOTE: Because the list is long, it will appear in sections in several upcoming editions of the New Brunswick Anglican.

Surname	Christian Names	DOB	Date of Death	Parishes/Employment
Wentworth	F H			1909-1919, Coldbrook & St. Mary
Whalley	Clement Kynnersley	1885	1945	1908-1910, Upham; 1910-1913, Maugerville and Burton
Whalley	Herbert Francis Edward	1857	1937	1893-1894 incumbent St Mary with Douglas; November, 1894 -December, 1899, Sub-dean, Christ Church Cathedral; 1906-1910, Hampton
White	Burton Morgan			1913, missionary, Hardwicke
Wiggins	C. O.			1835-1840, rector, Prince William
Wiggins	Gilbert Charles	1832	1859	1857, Greenwich & Petersville
Wiggins	Richard Berrian	1805	1863	at 1831, St. Mark's, Mount Watley; by 1851, in Saint John
Wilde	William		1954	1924, 1925 Lay reader, Gordon and Lorne
Wilkinson	Frederick	1860	1942	1931, locum tenens, St. Mark's, Saint John
Wilkinson	L. T.			1911-1913, Canning & Chipman
Wilkinson	Thomas			
Williams	Alan Richard Percival	1861	1916	1891, curate, Woodstock
Williams	E. J. P. B. (Edward John P. B.)			1885-1886, Canning & Chipman; 1886 Richmond
Williams	Oscar Dudley	1919	1981	1981, curate, St. Mary, York, Fredericton
Willoughby	Edward			1781, rector, Westmorland
Wilson	Francis John	1873	1954	1913-1914, Oromocto; 1914-1917, Gordon & Lorne
Winfield	James Abbott	1853	1944	1905-1909, Trinity, St. Stephen
Withycombe	John Medley	1866	1928	1896-1897, Victoria (St. Jude's) Saint John
Wood	Ernest James	1861	1937	1903-1905, Dorchester
Wright	Edward Phillips			1919-1923, curate, St Luke's (Portland), Saint John; 1923-1928, Trinity, St. Stephen

This is the final installment of the historic clergy list of names. If you were able to help, thank you.

AFC benefits Diocesan Choir School

BY JUDY ROIS

At the Anglican Foundation of Canada, we love, more than anything, to say Yes! and to help our parishes imagine more. The Foundation has been saying yes steadily and unfailingly for more than 60 years.

In the Diocese of Fredericton, since 2010, we have said Yes! to nearly \$400,000 in grants and loans for your parishes. The vast majority of that investment has been in buildings and programs.

This past May, in spite of the



MCKNIGHT FILE PHOTO

MUSIC DIRECTOR KEVIN PARKS instructs choristers during Diocesan Choir School in this file photo from 2018.

challenges of the COVID-19

crisis and the impact on AFC's

investment portfolio, we said Yes! to helping the Diocese of Fredericton's Diocesan Choir School run an online choir school program in response to the pandemic. In the last 10 years, AFC has given the Choir School \$47,000.

For nearly 10 years now as executive director of the Foundation, I've had a front row seat to some of the Canadian church's best ideas: the ministries and programs parish visionaries might undertake if only they had some strategic funding to help them get started.

In order for AFC to remain

strong and vibrant, however, I am asking those who can continue to partner with us to do so.

If you are a member I ask you to renew your membership. If you have never been a member of the Foundation before, please accept this invitation to pay-it-forward.

Join us and help AFC continue to be able to say Yes! to the dreams and aspirations of the people and parishes in your diocese, and to so many more across the country.

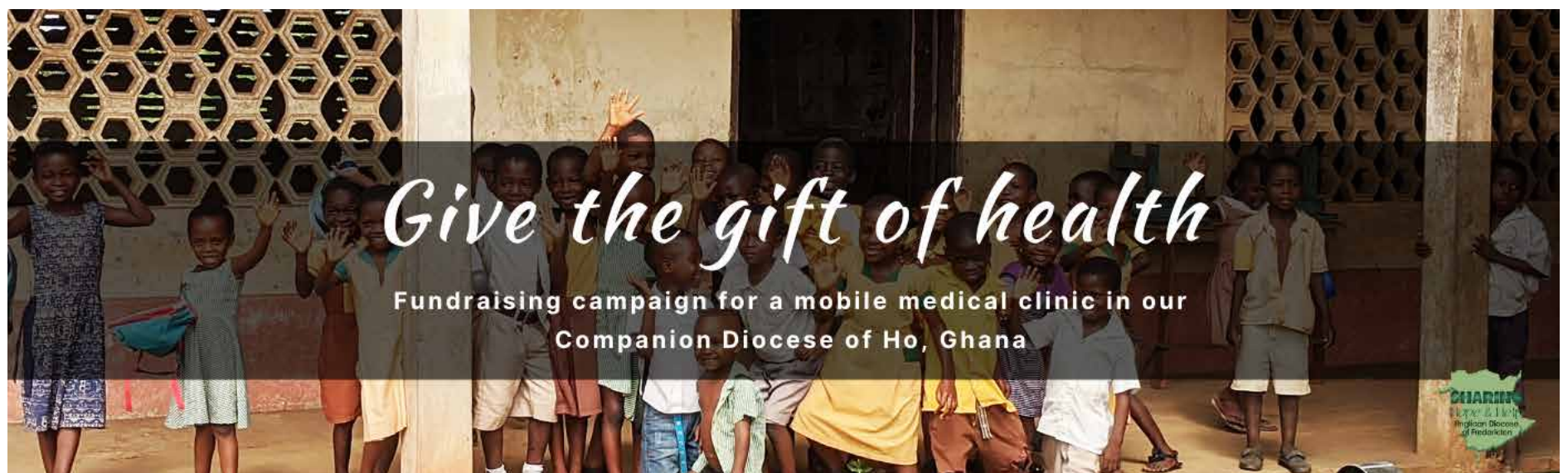
To donate to the Anglican Foundation of Canada visit anglicanfoundation.org.

ELECTORAL SYNOD

ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 12, the Rev. Sandra Fyfe was elected Anglican Bishop of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. She was elected on the third ballot. Archbishop David Edwards presided at the electoral synod held at the Cathedral Church of All Saints in Halifax. Pictured here, Archbishop Edwards waits for the multiple feeds from the 10 other locations to come online so the electoral synod can commence.



PAUL SHERWOOD PHOTO



Give the gift of health

Fundraising campaign for a mobile medical clinic in our Companion Diocese of Ho, Ghana

SHARING
HOPE & HELP
Anglican Diocese
of Fredericton

If you can help, please visit our website, anglican.nb.ca, and click on donate. As you can appreciate, this very worthwhile cause has been derailed by COVID-19, but the urgency for health care remains. Please donate as you can.

"SHARING HOPE & HELP"

ADVENT

ADVENT ACTIVITIES - December 2020

Fight for a cause that Jesus would support

Give a small gift to someone

Use a centring prayer to hear God's voice

Set aside time and place to listen to the Holy Spirit

Read Luke 3:7-18

Study the life of Jesus written by scholars

Invite someone to discover part of God's beautiful Earth with you

Bring lunch to someone who doesn't get out much

Read Luke 21:25-36

Encourage someone with kind words

Invite someone to share coffee and conversation

Read Luke 2:1-20

Share your Christmas feast with someone!

Do a secret act of kindness

Bake/buy cookies or muffins and share them with friends, co-workers, or anyone in need on the street

Listen for God's voice in music

Re-read and study the Gospels this month

Read Luke 3:1-6

Watch a film version of the Gospels

Read Luke 1:39-45

Reconcile with someone you've been estranged from

Inspired by the book, "Surprise the World," by Michael Frost

WANTED

.....

The NB Anglican is always looking for your parish news: baptisms, confirmations, picnics, VBS, concerts, special guests, dinners, fundraisers — all your special events. Let your parish activities be a blessing and an inspiration to others! SHARE! Send photos and articles to gmcknight@diofton.ca

What to buy this Christmas

How about a new way of gift-giving? Give a blessing, in the form of a monetary gift, to one of many worthy missions and ministries - in your loved one's name, or ask them to do the same for you.

• Central Saint John Community Ministry (the Reus, Terence & Jasmine Chandra) • Fire Watch Ministries (Eden & Carolyn McAuley) • Camp Brookwood • Camp Medley • Jonathon Young Memorial Amphitheatre at Camp Medley • Inner City Youth Ministry, Saint John • Honduras Mission (Kara & Nelson Mejia) • Bishop McAllister College (Canon Paul Jeffries) • Diocesan Choir School • Safe Harbour House • PWRDF • Anglican Foundation • Youth Initiatives • NB Anglican - Anglican Journal • Various bursaries, and other wonderful initiatives

Contact the Anglican Diocese of Fredericton: 506-459-1801; 115 Church St, Fredericton E3B 4C8; or <https://nb.anglican.ca/> . Click on Donate at the top right, and select from the drop-down menu.



Shopping for a Messiah: Keeping Christmas in the Time of a Pandemic

2020 Advent Series, Online with Bishop Bill Hockin & Friends

www.billhockin.ca

- Monday, Nov. 30: Finding the Stable in the Storm
- Monday, Dec. 7: Bethlehem Bubble
- Monday, Dec. 14: Finding Faith in a Covid Christmas
- Monday, Dec. 21: Add a little Luke to a Christmas Cart

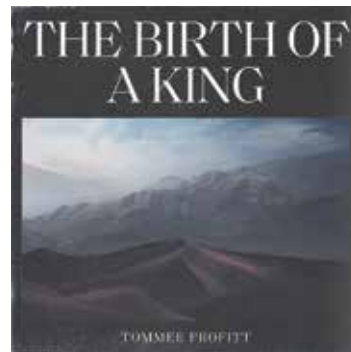
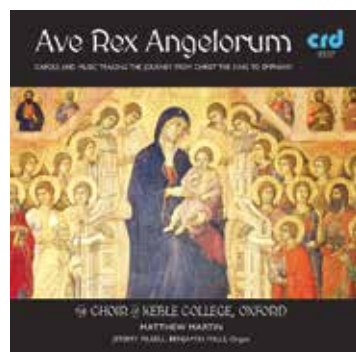
Noon - 1 p.m.
Special music with piano, cello, saxophone, and voice.
ALL WELCOME

Speakers:

- Bishop Bill Hockin, Christ Church (Parish Church), Fredericton
- Dr. Barry Craig, Principal, Huron University College, London, Ont.
- Canon Albert Snelgrove, Holy Trinity Church, New Maryland

MUSIC COMMENTARY

Advent & Christmas music: styles and choices abound



It's here! By the time you read this, it will be just about Advent in the Church, the beginning of a new year. And let's face it, 2020 has sometimes felt like three years instead of one!

As has become tradition, this month's music article will focus on a new Advent/Christmas recording in both the classical choral and rock/pop styles of Christian music.

All of these selections are best found on digital platforms, for purchase or streaming (hint: purchasing the album supports artists more than streaming it!).

First up is a new recording by the Choir of Keble College, Oxford, called *Ave Rex Angelorum* (don't let the Latin scare you off - it means, "Hail, King of Angels").

This album of 20 songs "traces the journey of Christ the King to Epiphany," as the

subtitle of the album puts it.

The project comprises music from the 20th and 21st centuries, arrangement of hymns and carols, and traditional carols themselves.

It has energy! Primarily recorded by choir with organ, the tempos are a bit swifter than usual, and the excellent acoustics make for a strong listen.

The popular anthem, "Nowell We Sing!" and the carol, "I Wonder as I Wander" are particular standouts.

Made up mostly of choral scholars, with some additional volunteer help, the choir is more than up to the task of the music, and will leave you breathless at a few points in the music.

And the music is wonderfully written, using the best elements of a mixed-voice choir of capable singers; there are musically unpredictable

moments nicely combined with traditional melodies.

Recordings of choirs in chapels have come a long way in quality and sense of presence; this one has both, and is a likely welcome addition to any music library.

... **Bonus additional mention:** *A Winter's Night: Christmas Music for Choir, Brass Quintet and Organ*, by the Winchester College Chapel Choir.

An excellent arrangement of tradition and new arrangements of loved carols and hymns; the brass quintet really shines (visual pun intended) in this great album!

... Next up is a new project called *The Birth of a King*, created and written by Tommee Profitt. It's a risk: bring together all kinds of popular

Christian recording artists to do [sometimes] new versions of greatly loved Christmas songs, and see if they are accepted.

There are a lot of memories, traditions, and emotional attachments associated with Advent and Christmas music, and straying too far away from the original can be dangerous to the ears of music lovers.

This project was 15 years in the making, from writing the songs and arrangements to scheduling and recording artists' performances.

All of the 17 songs focus on the birth of Christ, and feature Crowder singing "Go Tell It On the Mountain," Avril Lavigne on "What Child Is This?," Rachel Lampa performing "O Little Town of Bethlehem," and many other great tracks.

Variations from the original abound, but there is respect for the original version present

throughout each song.

My only gripe with the project is that the power of the texts and tunes are not rendered musically enough.

I longed to hear a distortion pedal on a guitar, or even a thicker orchestration of instruments at some points in some songs. *sigh*

But that's a small gripe. There is much that is really great on this project, and worth listening to.

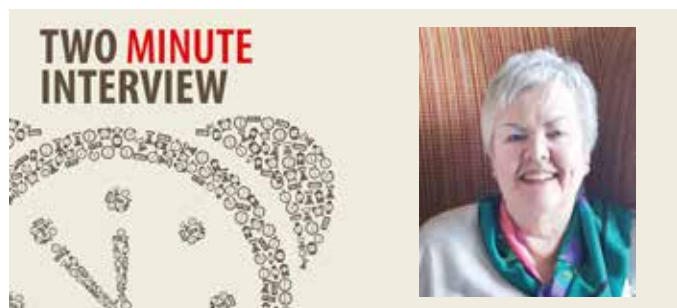
... **Bonus additional mention:** *A Drummer Boy Christmas*, by For King and Country. This brother-duo can do no wrong these days, it seems.

Great musical arrangements, vocal performances, and very insightful lyrics are to be found in this new Christmas album, which features both original and traditional Christmas Music.

Check out "The Carol of Joseph (I Believe In You)" as well as "Joy To the World."

May you all experience a blessed Advent and Merry Christmas, even if it is a bit early!

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



Heather Hynds, layreader, ACW and choir member in the Parish of Gondola Point

Favourite book of the Bible - Psalms

Birthplace - Coleraine, Co. Londonderry, Northern Ireland

What you love most about God - He's there when I need comfort and support

Favourite place on Earth - The Antrim Coast Road, NI

Farthest you've been from home - Italy

Favourite meal or dessert - Seafood pasta

Biggest fear - Dementia

Hidden talent - Too well hidden - I can't find it!

Favourite movie or book - *The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett

Your hobby - Reading or crossword and sudoku puzzles

Three things always in your fridge - Milk, white wine, cheese

Favourite sports team - Toronto Maple Leafs

During the Christmas season, the Saint John Seafarers' Mission provides gifts to seafarers visiting our port. In 2019, with your help, the Mission distributed 213 Christmas packages to seafarers on 10 ships.

Items needed: Shampoo, shave cream, tooth paste, tooth brush, dental floss, mouth wash, body wash, deodorant, disposable razors, lip balm, comb, hand lotion, Kleenex, gloves, socks, scarf, toque, playing cards, game book, pen, Canada souvenir (pin/magnet/key chain), candy (individually wrapped), chocolate bars, chips, gum, Christmas card.



For information, open hours and pick-ups, call Bev: 506-635-1731 or email seaf@nb.aibn.com

Important notes: Due to port security controls, do not wrap items | Cash is always welcome so we can buy what is needed (tax receipts issued) | Usual shortages: Gloves, scarves, shampoo, deodorant, shave cream, hand lotion, lip balm | Drop off donations at the Mission (92 Tilley Lane, Saint John) by Dec. 4.

Changes to Seafarers' Christmas Program this year due to COVID-19

We will have a Christmas program for seafarers this year, but it'll be a bit different. We will sanitize and handle everything in accordance with COVID-19 regulations. Anything in plastic or cans (shave cream, shampoo, toothpaste, packaged candy and nuts) will be wiped down. Other items (hats, socks, cloth items) will be isolated prior to distribution.

As to the differences this year, we won't be packaging individual gifts. We plan to send a large package to each crew for distribution on the ship. There will be plenty of items so that each seafarer will have some things and be able to share other things, but each seafarer won't have one of everything.

Please help if you can. Deadline to drop off gifts is Dec. 4, although late gifts are accepted.

THE ARUSHA CALL

The Arusha Call to Discipleship

Discerning the word of God in a busy world

The World Council of Churches' Conference on World Mission and Evangelism met in Arusha, Tanzania, in March 2018. From this meeting the more than 1,000 participants, who were all regularly engaged in mission and evangelism, issued the Arusha Call to Discipleship.

At our own national church General Synod in 2019, resolution A-129 was passed that we affirm the Arusha Call; encourage bodies within the General Synod to integrate this call into the guiding principles of baptismal living for the shaping of national ministries; and commend the Arusha Call to dioceses for study and inclusion in their considerations of evangelism, witness and discipleship.

For one year, Spiritual Development Team members and others will offer reflections in the New Brunswick Anglican on the 12 points within this call. This is Call # 5 written by Geoffrey Hall.

It perhaps goes without saying that the gospel (the "proclamation" of the Church) is but one in a plethora of messages in the world. That has probably always been so.

But with the advent of ever more efficient communication, the possibilities for contradiction, falsification and confusion has been kicked into overdrive.

With a finger swipe on a mobile phone, a click on an email send button or posting on social media or a website, the entire world can now hear what I have to say in an instant (not that the world is necessarily listening, of course).

How do we make sense of the barrage of messages? How do we "discern" what is the word or "a" word from God?

Our own Anglican denomination through the centuries has leaned heavily on a belief in the sufficiency of Holy Scripture and how the word of God informs our living.

"Everything necessary to

salvation" is contained therein, says Article VI of the Articles of Religion. But what is that word?

How do we "discern" it from all the other words, especially in times where personal freedom and human rights seem to be at the top of political and social agendas? Can the Church stay on point? And what is that point anyway?

The series of gospel passages we've been reading from the Gospel of Matthew through the latter part of this year have taken us on a wild and challenging ride through the conflict between Jesus and the religious authorities of his day just before Jesus' passion.

Through parable and story, Jesus confronts with questions. The Scribes and Pharisees have questions of their own, most designed to entrap or publicly discredit him.

The religious leaders were not bad people. But soaked in tradition and focused so intently on what living faithfully according to the word (law) of God meant, in their opinion, they had lost sight of the goal — relationship with God.

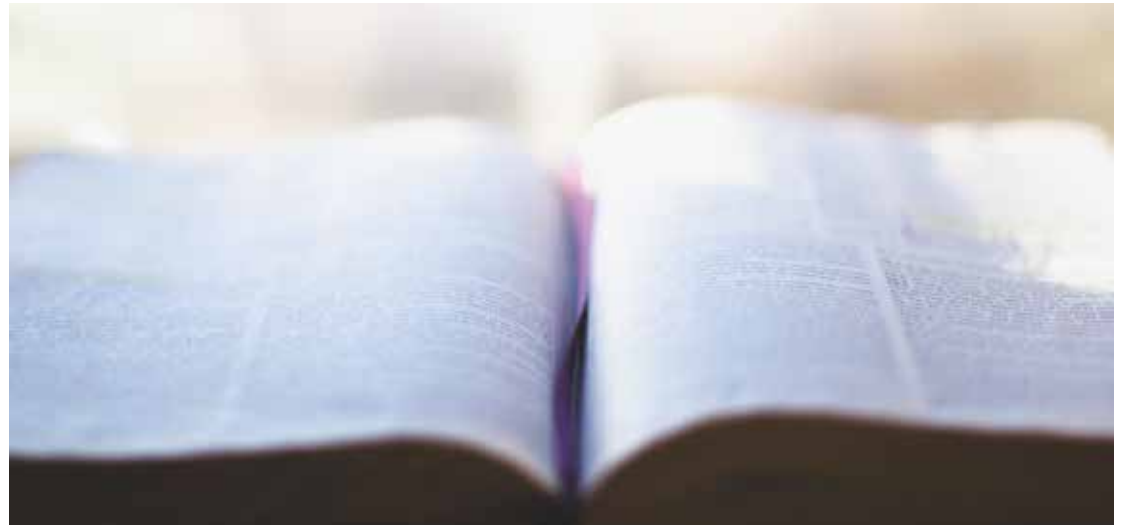
As Christians, at least one of our dilemmas is being faced with the need to be good citizens of the world but also citizens of the Kingdom of God. One does not necessarily bring about the other.

In "The Theology of Hope," German Theologian Jürgen Moltmann offers some analysis of what it means to be Church in society. He identifies three roles: personal, communal and institutional.

Faith in our time is too often considered to be only an individual matter. Being internalized and privatized, faith has become mostly about our feelings, recognized less and less as having any sway in the criticism of social behaviour.

Western moral values which have their roots firmly in the Christian tradition have been silenced, deemed to have little worthwhile to say any more.

Faith and morality subject



CAROLYN V ON UNSPLASH

Arusha Call #5:

We are called to discern the word of God in a world that communicates many contradictory, false, and confusing messages.

This call to transforming discipleship is not a one that we can answer in our own strength, so the call becomes, in the end, a call to prayer:
Loving God, we thank you for the gift of life in all its diversity and beauty. Lord Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, we praise you that you came to find the lost, to free the oppressed, to heal the sick, and to convert the self-centred. Holy Spirit, we rejoice that you breathe in the life of the world and are poured out into our hearts. As we live in the Spirit, may we also walk in the Spirit. Grant us faith and courage to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus: becoming pilgrims of justice and peace in our time. For the blessing of your people, the sustaining of the earth, and the glory of your name. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

"As Christians, at least one of our dilemmas is being faced with the need to be good citizens of the world but also citizens of the Kingdom of God. One does not necessarily bring about the other."

to only personal critique is in danger of running off the rails. We're seeing both. Discernment requires collaboration.

In the communal role the community of the faithful becomes what Moltman refers to as a "non-worldly phenomenon." Together we find a way to be human that deters loneliness and isolation and re-establishes what is so often lacking in society — community.

The Church provides warmth, belonging and authenticity. Together, seeking the Kingdom of God even in our midst makes the Church a counterbalance in a necessary conversation with society.

The Church is also institution, a word more often than not these days carrying nega-

tive connotations. Institutions serve as anchors.

One definition is "a stable, valued, recurring pattern of behavior." When the winds blow, it's the institutions of society that provide the foundations upon which we can find a firm place to stand — even survive.

Discerning the word of God may have to do with first deciding what we mean by "salvation" since that is at least one purpose of religion. From what do we need to be saved?

If in answering we come up empty, we have entirely missed the natural human need for spirituality; the added dimensions of life faith brings; the meaning and value of discipleship and; being part of something bigger than our little

selves.

God's word, in the spirit of his Son, Jesus, is all around when we have eyes to see. For the Christian, Scripture has been our guide through the ages, "the lamp unto our feet."

The church is not the word. Pop culture is not the word. The assumptions by which we live and all that we too easily take for granted are not the word. The word is a person named Jesus, revealed in "the word." His invitation is to follow.

He said, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." Matthew 22:21

Geoffrey Hall is dean of Fredericton.