



THE NEW BRUNSWICK

ANGLICAN



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SERVING THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON

Diocesan Synod: a busy, productive day together

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

The 138th Diocesan Synod, held at Christ Church Cathedral Nov. 5, saw motions passed, delegates elected, the bishop's charge delivered and discernment for future ministry begun.

It was a day packed full for the almost 300 people — delegates and observers — who travelled from all corners of the diocese for the first synod gathering in three years.

"I'm very pleased with how synod turned out," said the Rev. David Peer, secretary of synod and the organizer of the event. "Thanks to all the volunteers and staff, it came off without a hitch."

He's particularly pleased with the Cathedral venue.

"It's important for us to gather in our Cathedral to contemplate where we are and where we need to go — in a Diocesan space worshipping together," he said.

"It's so much easier when you work with family. It's less work. The volunteers are there and there's lots of support."

The previous synod was held at Journey Wesleyan Church in Fredericton, an expansive and comfortable, but not Diocesan, venue.



DERWIN GOWAN PHOTO

SYNOD DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS spent Nov. 5 at Christ Church Cathedral in Fredericton voting on motions, listening the Bishop's Charge and discerning a path forward for ministry in the Diocese. For more photos and the Bishop's Charge, see pages 10-12.

THE MORNING

After the preliminaries, the first order of business was the election of delegates to Provincial Synod — two clergy, two lay and one youth aged 16-25.

By acclamation, the Rev. David Peer and the Ven. Cathy Laskey (clergy) and Shara Golden and Robert Taylor (lay) were elected. That left one election for a youth delegate. Two candidates were nominated: Eric Beek and Christopher Pillay, with Christopher winning the vote. Eric will act as an alternate.

Dean Geoffrey Hall led Morning Prayer.

The offering brought in more

than \$2,000, which has been earmarked for PWRDF, the Prime's World Relief and Development Fund.

THE CHARGE

Archbishop David Edwards, just clear of COVID a few days before, delivered a charge that was focused on the need for discernment of future ministry.

He outlined the latest Statistics Canada numbers that have seen Christianity and Anglicanism drop dramatically in the past decade. In 2011, 54,270 New Brunswickers identified as Anglican. That number is now at

35,205.

"We can dwell on these numbers and hope that they turn around, but we, the Church in the West, have been doing that for decades, with little success," he said.

"As I talk to people who do not worship with us, or have done so and have stopped, the message is relatively simple: They do not find the Church credible because many see it as hypocritical, irrelevant and lacking in compassion and grace.

"I am not solely talking about the Anglican Church; I am speaking of the "One holy

Catholic and Apostolic Church."

He cautioned that these opinions are not based on local congregations so much as headlines trumpeting the failures of the Church worldwide.

From the 74 responses received from a diocesan survey, the bishop found three themes: How do we get people back into pews; how do we improve our finances; and how do we keep our buildings running?

"From my perspective, I can add to this a shortage of clergy to place in parishes where finances would allow them to be placed," he said. "I can only

see this becoming more pronounced."

In his eight years as bishop, David said he has found hope by returning again and again to this scripture from Psalm 121:1-4:

"I lift up my eyes to the hills — from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep."

To read Bishop David's entire

Synod continued on page 2

DIOCESAN NEWS

138th Diocesan Synod report, continued

Synod continued from page 1

charge, click here or visit <https://nb.anglican.ca/synod/sessions/pages/138th-session-2022>

SMALL GROUPS/ EUCHARIST

After the charge, delegates formed small groups and met in both the Cathedral and Cathedral Memorial Hall to answer questions posed by facilitators and begin discerning the way forward.

Note takers recorded the findings, all of which will become part of the discernment process.

A lunch of Greek salad, chicken skewers, rice, pita and cookies was catered by Edwina's/The Happy Baker, and received rave reviews.

The afternoon began with a service of Holy Eucharist, with music by the Cathedral worship team.

Geoffrey explained the Come Worship Eucharist service is a stripped-down model used at the Cathedral every other week.

"The Come Worship Eucharist dispenses with much of the formality," he said.

In his homily, Geoffrey spoke of the presence of Jesus and its relevance today compared to 2,000 years ago.

"In a world just as troubling as the first, the surprise for us might be it's Jesus that is the connection," he said. "From the physical world to the invisible God — theologians call that incarnation — the divine spirit becoming one with humanity and the world.

"God the creator is not so far off. He is among us," said Geoffrey. "He shows us himself in the breaking of bread."

MOTIONS

Several motions were to update canons to reflect the times or to correct lapses in content, all led by chancellor David Bell. They included an option to increase the timeline for episcopal elections; a change to the synod investment policy; a provision allowing the bishop to call a meeting of a parish corporation; a wording change regarding annual meeting financial statements; and an approval process for the parish purchase of land. All the above motions were passed unanimously.

CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

The Rev. Thomas Nisbett proposed a motion to adopt the Anglican Church of Canada's Charter for Racial Justice. That

was met with comments from several priests.

"I want to commend Thomas and [seconder] David Page for this motion... I feel it's about time we had a conversation across the diocese about racial injustice," said the Rev. Terence Chandra.

"That said, I'm not in favour of the Charter for Racial Justice."

Terence told the crowd the document is flawed and not nearly close enough to the teachings of Jesus.

The Rev. Rob Langmaid moved to table Thomas's motion, which passed.

Thomas's second motion was to establish a task force on racial justice to examine, educate and make recommendations.

"This is a subject we need to talk about," said Thomas. "We need to talk about it now. We need to get on with it."

Rob Langmaid and the Rev. Gerry Laskey both spoke in favour of the motion. Lionel Hayter proposed a friendly amendment: that the task force report its findings at the next diocesan synod. The amended motion passed.

FURTHER MOTIONS

Geoffrey and the Rev. Canon David Barrett proposed a motion called "provision of information, openness, accountability and transparency" regarding the compilation and printing of year-end reports at each Synod, which would include information on parish/congregation statistics, finances, and investments.

"The health, well-being, condition and very existence of parishes and congregations in this diocesan partnership is the concern of and, of interest to all," said the motion's explanation. "The Church, specifically the Anglican Church, is an organization within our society that, in its own best interest, has information that is best not considered hidden or secret."

The motion passed with two or three nay votes.

Two other motions were approved, one to receive the diocesan officer reports and Diocesan Council report; and one to receive the financial statements for the past three years. Treasurer Heather Harris-Jones gave an explanation for changes to the financial statements.

"Overall I am pleased with how Diocesan Synod has weathered the storm of the last three years, but the future holds challenges," she told those gath-

ered. "The focus is to continue to work towards a balanced budget."

Bishop David thanked the finance team for their work, noting from talking to bishops from other dioceses, he knows "our finances have been extremely well managed during a very difficult period."

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

In the past month, Greater Chapter meetings elected their clergy and lay Diocesan Council representatives, which members of Diocesan Synod approved. They are as follows:

CHATHAM: The Rev. Gerald Laskey and Laura McNulty
FREDERICTON: The Rev. Paul Ranson and Nancy Stephens
KINGSTON & THE KENNEBECASIS: The Rev. Rob Montgomery and Robert Taylor
MONCTON: The Rev. Julian Pillay and Mike Briggs
SAINT JOHN: The Rev. Jasmine Chandra and Trevor Fotheringham
ST. ANDREWS: The Rev. Bob Cheatley and Martha Barker
WOODSTOCK: The Rev. Bob LeBlanc and Marilyn Wilson

DIOCESAN AWARDS OF MERIT

Bishop David used the opportunity to highlight two people who recently retired from volunteer posts within the diocese. Nancy Stephens, who chaired the Mission & Outreach committee; and Mike Briggs who served as diocesan stewardship and planned giving officer, were given Diocesan awards of merit.

RESPONSE TO THE CHARGE

Connor deMerchant, Parish of Kingston, delivered the response to the charge.

"Thank you to Bishop David Edwards for his prayer and leadership... Thank you for being honest with us, as difficult as this might have been," he said.

"Going forward, we are being challenged. Thank you for allowing us to be risk-takers, and for supporting us when we do."

Connor posed some questions: how can the business of the Church be done with fewer people? How can we commit to supporting each other better? How do we strengthen our personal and corporate discipleship? How do we connect with and reconnect with all generations?

"It will take time and it will be uncomfortable," he said. "But we not doing this alone. We have each other."

On behalf of Synod delegates

and observers, Mike Briggs thanked the day's organizers, including Geoffrey Hall, David Peer, Cheryl Jacobs and the synod planning committee.

BISHOP'S CLOSING REMARKS

"I want to echo Mike's remarks," he said. "I disappeared for about two weeks beforehand, and I was only back onstream a few days before Synod."

The bishop caught COVID-19 two weeks before.

He thanked delegates for giving up a beautiful Saturday, "but the 20 degrees outside tells us we have a problem."

He noted that in working out our issues, we will need time, patience and a great deal of prayer.

Geoffrey led Evening Prayer, and the 138th session of Diocesan Synod was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

SECRETARY OF SYNOD

David Peer encourages all

delegates and observers to fill out the synod survey, saying the feedback will help make future events even better.

"We need to be using our facilities for our events," he said.

He's particularly encouraged by comments from the small group work, which will form the building blocks for Diocesan Council — and the ministry of the diocese — over the next two years.

"I'm happy there seems to be common themes coming out," he said.

"We're living in a period of great uncertainty," he said. "Being in that uncertainty is really disconcerting and stressful for some people."

"This is not something that will be dealt with in six months. Diocesan Synod was the start of the process. When Diocesan Council meets in December, we'll be tackling this together."

Letters

to the editor

We welcome them!

Send yours to

gmcknight@diofton.ca

DEADLINE for news and photos for the January edition of the New Brunswick Anglican is Dec. 1.

Send submissions to gmcknight@diofton.ca

www.anglican.nb.ca

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Dante at Christmas

During the later Middle Ages, the city of Florence, Italy, experienced a violent divide between Guelphs and Ghibellines, with the former supporting the Pope and the latter supporting the Holy Roman Emperor.

It was during this time that the poet, Dante Alighieri (better known as Dante), wrote his famous poem *The Divine Comedy*. It tells the story of his pilgrimage through the depths of hell to paradise and finally an encounter with God. He entitles it a comedy because it essentially has a happy ending.

One of the main themes coming out of this epic poem is that God is present even in the depths of hell. There is nowhere from which God can be excluded.

Dante ended up on the wrong side of the political struggle in Florence, was exiled from the city in 1301 and was never able to return. It was during this period of his life that he wrote *The Divine Comedy*.

Over the centuries Dante's poem has become one of the world's most important pieces of literature, influencing many since then.

Today we find his poetic themes and images cropping up in many areas of life. In literature and video games, we see his life as a refugee as we face a global crisis in this area. He often appears in the arts and his questions around what is good and evil still perplex us.

Dante lived in central Italy during the 13th and 14th centuries during a time of great political and social instability.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/PUBLIC DOMAIN

ARTIST GIOVANNI DI PAOLO (1403-1482), *Divine Comedy. Paradiso, Beatrice explaining some scientific theories to Dante, including the appearance of the moon.* (1444-50) British Library.



Archbishop David Edwards

The situation was not really resolved until the unification of the country in 1861.

One of the things *The Divine Comedy* points us to is the importance of God over the long term.

Despite the horrors that he portrays, particularly in the first part of the poem, *Inferno*, both God and grace are in the back-

ground. As Dante's pilgrimage unfolds, we see that God's grace is everywhere and available in abundance. If souls ask for a drop, they receive a flood.

Dante's theology comes out of a Medieval worldview, and we may wrestle with the way in which salvation is understood, but the themes of the presence of God and God's grace are truths above that type of discussion.

As we once again approach the Christmas season in a world which seems to be very uncertain, disrupted and moving in directions which make us fearful, to know the presence and grace of God are very necessary.

We see these truths in the coming of Jesus to earth, God with us. Jesus embodies the presence of God here among us. He understands us and is able to live with us.

Jesus was literally an exile in a land fraught with political and

social tension. Jesus' coming to dwell with us shows us that God will go to any lengths to, as St. Paul says, lavish his grace upon us.

Dante's Comedy is a comedy because it ends with the pilgrim triumphing over adversity. The triumph comes from an encounter with God, which leads to understanding.

The Incarnation is the sign that such encounters are open to all.

Dante

The Most Rev. David Edwards is bishop of Fredericton and Archbishop of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada.

PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS

DECEMBER 2-3
DIOCESAN COUNCIL

DECEMBER 4
ST. MARY'S, BENTON;
ST. PETER'S, WICKHAM

DECEMBER 9-10
DIOCESAN ADVENT RETREAT

DECEMBER 11
ST. LUKE'S, WOODSTOCK

DECEMBER 18
HOLY TRINITY, NASONWORTH;
ST. MARK, TRACY

CHRISTMAS
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

NEW YEAR'S DAY
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

JANUARY 2 - 15
(APPROX.)
DIOCESE OF HO, GHANA



May the light and
love of Christmas
remain with you
always

Merry Christmas from
Archbishop David Edwards
and the staff of the
Anglican Diocese of Fredericton

"SHARING HOPE & HELP"

MISSION & MINISTRY

A new celebration

Three parishes come together to focus on shared ministry and mission

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

A Celebration of New Shared Ministry on Oct. 16 was a joyous day in three Sussex-area parishes. Clergy, parishioners and friends of the Parishes of Waterford, St. Mark and Sussex gathered for a three-site travelling service that marked a new missional partnership.

About 80 people gathered at St. John's in Waterford, then moved to St. Mark's in Sussex Corner; and ended at Trinity in Sussex with a service and fellowship.

Archbishop David Edwards noted he'd been part of a similar service, that one 30 years ago in the UK with one of the church buildings built in the 1300s.

The Rev. Jasmine and the Rev. Terence Chandra spoke at St. John's, with Jasmine noting she completed an internship 18 years ago in the parish.

"Even then, there was talk of coming together with the Parish of Sussex," she said. "It's wonderful to see it come to fruition."

Jasmine cautioned that people don't always get along, with parishes sometimes comparing their food, music, building and so on.

"Today, put all that behind you," she said. "This is a new lease, a new common purpose, a holy mission."

Terence noted that he and Jasmine have been part of joined congregations, but cautioned that if the reason is to save money or cut the workload, it won't be a success.

Part II of the 'pilgrimage' took place at St. Mark in Sussex Corner. The Rev. Dr. Sean Davidson, rector, and the Rev. Dan McMullen, associate priest, are the leaders of the three parishes, and their roles were highlighted as would take place in a Celebration of New Ministry service.

"This journey began about 18 months ago, starting with me asking the question," Archbishop David told those gathered.

That led to Parish Advisory Committees meeting and leadership and guidance from parish development officer Shawn Branch.

"It hasn't always been straightforward," said David. "But I strongly believe this



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Archbishop David leads the Eucharist service at Trinity Anglican Church in Sussex on Oct. 16; Faye Freeze was one of several helpers at the potluck supper at Trinity; Clergy wives Sarah Tabor and Mandy Davidson lead a reading at St. Marks; The Revs. Terence and Jasmine Chandra were the preachers at the Waterford service; The Rev. Dan McMullen, the Rev. Canon Allen Tapley and the Rev. Dr. Sean Davidson, with Archbishop David Edwards in the background at St. Mark's Church in Sussex Corner.



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS



will provide us with one of the models as we move forward."

David noted synod delegates would be hearing more about such partnerships on Nov. 5 at Diocesan Synod.

David thanked Shawn for his work on the partnership.

"He's actually sorted the whole thing out and done the heavy lifting," he said.

Each of the priests received a new licence reflecting the joint ministry of the parishes. The Rev. Canon Allen Tapley also received a new licence as honorary assistant.

Trinity Church in Sussex was full for Part III of the Celebration of New Shared Ministry. This service was a celebration of the Eucharist. The service ended with a fitting hymn, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*, and a potluck supper.

SHAWN BRANCH

The catalyst for this effort to share ministry came with the departure of the Rev. Tom Stradwick, from the Parish of Sussex, said Shawn.

"It really took on momentum when David met with the [Sussex] wardens and the parish advisory committee," he said. "Out of that came a commitment to discern, and then a conversation with the Parishes of Waterford and St. Mark."

Once the parishes discerned a need to continue talking, a working group was established. "That's when I stepped in to facilitate the conversation," he said.

Discussion topics included what a partnership would look like, a list of non-negotiables, and so on. Shawn noted nothing has changed with either corporation or the business of the parishes.

What's changed is the sharing of human resources for the purpose of mission.

"It's to pool resources for community engagement," said Shawn. "It's not a merger or an amalgamation. Its real focus is on people."

DAN MCMULLEN

"I think the service was lovely,

with a good turnout," said Dan. "It was quite meaningful. Most people went to all three or two of the three services — not just their own church."

Dan noted Jasmine and Terence's challenging sermon.

"I felt they were speaking directly to us, not just Sean and me, but to the parishes."

As for the partnership, Dan is still new, so he has little to compare the changes to. But he cited the recent Love Atlantic project as an excellent start.

"All three parishes came together to do mission together," he said.

Love Atlantic is an annual effort to share the love of Jesus with a congregation's community in tangible ways that help and bless those in need.

SEAN DAVIDSON

"It was a wonderful day, and I think everyone who participated felt that way," said Sean. "I got so much good feedback."

Sean noted he heard from several people who said they'd never been in the other wor-

ship spaces until now.

"I'm not sure anyone had ever experienced that sort of pilgrimage before," he said. "It all worked really well."

Like Dan, Sean is already impressed with the success of the tri-parish efforts on the Love Atlantic project.

"I was surprised to see how people worked together across parish lines," he said, adding they held a sock drive, used a fundraising dinner to donate to the breakfast club of a local school, and packed goodie bags for residents of a local nursing home.

Another example of cross-parish missional efforts is playing out this Advent season, where 20 people from the three parishes gathered in late October to begin planning the Living Manger event, which has not taken place since 2019.

The Living Manger presentation will take place at St. Mark's in Sussex Corner on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

PWRDF rep Anne Walling retires at 80

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

After a dozen years as the diocesan representative of the Primate's World Relief & Development Fund, Anne Walling has retired.

"I'm 80 years old," she said. "I've been trying to retire for some time and find a younger person to take over. I finally gave up and put it onto the bishop [to find a replacement]."

To mark her exit, the diocese held an evening gathering Oct. 5, with PWRDF's executive director, Will Postma, in attendance.

The evening not only highlighted Anne's contributions, but also celebrated the work of PWRDF and the support it enjoys from many Anglicans in the diocese.

"That was so incredibly humbling to me, because Bishop David and Will Postma had such kind words to say about me and my work."

PWRDF is the Anglican Church of Canada's agency for sustainable development and relief, particularly in the wake of natural disasters and war.

JOINING PWRDF

Anne was the parish rep for PWRDF in Central Kings before jumping to the diocesan role. She was drawn to the organization because of her heart for the underdogs of the world.

She cited the programs for indigenous people and the grandmothers' program in Africa, which supported them as they raised their AIDS-orphaned grandchildren, as two examples.

During Anne's early years as the diocesan rep, her late husband, Allan, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. She found her work with PWRDF was helpful in terms of coping.

"It was my lifesaver going through things with Allan," she said. "Away I'd go on a Sunday to do a presentation. When I had to take Allan with me, parishes were so kind. Anglicans are very outgoing and very generous."

THE NEW REP

Anne believes the new rep should have an interest in the world, in justice and in helping where you can, but helping, not forcing something onto a



MCKNIGHT PHOTO

ABOVE: ANNE WALLING relaxes after a dozen years as the diocesan representative of PWRDF.

ABOVE RIGHT: Anne and Will Postma, executive director of PWRDF in Canada, during a gathering to mark her retirement held in Fredericton Oct. 5.

RIGHT: Archbishop David Edwards awards Anne a diocesan certificate of merit for her years of service to the diocese.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



particular group.

"This is for someone who's satisfied to help rather than control," she said, telling a story about a group in South America who had a pig farm set up for them as a way to earn their livelihood.

Years later, the pigs were gone, and when the aid agency asked what had happened, they said, 'We're not pig farmers. We've been potters for centuries.'

As for time, everyone is busy, she said, but in this role, "you can be as busy as you want to be, a little or a lot."

These days, there isn't as much need to travel to a church to give a presentation when Zoom will work just fine,

she said. And though she used to travel with a computer, a projector and a screen, these days all she usually needs is a jump drive.

Anne wants to assure anyone thinking of taking on the role that the head office in Toronto has a supportive staff ready to help with resources, advertising, videos, fundraising, prayer and so on.

ABOUT ANNE

Anne has lived a varied life. When she was a child, her family hit the road each summer, working for the Bill Lynch Show.

By the time she was 12, she was running her own concession stand — a dart game. She

pulled in \$200 a day, all of which went to the family.

She became very good at darts, often throwing a dart to hit a balloon held between a person's teeth. When her dart went through the nose of a young man, she stopped that trick permanently!

When her family left the travelling fair in the late 1950s, she went looking for a job. After her high-earning dart concession, she was dismayed to learn people earned less than \$20 a week!

Anne worked at what became Centracare and at St. Joseph's Hospital in Saint John. At 49, after her kids were grown up, she went to university, earning a BA in sociology

and criminology from UNBSJ. She has been a foster mom, and a caregiver for her mother, her mother-in-law and finally, her husband.

"I never intended to be a nurse, but I was always a caregiver," she said. "I've lived a busy life."

Anne has enjoyed her time with PWRDF and is rather sad to see the end of it.

"It has satisfied my soul," she said. "And it was difficult to resign."

Her motto, an African proverb, is very much in keeping with PWRDF: "If many little people in many little places do many little deeds, they can change the face of the Earth."

THICK CHURCHES

Thick Churches presentation: bad news and good news

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Dr. John Stackhouse, a professor of religious studies at Crandall University in Moncton, was the featured speaker of this fall's Medley Lectures presentation on Oct. 12. John is also a member of St. George's Anglican Church in Moncton.

The Medley Lectures, formerly known as the Christian Forum, are presented by the Mission & Outreach Committee of the Diocese.

About 35 people met in person at Christ Church Cathedral, while more than 50, including two church congregations, joined via video link for his presentation called Thick Churches: The Answer to Christianity's Decline in Canada.

"To discouragement, I intend to add some disillusionment," he said by way of introduction.

Indeed, his statistics were discouraging. The 1971 Canadian census "shows the high-water mark for Christianity in Canada," he said.

Since then, mainline Protestant (Anglican, United, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Orthodox) churches have declined in every category: attendance, membership, clergy, finances and volunteering.

"There's also been a decline in cultural influence," he said. "The media is no longer interested in what the church has to say."

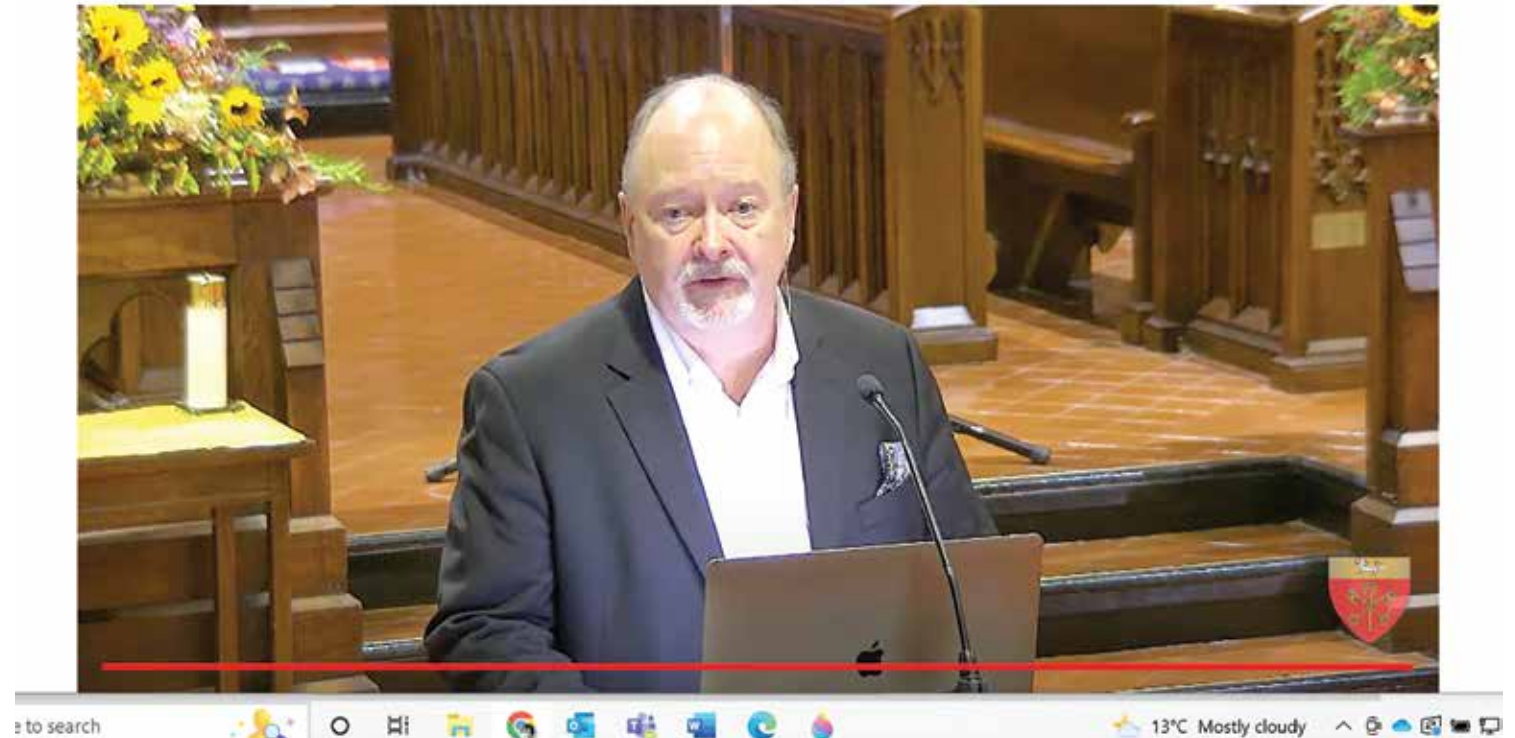
In 1971, 95 per cent of Canadians called themselves Christians. That number has shrunk to around 66 per cent, and Stackhouse predicted the 2021 census will likely put it at 60 per cent.

Two tiny hopes in all this are Roman Catholic growth among immigrants, and the ability of the Evangelicals (Baptist, Salvation Army, Nazarene, Wesleyan, Pentecost, Mennonites) to hang on to their numbers.

"Their success is almost entirely from retaining their youth, and immigrants from China and especially South Korea," said John, adding Evangelicals invest heavily in summer camps and youth pastors.

NON-CHRISTIANS

The non-Christian religious population accounts for about 10 per cent of people



DR. JOHN STACKHOUSE, a parishioner at St. George's in Moncton, is also a professor of religious studies at Crandall University. He laid out the history of Christianity in Canada, as well as the perilous path it is on as more and more Canadians move away from active church attendance. In 1971, 95 per cent of Canadians called themselves Christian. John predicted the 2021 census results will see that number drop to about 60 per cent, making Canada a world leader in shedding Christianity.

“By Confederation, almost all Canadians went to church. It's quite amazing. Canada was one of the most Christian countries in the world.”

in Canada, but John believes their impact and numbers are skewed by over-reporting in large cities. He also questions whether the children and grandchildren of immigrants will keep their religion.

"If you feel we're being over-run by Islam, you can calm right down," he said.

NON-RELIGIOUS

People who claim no religion now make up one-quarter of Canada's population, with very few calling themselves atheists or agnostics.

While some are angry ex-Christians, most don't have anything against Christianity, they simply don't know much about it.

"I see them at Crandall," he said.

Within the population, some scholars propose there are four categories: the highly religious, the culturally religious (as in Quebec), the spiritual but not religious, and

those with no religion.

The middle categories are taken up largely by the Baby Boomers and their children, said John. The highly religious are the most active on social issues.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

A short history of modern Canada shows the following:

1900-1914: growth, including the economy and the GDP (Gross Domestic Product)

1914-1920: the Great War

1920s: boom

1930s: bust, with the Prairie Dust Bowl and the Great Depression

1940s: war and recovery

1950s: security and prosperity

While the 1950s might have seemed like a return to normalcy, there was no "normal" to return to, as the list above indicates. And by the 1960s, there was a lot of "acting out" — drugs, sex, plus anti-establishment, anti-war behaviour.

Since then, "there have

been no major wars, no major depressions and nothing to impede this social experiment," said John.

CANADA BEFORE 1840

The Canadian colonies, including New Brunswick, were largely unchurched before Confederation.

With thin populations, there were very few churches, though that changed after 1840. The Loyalist influence grew, and the Roman Catholics were enjoying a revival.

"There was a remarkable enfoldment of the Canadian population into church," said John.

"By Confederation, almost all Canadians went to church. It's quite amazing. Canada was one of the most Christian countries in the world."

The 1850s to the 1950s was Canada's Christian century, with great influence on society.

But since the 1960s, Canada has been racing the Dutch to

shed Christianity.

The statistics clearly illustrate the fall: in 1946, 60 per cent of the population was in church every week. Now, that percentage is 20.

"Does it feel different in church on Sunday? Oh yeah!" said John.

POSITIVE & NEGATIVE

A positive development is a focus on social justice, equality, compassion, diversity and freedom, which is rather a paradox considering our abandonment of the church, said John.

A negative development is that those same social justice issues are surrounded by a new orthodoxy — mandated beliefs, values and practices.

"When you have beliefs, values and practices, you've got a religion, baby!" said John. "Just try to have a different opinion on abortion, climate

Thick churches continued on page 7

ADVENT

Advent Activities 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 HOPE Pray; be always on the watch	28 Read Luke 21: 25-36	29 Watch a film version of the Gospels this Advent	30 Encourage someone with kind words	1 Invite someone to discover part of God's beautiful Earth with you	2 Set aside a time and place to listen to the Holy Spirit	3 Listen to God's voice in music today
4 LOVE How can I prepare the way?	5 Read Luke 3: 1-6	6 Bring lunch to someone who doesn't get out much	7 Use a centreing prayer to hear God's voice	8 Reconcile with someone you're estranged from	9 Study the life of Jesus written by scholars	10 Give a small gift to someone
11 JOY Share the good news of the Messiah's coming	12 Read Luke 3:7-18	13 Invite someone to share coffee and conversation	14 Fight for a cause that Jesus would support	15 Re-read and study the Gospels this month	16 Bake muffins or cookies for co-workers or neighbours	17 Tape some money on a vending machine
18 PEACE Take heart! The Lord will fulfill his promises	19 Read Luke 1:39-45	20 Listen to someone's story	21 Pray for every neighbour on your street	22 Tell someone you love them	23 Do errands for a shut-in	24 Drop off a veggie tray to hospital nurses
25 Share your Christmas feast with others						

Thick Churches presentation: bad news and good news

Thick Churches continued from page 6

change, residential schools...” This new orthodoxy is the way modern society is going, said John.

HOPE “I think things really changed in one generation,” said John. “In the 1960s everyone was so much like us. Now we’re so much like everyone else.” As the saying goes, Christianity is a mile wide and an inch deep, but what’s needed are thick, substantial churches that focus on several principles:

- **Teaching** that is substantial, broad and adequate for all of life’s challenges.
- “Services now are mood elevators,” said John. “It lasts until we leave the parking lot and someone cuts us off.”
- **Worship** that is informative and transformative. “We need to spend time with God,” said John. “It should have ramifications for our lives and



PARISH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER Shawn Branch introduced Dr. John Stackhouse and organized the event.

it should show.”

- **Fellowship**, that includes serious conversations, actual accountability, and uncomfortable questions. “It should include practical help... and sustained consolation... We should have fun together,” said John.

“I actually grew up in a church like this in Northern Ontario. They were friendly, even with people they didn’t particularly like — to preserve the unity.

“Most churches are not like this. They’re more like season ticket holders.”

- **Investment** of money and time on task. Imagination, attention and money are enough to make the necessary difference, “enough to make Jesus Lord of my life.”
- Thick churches, with a much more substantial foundation, “are going to make

an annoying difference,” said John. “Thick churches will displace our idols: our work, our sports, our hobbies.”

But to do this, there are some difficult choices ahead. One example is Sunday morning hockey practices, which keep kids and parents out of church for weeks.

“Jesus had some fairly interesting things to say about using family,” said John. “Ten per cent better won’t do it. Will we finally say no to everything that interferes with discipleship?”

“We can’t resist on our own. We have to cluster together.”

After the presentation, John took several questions from the audience, where he made this statement in answer to a question:

“The problem with the Christian church in Canada is not that we’re persecuted to death. We’ll be lulled to death. It’s about comfort and security. We’re just slowly going to stop going.”

ADOPTION

Instant family

The McMullens are in the process of adopting four sisters under the age of 9

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

When the Rev. Dan McMullen was dating Sarah Tabor, he discovered they had something very important in common. They both favoured adoption as a way to create a future family.

In fact, the moment Dan shared that desire was the moment Sarah knew Dan was the man for her.

They try to hold onto that thought when the house is a disaster, someone is crying, they're late for swimming lessons and all they really want to do is sleep.

"I've never met more high energy kids," said Sarah. "It's surprising how they don't tire at all!"

Dan, an associate priest in the Parishes of Sussex, Waterford and St. Marks, and Sarah were married in 2019 and took the adoptive parenting course as soon as they could. Sarah, an occupational therapist with Horizon Health, knew of this sibling group, though they were not her patients.

She and Dan began talking about them, and co-workers began joking to Sarah about taking them on.

"Then eventually the joking got more serious," said Dan. "We even called Adoption NB to ask about them. God softened our hearts to them."

Hearing the statistics surrounding large sibling groups, with less than 10 per cent adopted together, further cemented their intent.

THE GIRLS

The adoption process is a long one, and it won't be complete for another year, so in that time, though they are the caregivers and sole guardians



SARAH TABOR AND THE REV. DAN MCMULLEN have been married since 2019, and now have a family of four sisters.

of the girls, they are not legally their parents. Thus they cannot, for example, post photos of the girls on social media. That's why there are no photos of the six-member family with this story.

The oldest is eight. She is sweet and quiet, smart and easygoing, said Dan. She loves dancing and gymnastics. She has been in eight or nine foster homes in her life.

The next one is six. She is "a bundle of joy," said Dan. She has developmental delays, loves hugs, is very popular at school and laughs easily.

The next girl is almost five, and is having the most trouble with the transition. While she loves school, and is well behaved there, at home, she is prone to tantrums, which are frequent and lengthy.

"She can't control her emo-

tions," said Dan. "We're told it's normal."

Despite all this, she is very smart and does well at school. Dan encourages readers to pray for God to calm her soul.

The baby is three, and has a sweet nature. She's smart and funny, said Dan.

"They've been in foster care all or almost all of their lives," said Dan.

THE PROCESS

Dan and Sarah met the girls in June, beginning the transition. They saw the girls every day after work, and then had them stay overnight three or four days a week.

Their house had to be inspected — and furnished in safety gates and a lot of pink and purple, of course. They signed the paperwork in late August.



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS

When Sunday school began at Trinity in September, they had eight kids. Half were Dan and Sarah's.

CLIFFORD, THE BIG RED CAR

When they knew they had four children coming, Dan and Sarah began car shopping. But they were shocked when the cheapest van they could find was a used one for \$60,000. Then someone suggested a VW.

They found what they were looking for — a large, new, bright red SUV called an Atlas — that was cheaper than the used van.

"It fits all the car seats," said Dan. "It's really great. We call it Clifford, the Big Red Car."

Which leads to books, about *Clifford, the Big Red Dog*, and more.

"I'm reading a lot of children's books," said Dan, "And a lot of books about children. I've been barreling through books on childcare and trauma."

One book, *The Gospel-Centered Parent* by Paul Tripp, gave Dan particular insight and perhaps some comfort.

It says the first step in parenting is confession — realizing parenting is impossible, and that we are broken human beings trying to parent broken human beings, said Dan.

Even on the most exhausting of days, Dan is buoyed by God's leading of them to launch into parenthood in such a dramatic way.

The girls call them mom and dad, and are just now realizing they are about to be adopted, asking, "I'll live here forever?"

All six of them are looking forward to the girls becoming McMullens next summer.

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COMMUNITY

Hungry? Try a community lunch in St. Andrews

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

It's 11 o'clock and everyone is busy — and a bit nervous. Will anyone show up?

Friday, Oct. 21 was Day One of a special project in the Parish of St. Andrews — a lunch, by donation only, to which everyone was invited.

By 11:30, the start time, there is a small lineup. The Ven. John Matheson, rector, addresses those gathered, gives a brief overview of the project and asks the blessing. And the people keep coming for the next two hours.

Some choose the ham-burger soup, some the fish chowder. Some take their lunch with them, while others sit down and do something perhaps they haven't done in awhile — visit with friends and neighbours.

THE DINERS

CHCO Television, the local community station, was on hand to record the event. The mayor and deputy mayor, parish people and others popped in for the meal.

"I am Anglican," said Heather Richmond. "My husband, George, doesn't get out a lot. It's a nice social opportunity for him to chat."

"I usually come if something's going on," said Steve Millikin.

Erich Raab enjoyed sharing his lunch time with a half-dozen others as the conversation flowed.

"I'm active in the church as the bell ringer, and I'm also active in the community," he said.

SHIRETOWN COMMUNITY SERVICES

The organization behind this lunch is Shiretown Community Services Inc., and behind it is the parish.

"Shiretown Community Services is the daughter of the parish," said John, adding the parish founded the organization as a way to procure government funding not available to churches.

It was largely inactive for years, but almost a year ago, it began a program of food preparation.

"We were training five people who have barriers to employment," said John.

They learned under local



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Alexandra Crighton, Georgie Armstrong and Julian Rigby at the serving table; the Ven. John Matheson chats with lunch guests; organizers Linda Fiander Walsh and John Matheson about to enjoy some lunch; and Helen Ann Smith gives instruction to Isaac Lankisch as he stirs the chowder before guests arrive for lunch.

retired restaurateur Helen Ann Smith. Through the spring, the group prepared lunches, packaging them for sale and pick up. With the summer over, they've regrouped to begin Phase II — weekly in-person lunches, all in an effort to gain in-demand skills and provide a lunch to those who want and/or need it.

There is a basket for donations, but no one pays much attention to it. They're just happy to see people lining up to eat.

"This time around, if you don't have money, you can still eat," said Linda Walsh, the parish's on-the-ground coordina-

tor.

And what happens if the donations don't cover the costs of paying the workers and buying the food ingredients?

"The Lord will provide," said Linda. "We had some money in the bank to start. If we need to be actively asking for donations, we'll ask, but we're confident."

She hopes to get the word out to high school and community college students, older people — anyone who could benefit from having lunch, with no strings attached.

There are plenty of people who live by themselves, don't have the skills or means to

cook a meal, or find making a meal for one a lot of hassle, said Linda.

"What I see here today is people enjoying themselves," she said.

"The history of this hall is that we feed people — any occasion to eat. Then everything came to a grinding halt," she said.

Now with pandemic protocols lifted, the parish was eager to get back in the hall.

"This is the third time I've been here this week," said Mayor Brad Henderson. "It's a common gathering place. I think it's wonderful what the parish is using it for."

He's thrilled to see a community project tick so many boxes: an inflation-buster for those with limited income; life skills for workers; a chance to gather and catch up on community news.

TRAINING

"The recipes are in my head," said Helen Ann, adding soon she'll give her workers some choices of what soups they'd like to cook.

Thursdays are prep days, and Fridays are a time to set up the space for sit-down dining and demonstrate their hosting skills as they serve the meal.

Helping out was Kim Lankisch, mother of Isaac, one of the workers.

"I'm keeping an eye on him, helping him focus," she said. "Autistic people need routine and this is routine. The program gives him a purpose and focus. When he's here he enjoys it. He does a good job, they say."

Georgie's mom, Nancy Armstrong, came for lunch and to check on her daughter.

"I like it. I like doing the buns," said Georgie, whose hosting role was doling out buns and butter.

"It's good for her. She loves to come," said Nancy.

As the crowd thins, Helen Ann has a chance to assess the lunch's success.

"I think it went well. They did a good job serving. There's more interaction this way," she said.

"They've pretty much mastered prep. We brought in some new equipment and they're doing well on that. The big one now is the social skills, the proper etiquette."

With about 50 guests through, the parish was happy with the first turnout. They hope to continue through until March, with plans to make the project permanent.

Shiretown Community Services has two areas of interest: helping those with barriers to employment; and housing.

With the entire country seemingly suffering a housing shortage, the parish is in the discussion phase of partnering with other community groups to develop affordable housing, focusing largely on single women, a mainstay of the summer employment group, who cannot afford an apartment of their own.

The Bishop's ~ Charge ~

To the 138th Synod of the Diocese of Fredericton, November 5, 2022

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8: 38-39

I want to begin by saying thank you. We have travelled, and continue to travel along, a difficult road for the past two and a half years. COVID-19 has been draining for us all.

It has moved many of the markers we have taken for granted both in daily life and the life of the Church. We have seen friends and family being unwell and in some cases relatives and those close to us have died.

Yet we have continued to worship together in different ways. We have supported each other through this time. We have prayed for each other and our communities.

As restrictions have eased many congregations have sought ways in which we can meet the needs of those around us. I am grateful to you for this and am grateful to God for the Diocese I have been called to serve.

As we begin to emerge from the pandemic, we find ourselves in a changed landscape. It was changing before early 2020, but in some ways, though by no means all, things have accelerated during the last two years.

Last week we received numbers from Statistics Canada giving us the results of the 2021 Census's survey on religious belief in Canada.

The good news is that about 53 per cent of Canadians identify as Christian; the bad news, that is down from 67 per cent 10 years before.

When we narrow that down into New Brunswick the numbers are challenging. 104,000 fewer New Brunswickers identify as Christian than was the case ten years ago, leaving a total of 512,645.

Of these, 35,205 identified as Anglican compared to 54,270 in 2011. These are big numbers, and we cannot easily drill down into them to establish causes.

What we can say is the numbers

of those who identify as Christian is in decline across Canada and in New Brunswick, and those identifying as Anglican reflect this.

We can dwell on these numbers and hope that they turn around, but we, the Church in the West, have been doing that for decades, with little success.

What is the issue? I wish this were not true, but as I talk to people who do not worship with us or have done so and have stopped, the message is relatively simple.

They do not find the Church credible, because many see it as hypocritical, irrelevant, and lacking in compassion and grace.

I am not solely talking about the Anglican Church; I am speaking of the "One holy Catholic and apostolic Church."

Now let me be clear, in most cases this is not due to their interaction with local congregations and individual Christians. Most of the time those are positive experiences.

Rather, it is the headlines people read about the failings of the Church that lead them to dismiss us; and crucially, by dismissing us God is dismissed, and thereby the love which God has for the whole of creation.

I have read every one of the 74 responses that you have made to the survey that was sent out from my office. Thank you for taking the time to respond.

There are many good things which have been mentioned in them and once again I am grateful to God and to you for the ways in which we have been led over the last two and a half years.

That being said, I hear three main themes, each of which is concerning and real. These are: how do we get people back into the pews, how do we improve our finances and how do we keep our buildings running?

They are not new issues, but perhaps for some of us they have been highlighted during the pandemic.

From my perspective I can add to this a shortage of clergy to place in parishes where finances would allow them to be placed. I only see this



Scenes from Diocesan Synod



TOP ROW: Small group discussion; lunch; head table. **MIDDLE ROW:** The Rev. Terence Chandra; delegates including Nick Stam (AKA Nick the Dutch Baker) of the Parish of Moncton; the Ven. John Matheson and Archbishop David Edwards; the Rev. Thomas Nisbett. **BOTTOM ROW:** Delegates listen to the Bishop's Charge; Bishop David delivers his Charge; Cathedral worship team, including Tom Fetter, Nat Fetter and Thomas Gonder.

Photos by Derwin Gowan

When we are fearful for the Church, we have the words of Jesus himself (from Matthew 16: 18):

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

The chart (BELOW) shows us what is happening in the Anglican Communion across the world. Of course, the North American picture is not pretty, but the gates of hell are not prevailing against God's Church, Anglican or otherwise. The truth is the growth is not happening here where we would like to see it.

Over the years I have been asked to produce a diocesan plan for growth. I have resisted this because in my experience top-down plans do not work.

During my time as bishop, we have had a number of initiatives, which have included things such as BELLS, and they have taken root in some places and not in others. The idea behind these things has been to try to deepen our faith as we seek to be disciples of Jesus.

At our last Synod it was agreed that each parish would produce a Mission Action Plan. This initiative was to be locally based, but unfortunately the pandemic reduced our ability to undertake the making of such plans, though to do so now could form a start point for a way forward.

So, what are we to do? How are we to discern the will of God for us as the Anglican Church in New Brunswick as we move forward from here?

First, we have to recognize the nature of the problem. For a multitude of reasons our society has been turning away from God, and to a greater extent God's Church, for more than fifty years.

No matter what has been tried through programs, plans and initiatives, this has not been reversed. It is time to question and discern if what we have and are holding on to is helping us become what God wants us to be. Charge continued on page 12

becoming more pronounced.

How are we being called to be church when it seems the survival of what we know and understand as church is at stake?

I have served in this diocese for 25 years and these have been themes which been evident to a lesser or greater extent for the whole of this time.

The church I first served, St. James Broad Street in the south end of Saint John, has long been closed. The good news there is that we have been able to repurpose the site, with help from community partners, as a place to house and support homeless youth.

Formerly called Safe Harbour and now known as Beacon Cove, this may give us a clue about the future.

As your Bishop, part of my role is to pray, discern and lead. I have discovered over the last eight years this is no easy task and the pandemic has made it less so. As I have prayed, I have gone back again and again to three passages of scripture. These are where I find my hope. The first is from Psalm 121: 1- 4:

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps

you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

This passage calls us to have eyes of faith. As you know it is used in the Burial Office. It is to be an encouragement in times of despair. In ancient Israel the gods who distracted people from God were worshipped in the high places.

The Psalmist tells the people it is not from there that they will find help. They are to look beyond the hills to the creator, who made heaven and earth and who does not sleep.

This is the God who keeps Israel, but as their history unfolded, it was perhaps not in the way that Israel

hoped to be kept.

When we are fearful for ourselves, St. Paul reminds us in Romans 8: 38 -39:

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

There is nothing that can separate anyone from the love of God in Christ and that is the message which we are to join God in demonstrating as it is made known to the whole creation.

GLOBAL ANGLICANISM: 1970-2015

	1970	2015
AFRICA	7,718,000	56,947,000
ASIA	358,000	891,000
EUROPE	29,367,000	24,922,000
NORTH AMERICA	4,395,000	2,549,000
LATIN AMERICA	775,000	929,000
OCEANIA	4,781,000	4,533,000
GLOBAL TOTAL	47,394,000	90,771,000

The World Christian Database, compiled by Gina Zurlo and Todd Johnson of the Center for the Study of Worldwide Christianity, Gordon-Conwell University.

138TH DIOCESAN SYNOD

The Bishop's Charge, continued

Charge continued from page 11

be. It seems that when we try to hold on to what we have, it trickles through our fingers like water.

Now we stand at a crisis and our only alternative is to seek the Lord while he may be found and call upon him while he is near – and he is near.

If we can recognize the truth of our situation and accept it, then perhaps we can allow God to do something about it.

As with all journeys the first step is the hardest. I admit that I hardly understand what I am saying here, but we have to engage deeply both individually and corporately with the mystery who is God.

God who created, sustains and fills creation. God whose love, grace and mercy stretches beyond the Church to the whole of creation. God, who out of generosity loves to bless, but also suffers with us all as creation groans, as in the pains of childbirth waiting for the children of God to be revealed.

Recently, Debbie and I were in Toronto, as we passed St. Paul's Bloor Street we were stopped by this sculpture "When I was a Stranger"; words of Jesus from Matthew 25.

God Incarnate, Jesus, invites us to sit with him and to walk with him into the depths of God. Jesus says to us as he said to his disciples "Follow me". Before we follow, we may have to sit awhile, to discover where we are being led.

There are many ways to do this. Using Lectio Divina in our daily prayers where we leave silence for God to speak or using "A Disciple's Prayer Book". There are multiple resources out there.

But here is the thing: we have to do this corporately as well as individually. We are being called to discern God together.

I know this does not sound like us. I know that if I were sitting listening to me I would say, "David, you are being ridiculous. I don't have time for this. Give me something to do, some practical action to take".

My reply to me is this, "Unless I can understand even a little more about God and the way he loves and suffers for his creation, I will never understand God's mission in God's world."

Furthermore, unless I come to understand God's mission, even a little more, I will not understand how we, the Church, are to reflect God in the world; and thereby never know what God is calling us to do.

I am now going to enter onto dangerous ground, because I am going to give us things to consider as we seek to engage with God.

The problem is that people like me will jump to these without taking the necessary time to discern.

What we have to do is to ask: as we follow Jesus, the image of the invisible God, into discerning more of the character of God, is what are God's desires for the mission and ministry of the Church in advancing the Kingdom?

In other words, how are we being called to reflect the image of God in our parishes and diocese? But before that, are these hints, that I think I am hearing and am going to point to now, even correct? What needs to be added or taken away?

Whatever we do has to be locally discerned. This means that we are to make significant time individually and corporately outside Sunday worship to pray and listen to God and each other. If you need my help to do this, or another facilitator, it can be arranged.

As we do this, we remember our Anglican roots. These have been discerned and acted upon over centuries. Our mission and ministry are summed up in these few words "the cure of souls". Seeking healing, wholeness, and peace for ourselves and the communities we are called to serve.

More recently the Church has discerned the following as flowing from the "cure of souls":

The Five Marks of Mission:

The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.
- To respond to human need by loving service.
- To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of

the earth.

How do these reflect the character of God and how do we move forward on some of them locally both across the diocese and in the different parts of our province?

Finally, I hope that what you have understood from my many words today is that we as the Anglican Diocese of Fredericton, as with the Church as a whole, are being called into a new place.

We do not really understand what that means. We have to look beyond ourselves into the mystery of God and begin to more fully understand how God sees things and how

God wants us to work with him to draw all things unto himself.

This will lead us in many directions, and I want to give us some guideposts which I believe we need to know the answers to as we reflect individually, as Synod, and in our parishes over the coming weeks and months.

What do we have that sustains us and what impedes us?

Where are we being called to take risks and to experiment?

How do we continue to engage with the communities we are called to serve?

How do we continue to

grow as disciples of Christ?

These guideposts have to be applied to all areas of our life together. It means that we must look at all aspects of the diocese, our parishes, our synod, our governance, everything.

The Church has two essential tasks: to worship God and to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

Our task, as it has been throughout the history of the Church is to discern how these things are to be done for the Glory of God, that others may see God's glory and believe. I am calling upon us to take the risk of walking by faith and not by sight.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The head table; small group discussion in the canon stalls; the Rev. Rob Langmaid speaks during a motion; lunch time at Cathedral Memorial Hall; Connor DeMerchant gives the response to the Bishop's Charge; the Rev. Paul Gwese, Parish of New Bandon.

Photos by Derwin Gowan

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Anglican MLAs with their bishop



CARRIE CULLIGAN YEAMANS PHOTOS



ARCHBISHOP DAVID EDWARDS offered a prayer at the Accession Proclamation Ceremony on Sept. 10 held at Government House in Fredericton. The ceremony officially proclaimed the accession of King Charles III. Also in attendance were: Lieutenant Governor Brenda Murphy, Premier Blaine Higgs, Wolastoqi Elder Imelda Perley, members of the Executive Council, and invited guests. After the ceremony, Anglican MLAs gathered for a photo with their bishop. From left: Tammy Scott Wallace, Dorothy Shephard, Bishop David, Trevor Holder, Margaret Johnson and Jill Green.

THEN HE SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.' (Matthew 9:37).

The Apohaqui ACW are fewer in numbers as the years go by, but we continue to hold successful fundraisers. One such event was our annual Apple Pie and Apple Crisp making two-day marathon, Oct. 14-15 at the Apohaqui Recreation Centre, where we had an abundant supply of apples. But we couldn't have done this without the help of community friends and neighbours of all faiths who gave of their time — peeling apples, making the fillings, and rolling the dough. We are so thankful and feel blessed to have that continued support. We had fun, and a good time of fellowship. Pictured in photo, left to right: Marsha Burgess, Barb Tabor, Marg Kyle, Barb Brown, Julie Armstrong, Nicole Bent, Evelyn Douthwright and Beverley Floyd. Taking the photo was Mary Anne Mitton, and 'still' peeling apples off at another table was Martha Thompson.

Apohaqui apple pies



Camp Medley camper registration, LIT and staff applications go live on

December 1

Visit campmedley.ca soon to make summer 2023 the best!

CAMP MEDLEY



The Diocesan ACW is seeking a volunteer member to administer the Book of Remembrance and Roll of Honour. These administrative duties do not require a large time commitment.

The Book of Remembrance contains the names of all deceased members, which is added to each year, with new names read at the annual meeting.

The Roll of Honour is a certificate given to a member for dedicated service to the ACW.

The volunteer would manage both of the above, responding to branches as they forward information and make requests.

See page 6 of the ACW Constitution for greater detail: nb.anglican.ca/ministries/acw
Information: jilandrob@hotmail.com



MOTHERS' UNION

Remembering Yvonne Lyons and Valerie Nason

BY KATHLEEN SNOW
AND ADELE KNOX

The Canadian Mothers' Union lost two dear friends and Mothers' Union Sisters in Christ this year.

As we mourn the loss of both Yvonne Lyons and Valerie Nason, it is only fitting that we pay tribute to them. It is an honour.

YVONNE LYONS

Yvonne lived her life allowing her faith to guide the way. She demonstrated her faith through her love and support of her family, friends and community.

Yvonne was passionate about Mothers' Union, always interested in keeping up with branch, diocesan, Canadian and worldwide activities and supporting Mothers' Union purpose, aims and objects in her daily life.

She held the position of branch leader at All Saints Church in Marysville for many years, where her branch members met monthly to make soup for the community kitchen.

Yvonne regularly attended Diocesan Council meetings/rallies; it was a joy to travel with her to these meetings. She gave such balanced, non-judgemental, sage advice on these trips, and was never shy in sharing her opinions at the meetings.

Yvonne held the position of link coordinator on Mothers' Union Canadian Council from 2005-2008. She took on this role with responsibility and communicated regularly with branches to establish prayer links.

Yvonne loved her daily walks with nature, whether on their property, along the road where she lived, or on the nearby trails.

She appreciated the beauty that God provided for us, often picking wild flowers to be displayed on the altar at All Saint's Church in Marysville for Sunday morning Eucharist.

This was her time to pray for others, to do the Daily Offices and to appreciate His creation.

Yvonne was quite often Adele's early morning Saturday phone call, even as early as 7:30 a.m. She always had a listening ear, and shared her

laughter and love.

Adele was amazed that Yvonne was able to accomplish all that she did in a day with the amount of people she kept in telephone conversations.

Yvonne looked forward to the annual Diocese of Fredericton Mothers' Union overnight stays at Camp Medley.

She was not a great sleeper and slept some three to five hours each night; many of us were witness to this while attending these retreats.

She would walk around the cabins on the grounds and wake everyone up at 6 a.m. with a wooden spoon and frying pan to get the day going.

This brought her great joy, and not so much joy for those of us who were not early risers!

Yvonne's thoughtful cards, whether an occasion or not, would appear in the mailbox with the envelope covered with lovely stickers. This surely gave the postal workers a smile and happy thoughts.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

THIS PHOTO SHOWS SEVERAL MEMBERS of a previous Canadian Council (2005-2008) gathered at Kelly Smith-Duffett's funeral in 2017. From left: Elaine Robichaud, Kathleen Snow, Mary Ann Dicks, Alice Kennedy, Yvonne Lyons, Val Nason, Bonnie Greenwood, Shara Golden and Lilian Ketch.

VALERIE NASON

Valerie "Val" Nason was a gem. She had the sweetest personality and was such a generous person in giving of her love, her time and her talent. Adele remembers that Val was the first Mothers' Union member to give her a hug when she met her while attending a Diocesan Rally for the first time many years ago.

Valerie shared her faith more widely; her work and witness in the Canadian Mothers' Union allowed her to do so. Mothers' Union was such a part of her life.

Valerie was active in her branch in Fredericton Junction, as well as at the diocesan and national levels.

For many years Val was the Lone Member Coordinator for the Diocese of Fredericton Mothers' Union Diocesan Council, regularly keeping in touch with members who were no longer members of a branch.

She also held the position

of historian on the Mothers' Union Canadian Council from 2005-2008.

She organized the banner parade at the installation service for the Canadian Council in January of 2005 with her usual aplomb.

Val was so very conscientious about maintaining the history of the Canadian Mothers' Union.

She spent hours and hours organizing the files, deciding which files to keep at the national level and which files to send to the archives.

She made contact with individuals at both the diocesan and national archives and completely re-organized and overhauled the process. Her organizational skills were bar none!

It was Val's sweet demeanour that was so endearing to those of us who knew her and loved her. She was so very positive in discussions at the diocesan and the national Canadian Council meetings.

Her quiet and calm personality often settled everyone down. And her laughter and sense of humour was contagious.

Above all it was Val's deep and abiding faith in our Lord Jesus Christ that formed everything she did. He indeed was her Lord and Saviour; this shone through her personality and in her daily life and the relationships with those she met on her journey.

We remember our dear sisters with grateful hearts for their love of the Lord and their love and witness as Mothers' Union members.

The Personal Prayer of Mary Sumner best describes our dear Yvonne and Valerie:

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;

and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

During the Christmas season, the Saint John Seafarers' Mission provides gifts to seafarers visiting our port. In 2021, with your help, the Mission distributed 152 Christmas packages to seafarers on seven 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, hand sanitizer, gloves, socks, scarf, toque, playing cards, game books, pens, note pad, 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) preferably by Dec. 2.



The Living
MANGER

Saturday, Dec. 17, 5 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
St. Mark's Anglican Church, Sussex Corner

A joint presentation of the Parishes of Waterford, St. Mark & Sussex • All are welcome • Dress warmly

Join us for "A Walk Through Bethlehem" - Dec. 9 & 10, 6-8 p.m. at Christ Church, Pennfield, 68 Route 778

Experience the night of the birth of Christ in a live and interactive way



carols & music • hot chocolate, cider & cookies • live animals • free will offering

Help
LUNCH
CONNECTION
Go Green!
icym.ca



Lunch Connection (a project of Inner City Youth Ministry) provides subsidized lunches to ~400 children, 3 days per week. That's more than 40,000 lunches in paper bags each school year!



We are working to reduce our environmental impact and make sure your donations are put towards what's most important...what goes in those lunch bags!



Help us sew simple reusable drawstring bags to replace the disposable paper ones, or donate fabric for others to use!



In order to ensure the bags can be washed between uses, we will need at least 1200 cloth bags!



The sewing pattern for the bags is available on our Facebook page

Finished bags & fabric donations can be dropped off at Stone Church (87 Carleton St. Saint John) from 8:30 am-11:30 am Monday-Friday or contact us at info@icym.ca or 647-4813

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.

Contact the Anglican Diocese of Fredericton: 506-459-1801; 168 Church St, Fredericton E3B 4C9; or <https://nb.anglican.ca/>. Click on Donate at the top right, and select from the drop-down menu.



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

175 years of faith and worship in Bairdsville

BY HAROLD BOOMER

During the past two years, while I have been in the Parishes of Andover and Denmark, people have continued to ask me where the churches are in which I serve.

Each time, I respond beginning in Bairdsville at St. George's Church, working my way north to Trinity in Andover, St. Paul's in Limestone Siding, and St. Ansgar's in New Denmark.

Many times, I am questioned as to whether or not there are regular services or even if the churches are still active.

This makes me wonder how often people drive by our rural churches, indifferent to their existence, indifferent to those who still use them as a spiritual home, not knowing or even caring if people continue to worship, to laugh, to cry within their walls.

Our parishes are no different than any other rural parish in the country. The blood of our families runs deep; it is in the farm ground and woodlots that surround us; it is in the traditions that are practiced, and it is in the woodwork and construction of the buildings in which we worship.

Throughout the months and years of the pandemic, we have lived through isolation, separation and loss. Heartache and pain have spread like a wildfire, leaving no family untouched by the flames of loss and despair.

It is in these times that we realize how closely knit our communities really are. A single death can stretch across county and provincial lines, and in the awkward moments after a funeral, the branches of family trees soon become visible.

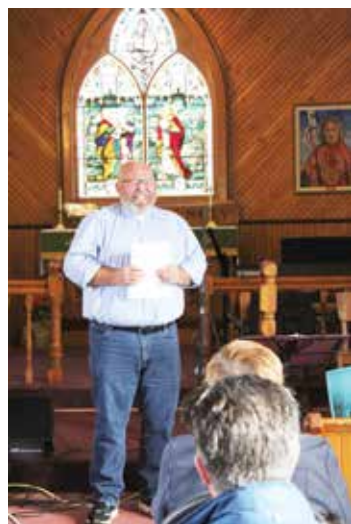
Flashes of blonde or red hair, profiles, shapes, and statures make present day family gatherings easily imagined taking place at the turn of the last century. It was one of these gatherings that has answered so many of my questions.

This little country church is quite plain from the outside, with the exception of a couple of new doors, some new steel roofing, freshly painted trim, and a new cross mounted on the side of the steeple.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

TOP: MATT ANDERSON, centre, shares a laugh with band mates: keyboardist Kim Dunn and bass player Bruce Dixon.



LEFT: The Rev. Harold Boomer during the Sept. 24th service.

and friends have come for years to say goodbye to loved ones.

Near the end of September, we found out how widespread the connections to St. George's really are. As we gathered to celebrate the 175th anniversary of its construction, we prayed for good weather and were blessed with a Saturday of sunny periods while many around us were suffering from hurricane Fiona.

After months of planning by Ray and Carol Andersen, St. George's Church was filled and overflowing with family, friends, and members of the community. This house of worship, with seating for 120 people, was full, and not only full, but with a healthy group standing outside in the parking lot to hear the music.

From 2-4 p.m., on Sept. 24, we were entertained by the Rev. Bob LeBlanc, who was accompanied by his wife, the Rev. Canon Bonnie LeBlanc. They did a wonderful job of playing and singing everyone into a mood of celebration and joy.

Bob and Bonnie were followed by the Wednesday Evening Fiddlers, who inspired plenty of toe tapping and singing to their list of favourites.

As the afternoon drew to a close, those present were very pleased to hear Stephen Hathaway sing some classics that

warmed the heart and brought back memories of simpler times.

During the afternoon's gathering, portions of St. George's Church and the community's history were read. This history listed families and names we still use, events that parallel our own, connections that we see only at funerals, and the depth to which the land and the people are joined.

All these families and the community have one thing in common: the church itself, the presence of the Holy Spirit, which has provided so much strength and hope. It has been a gathering place and the centre of the community for 175 years, and with prayers and dedication, it will continue to be such.

With hearts and souls filled and overflowing, not only with the fellowship of the afternoon but with the presence of the Holy Spirit among us, all of those who were present were blessed once again.

Just as we thought a blessing should be offered for the barbecue to follow, Carol Andersen, her sister Lee, and her sons, Christian and Matthew, stood to sing the blessing and Doxology. We were told that Matt — the renowned Matt Anderson — would play for an hour after people had eaten, and so this wonderful celebration continued.

A day that began with the potential for rain and heavy winds, the potential to be a small and intimate gathering, the potential to have food enough left over to feed the county, turned into a celebration of life for this tiny country church.

Two hours turned into four hours. People who were timid of weather settled in and didn't want to leave. Music, laughter, praise, prayer, and barbecue cooked to perfection proved to us all that not only is our church open, not only is it active, but it is a place where the Holy Spirit exists, surrounds, and flows through every single person who crosses its threshold.

Sunday was no different. The day began with glorious sunshine, singing birds and our church slowly filling to its capacity once again. The joys of the day that God had provided for us included the music of Carol, Lee, and Matt, with Archbishop David preaching the homily.

The message was clear and concise, perfectly suited for a 175-year-old rural New Brunswick church, whose attendance records resembled a roller coaster. Invest in the future and have faith in God's plan, just as Jeremiah had purchased ground for the generations to come.

Our service ended with the wonderful memories of childhood hymns from St. George's Sunday school, sung by Carol, Lee, and Matt.

The weekend came to a close with a gathering of fellowship, laughter, stories and thanksgiving in the church Sunday school building. Tables were filled with people who recalled where curtains had divided classes.

Memories were shared of mid-winter trips across the yard to the outhouse, of horses tied up in the hovel and of the men gathering around the old wood stove at the back of the church so the women and children could sit in the pews. It was all simply wonderful!

While I sat, eating my sandwich, listening to the stories being told around me, I thought to myself, St. George's is not simply just open for ser-

Bairdsville continued
on page 17

LOVE ATLANTIC

Love Atlantic shines a light on mission and outreach

Love Atlantic is a demonstration of the regional Church joining together the first week of October in an unprecedented effort to shine the love, kindness, generosity and care of Jesus Christ all over the Atlantic region, says its website.

Several Anglican churches in the diocese participated, and here are their reports on the project.

Seed money from the Missional Initiative Fund was available to help accomplish their goals.

• **The Parishes of Waterford, St. Mark and Sussex** did three small projects for love Atlantic: 1) a sock drive for the local elementary school, 2) a fundraiser meal for the breakfast club at the same school, and 3) made up care packages for two local nursing homes. The Rev. Dan McMullen

• **The Parish of Douglas/Nashwaaksis** set up a table with free coffee and muffins on the Monday morning for Love Atlantic, just across the street from Nashwaaksis Memorial School during morning drop-off.

We gave them out to students, parents, teachers — everyone who came by. There was a lot of surprise and appreciation! Most folks seemed genuinely pleased and appreciative of the gesture.

It was a chilly morning, but it was nice to gather with several volunteers from the congregation to bless the community. Hot coffee is best on cold days!



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: 250 bag lunches of grilled cheese sandwiches sit ready for the students next door at Macdonald Consolidated School; Diocesan synod employees the Rev. David Peer, Heather Harris-Jones and Archbishop David Edwards pack lunch bags; the font at St. Margaret's, full of items collected for people in need; Parish of Hammond River members sorting toiletries for Outflow Men's Shelter in Saint John.



Josh McDorman, parish administrator

• **At St. Margaret's (Fredericton)** we undertook two projects. The first was a community soup night where the parish made soup and we invited the neighbourhood, by social media, our church sign, and word of mouth, to come for a free bowl of soup and a bun.

In total, over 30 people attended, including at least seven we had never seen before.

Our other project was a "fill the font" for the homeless

shelter and food bank, where members of the congregation brought items needed for the Fredericton Homeless shelters and food bank. The photo above shows our final result. The Rev. Rob Langmaid

• **Holy Trinity Hammond River** parishioners and friends responded to the "Week of Radical Generosity in Jesus' Name" with an astounding show of caring.

All together 40 towels and the same number of face cloths as well as a very large amount

of shower soap, dish soap, hand soap (and other sundries), lots of thick socks and novels were donated to the Outflow men's shelter in Saint John.

Also 18 Tim Horton's gift cards valued at \$10 each were given to the staff at Outflow. Cleo Cyr

• **Diocesan synod staff** gathered Oct. 4 at Cathedral Memorial Hall to make sandwiches for bag lunches. Homemade cookies, juice boxes, crackers, granola bars, cheese and crackers and other snacks

went into the lunch bags.

Once that work was done, several staff members delivered the lunches to anyone in need of a meal around the city.

• **The Parish of Kingston** fed a grilled cheese lunch for over 250 students (K-8) and staff of Macdonald Consolidated School in the parish hall next door to the school. The Ven. Rob Marsh, Archdeacon of Kingston and Kenebecasis, dropped in and was encouraged by our response to Love Atlantic.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

PARISHIONERS AND OLD FRIENDS gathered Sept. 24 to celebrate the 175th anniversary of St. George's Church.

175th anniversary of St. George's celebrated

Bairdsville continued from page 16

vices, it is alive, it is a part of this community and the lives of not just some, but all the people who surround it.

This tiny church is the families who came here as immigrants, the families who settled the wilderness, the families who shed their blood to make a living off this land. It is in their faces, their hearts, and their personalities.

This tiny church is as much

a part of them as they are of it.

It all made me want to stand a billboard behind the church along the old highway, in the opening between the trees, and put up a sign that says, "This is St. George's Anglican Church. We were here from the start, and we will be here until the end. If you don't believe us, come and see. The Holy Spirit is with us!"

Harold Boomer is the priest-in-charge in the Parishes of Andover and Denmark.

Seeking to be grounded

BY KEITH OSBORNE

From the seething mass of humanity in all ages has arisen the cry of distress, heartache and sorrow. The ravages of tribal warfare, unscrupulous dictators and power-hungry warlords have plagued us from the very origins of human society.

Even today in our self-acclaimed progressive societies, and among liberal left-wing leaders, the human tendency to idolize power and control has raised its ugly head.

What a blessed relief it is to live under a system wherein those in authority do have at least a partial will to honour the needs of the populace and to rule with a semblance of humility and genuine concern for the common good, for democracy and a free ordering of society.

Do we not all value the qualities of a leader which enter the sphere of integrity, courage, transparency, and a devotion to uphold the Rule of Law? It is my own personal view that we have just witnessed, mourned and celebrated the passing of a life which emulated the best of all these essential virtues.

I refer, of course, to the passing of our sovereign lady, her majesty the Late Queen Elizabeth II, looking back on her 70 years of rule.

Regardless of what our views may be on the need of the monarchy in our present day, I would suspect that a vast number of us hold this lady, as a person, in high esteem for her consistent character and sacrificial devotion to her people both at home and throughout the Commonwealth.

Has she not provided for her people a constant presence lending a sense of security, stability and identity in times of trouble and hardship?

While having no executive power, she has presented the monarchy to her people as a system to which they can point, which upholds traditions and absolutes that can stand the test of time.

By her very example, even when beset with grievous family scandal and attacks by an intrusive media, she has set for us a high standard of personal strength and conviction.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/ POLIZEIBERLIN

QUEEN ELIZABETH II during a trip to Berlin in 2015.

“She has set for us a high standard of personal strength and conviction.”

That being said, are those presently holding the reins of the “Firm” capable of making the monarchy relevant to our present world? That remains to be seen, but my own belief is that, for millions, it still represents and projects a sense of stability, security and identity.

In our world where the bottom is falling out of everything, let us hold on to whatever source of grounding we can.

History and tradition, while often discarded by those on the liberal left of the spectrum, still tell us what we were and can inform us as to what we need to become, based on the pattern already set by those who preceded us.

We jettison what was wrong and seek to preserve and guard what was good and right.

In a world apparently heading towards some form of an apocalypse, let us support and pray for all those whom God is using to promote the right ordering of society.

There is no theology, philosophy or ideology which does not depend on the reality of being grounded in the absolutes of morality, goodness, equality and sincerity of heart and mind in order to realize its fulfillment and practical expression in life.

Can we be proud to find ourselves as being recipients of this historical legacy?

As members of the Church of England, we have been given this root and grounding which defines in part what we have been and can be adapted to fit a new age, that we may be witnesses to the Gospel and all it represents.

Pray for all those whom God has either placed or allowed to be over us, that they may be His means by which we are all blessed by order, peace and truth, as fitting the needs and aspirations for the common good.

The Rev. Canon Keith Osborne is retired and lives in Fredericton.

Pumpkin carving fun



KATE TURNER PHOTOS



A LARGE CROWD came out on Sunday, Oct. 30 and made carving pumpkins together in the cemetery of St. Paul's in Hampton so much fun! Special thanks to Kate Turner for the delicious cookies!

MUSIC COMMENTARY

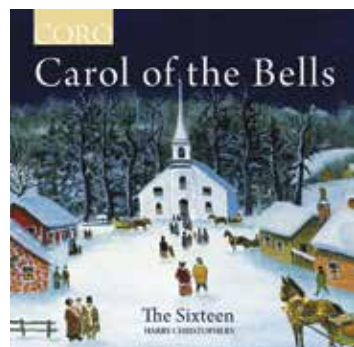
New music for the Advent/Christmas seasons

The tradition continues: a review of a popular Christian music album as well as a classical choral album of Advent and Christmas music!

This time around, I'd like to hold up a banjo and sixteen singers! Sounds like a slightly warped 12 Days of Christmas! Please, Dear Reader, read on, and discover something new for your ears this year.

David Crowder has enjoyed great success with the David Crowder*Band and as a solo artist. His music is hard to peg in terms of style, yet he seems to have an affinity for bluegrass and nostalgia.

Both are on full display on Crowder's new album, *Milk and Cookies: A Merry Crowder Christmas*. This full album comes complete with prelude, interludes, and postludes spoken in a Burl Ives-eque manner, recalling classic Christmas stories and old animated



cartoon specials.

In between can be a found both original and traditional Christmas songs. There's a lot of humour here, though the album's lyrics speak to the Christ Child in the manger as much as Christmas commercialism.

The first full song, Thanks Giver, features the lyric, "I wanna praise/ the One who's making a saint / out of a sinner / The One who's turned me into the Thanks Giver" (Crowder is American, after all!).

Not to be missed is a song about the working rights of North Pole elves in "The Elf Song."

"I've Heard About You" speaks of hearing of Jesus in a world that too often seeks to silence Him.

There are classics as well! Not to be missed is a wonderful rendition of "Go Tell It On the Mountain," Crowder's duet with the leg-

endary Ricky Skaggs.

He also teams up with Tommee Profitt for a rather stately, "Carol of the Bells."

"Auld Lang Syne" even appears on the album, but listen closely, for it is wedged into some additional lyrics (where Crowder somehow rhymes "fridge" with "sandwiches").

The album ends with a postlude that recalls the classic children's book, *Good Night, Moon*, as Crowder the narrator says goodnight to just about everything mentioned on the album, and then some.

This album shines with creativity, and if you're looking for something new in the overstuffed Christian artist Christmas album landscape, this is it. But listen to the whole album — it works best that way.

• • •

Carol of the Bells by the excellent small choir The Sixteen (and Harry Christophers' directing) may seem like a typical collection of carols, and though some are present, this album is a wide-flung journey of Christmas music spanning several centuries.

The Sixteen have been around forever, it seems (actually, 40 years or so), and yet their ability to consistently make fresh and interesting arrangements and recordings is outstanding.

Even as an audio track, this small choir feels more intimate than full cathedral choirs somehow.

The composer list alone might leave one a bit star-struck. Bob Chilcott, Gustav Holst, Sir William Walton, Eric Whitacre, Herbert Howells, Cecilia McDowell, Jonathan Dove, Allan Bullard, and more are represented on this album.

And of course, Mykola Le-

ontovich's "Carol of the Bells" is here, and is delightfully offered in a crisp and bouncy setting.

Classic choral choices such as "Lo, How a Rose" is done in a beautiful slow, drawn-out tempo that milks the harmonies of each changing chord, and "Carol of the Advent" (a.k.a., "People, Look East!") is strong in its presentation.

It should be noted that over half of the choir solos at some point, showing the depth of voices and ability in the group. Eric Whitacre's oft-recorded "Lux Aurumque" simply shimmers in a superb setting.

Am I smitten by this album? You bet your eggnog latte I am! There is something about an a cappella choral recording that lays bare the music itself, and the text, allowing no room for error in the singers, and yet holds it all up for us to experience without the trapping of sound effects and over-produced instruments.

Such pressure to perform at such a high level is not noticed in this group. The Sixteen are beyond that; they have recorded many Christmas albums over the years, yet this one sounds as new and innovative as any could.

This album will be on repeated play over the festive season at my house to be sure.

So the bottom line: Crowder and his banjo, and The Sixteen with Harry Christophers have created some wonderful music. Enjoy it as you choose!

A blessed Advent, and a Merry Christmas to you all. "See" you in 2023!

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



Jill Stewart, member of the Parish of Newcastle-Nelson-Hardwicke and president of the Diocesan ACW

Favourite book of the Bible - Proverbs

Birthplace - Newcastle, NB

What you love most about God – He brings me peace

Favourite place on Earth - My favourite chair. I read, I converse, I cross-stitch, I observe nature, and occasionally, I have a short nap! And I make many important decisions from this spot!

Farthest you've been from home – England

Favourite meal or dessert – Lemon pie

Hidden talent – I am an open book; don't think I have anything hidden.

Favourite movie or book – *The Lord Is My Shepherd*

Your hobby – Renovating and building, reading, crafting, swimming, walking, helping friends and family.

Three things always in your fridge – Cream, fruit, cheese

Favourite sports team - Toronto Maple Leafs

Episcopal Announcements

The Rev. Neil Osiowy's appointment as Regional Dean of the Deanery of York is extended for a further three years, to October 31, 2025.

The appointment of the Rev. **Lidvald Haugen-Strand** as interim priest-in-charge in the



Parish of Westmorland, has been extended another year to Dec. 31, 2023.

FAITH IN ACTION

This is another in a series entitled *Faith In Action: Building Hope For Tomorrow In The Face Of Climate Change*, put together by the Ven. Kevin Stockall, Hannah Westner and Andrew Mathis, all of the Parish of St. Mary, York in Fredericton, with the help of additional guest writers.

The series sprang from a helpful book study on Jim Antal's *Climate Church; Climate World*. The series hopes to explore the role that Church must play as part of humanity's response to the climate crisis, offering theological and scientific background as well as practical tips and advice.



Climate Change: Oh Canada!

Guest author: Mike Howe

So far, we've looked at the global effects of climate change. What changes are we seeing in Canada, and what can we expect in the future?

- Longer and hotter summers bringing more heat waves and wildfires
- Higher temperatures cause increased evaporation and more droughts
- Increase in severity of weather events such as hurricanes, heavy rainfall, and snowfall
- Increased coastal and inland flooding due to sea-level rise and heavy precipitation events
- Changing vegetation as our traditional coniferous (evergreen) forest continues to move northward and is replaced by deciduous tree canopy.

Changing vegetation is not only about the trees. This will impact those creatures that are dependent on this type of vegetation for food and shelter. The ultimate impact of these changes will depend on how successfully species can adapt to the "new normal."

Climate change places increasing pressure on all living creatures to be able to adapt. Certain species, such as human beings, are more readily able to adapt than others. Those who are unable will be challenged to survive.

The great Canadian icon, the polar bear, for example, is facing an uncertain future due to dwindling sea ice in its Arctic habitat. Longer, warmer summers are causing much of the Arctic Ocean to be ice-free for extended periods of time, decreasing the bears' access to their primary food source – seals. Consequently, the bears are forced to spend more time foraging on land, where they are at risk of coming into conflict with humans.

Not only will the animals have to adapt, but it is also likely that Canada will experience an increase in human refugees, as climate change causes their countries to become increasingly inhospitable.

In my final article of this series, I will be discussing some of the likely impacts, specifically for New Brunswick and in particular Fredericton.

