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THE NEW BRUNSWICK ANGLICAN



A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

JANUARY 2016

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON

'I feel like I need a new word for thank you'

Colin Ranson's surgery will go ahead; mom says it never would have happened without churches' support

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

"Relief, tremendous relief," are the words Kimberly Ranson used to describe her reaction when she learned New Brunswick medicare would help fund her son's brain surgery.

"I feel like I need a new word for thank you," said Kim. "I keep saying it, but thank you is not enough."

Colin Ranson, the two-year-old many parishes "adopted" this fall, needs laser brain surgery in Houston, Texas, scheduled for March 4. He has Pallister-Hall Syndrome, a rare genetic defect that includes a tumour on his hypothalamus. It causes gelastic seizures — anywhere from a dozen to a hundred giggling seizures every day plus behavioural outbursts he cannot control. The longer the tumour

remains there, the worse the prognosis for Colin's development.

Colin's father, Paul, is the Anglican chaplain at Rothesay-Netherwood School.

An estimated cost of \$200,000 CDN stood in the way of getting Colin the high-tech treatment he needs, so they created a website to ask for help. The parishes of the Diocese of Fredericton did not disappoint, raising more than \$72,000 in four weeks, with money still coming in.

The family had their neurologist apply for medicare coverage, but they didn't know how long an answer would take, or if it would be the one they hoped for, so they were prepared to fund-raise the entire cost.

But when New Brunswick

"Colin" continued on page 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Rev. Paul Ranson with his son, Colin, at a spaghetti dinner fundraiser in Riverview Nov. 22. The province has come through with medicare coverage, bringing the Caring For Colin campaign to a successful end. Colin's brain surgery, costing upwards of \$200,000, will go ahead March 4.

Diocesan Council welcomes new members after Synod

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

The new Diocesan Council met for the first time at St. Thomas church in Stanley Nov. 19.

Bishop David Edwards began the session with a homily based on John 18:33-37, the interaction between Pilate and Jesus.

"Pilate was as confused as anyone about who Jesus is," said the bishop. "The question for us too is first, is Jesus the king?"

The king of our life? Where does Christ fit into our lives?

"Do we fire up an arrow prayer saying 'can you sort this out?' or is he our king? Do we go to church, or do we go to worship the king? Where is the king in our lives together as a diocese?"

Christ's kingdom made no sense to people like Pilate whose rule was worldly, he said, particularly when Jesus said things

like 'blessed are the meek.' He described it as an upside down kingdom where kings must serve.

"As we gather as this new Diocesan Council, we have to consider these things: What does the king mean to us who've been given responsibilities? To us as leaders in a kingdom that is upside down? In a kingdom that puts service ahead of being served?"

The bishop presented the Rev. Canon David Barrett with a licence for his hospital chaplaincy work at St. Joseph's and Saint John Regional Hospital.

The bishop appointed Dylan Nicoll as the youth representative on council, and appointed Sandra Craft as a member at large. Sandra was later elected, by acclamation, lay vice-chair of Diocesan Council.

As the business meeting got

underway, everyone introduced themselves. There was a sense of optimism around the table with many voicing their thoughts on a positive future for the diocese.

"I really like the direction the church is taking," said ACW president Rosemarie Kingston. "The direction I see is that we've stopped sitting in our pews and we're going out to do things."

"Council" continued on page 2

DIOCESAN NEWS

Council's first act: Break a tie from Diocesan Synod

"Council" continued from page 1

Executive Archdeacon Cathy Laskey directed new members to their roles and responsibilities as council members, adding that information from the meetings is free to be shared with parishioners, unless the committee holds an in-camera session.

Council members were added to several diocesan committees, including Sandra Craft, Neville Sloane and the Revs. Allen Tapley and Bob LeBlanc to the Diocesan Council Executive Committee; Sandra Craft (returning) to the Finance Committee; Kathy Asch to the Human Resources Committee; Bob LeBlanc to the Property Committee; and Siobhan Laskey to the Ecclesiastical Court Pool.

The first order of business for council was the breaking of a tie that occurred at Diocesan Synod between Canon Leo Martin and the Rev. David Turner for second clergy substitute for General Synod. By one vote, Leo Martin came out ahead.

Chancellor David Bell recounted the motion from Diocesan Synod regarding the desire to better get to know candidates for bishop and what process that should take. The motion left this



MCKNIGHT PHOTO

Diocesan Council members: Back, from left - Bishop David Edwards, Dylan Nicoll, Frank Morehouse, Rob Marsh, Gil Carter, Rosemarie Kingston, Stuart Allan, David Barrett, Brent Ham, Bob LeBlanc, Neville Sloane, Allen Tapley, Keith Osborne, Siobhan Laskey and Richard Steeves. Front row, from left - Patricia Drummond, Norman McLeod, Irene Adams, Cathy Laskey, Kathy Asch, Sandra Craft, Coralie Losier, Susan Jack, Edward Quann, Bonnie LeBlanc and David Bell.

issue in the hands of Diocesan Council, so that will be on the agenda during this mandate.

"A letter was received from the Archdeacon of Kingston and the Kennebecasis [Allen Tapley] last time after electoral synod, saying much the same thing," said David. "His request is essentially endorsed."

The Finance Committee presented several motions, all of which were approved unanimously. Several were for loans to parishes: \$4,000 to the Parish of Upper Kennebecasis to resolve a water source issue; \$60,000 to the Parish of Portland to help

purchase and install heat pumps; and renewal of a diocesan loan to the Parish of the Nerepis & St. John for \$350,000 over a two-year period. It also approved a loan guarantee for an interparish of \$19,000 from the Parish of St. Andrews, Sunny Brae to the Parish of St. Phillips.

It also approved an application from the Parish of St. George to the Anglican Foundation for a \$5,000 grant to install heat pumps.

David Bell explained a motion, later passed, called the Diocesan/Parish Investment Agreement under which parish-

es have the diocese invest funds on their behalf. There had previously been no written agreement to outline the obligations and expectations of each party.

The agreement makes clear that the diocese is not the gatekeeper of how parishes spend funds, particularly when those funds have come to them with stipulations on spending.

Council approved the 2016 draft budget of \$2.3 million, which includes a deficit of \$191,334. This deficit is less than half the budgeted 2015 deficit.

Youth and intergenerational ministries director Colin McDonald presented a report which included an update on the Bishop's Court discipleship project. Three university students and two house parents have lived in the former bishop's residence since August, which had been empty off and on for several years.

"It's an exciting time," said Colin. "Thus far it's been a very positive experience. I'm happy to say we're ticking the boxes."

The five say Morning Prayer together Monday through Thursday, with individual prayers on Fridays; have a Sunday night fellowship; hold a Thursday night Bible study; and

enjoy the mentorship of Bishop Claude Miller as their spiritual advisor.

"Sackville and Saint John are looking at this model," said Colin. "I even talked to a Baptist minister in Miramichi who said, 'I hear you've got something going on at the bishop's house. I've got kids going to university in Fredericton next year. How do I get them in there?'"

Colin has already received an application for next year.

Diocesan Council officers and members include Irene Adams, Gil Carter, Norman McLeod, Susan Jack, Frank Morehouse, Kathy Asch, Rosemarie Kingston, Coralie Losier, Siobhan Laskey, David Bell and Neville Sloane; Chris Hayes, Bonnie LeBlanc, Richard Steeves, Stuart Allan, Patricia Drummond, Bob LeBlanc, Allen Tapley, David Edwards, Keith Osborne, David Barrett, Geoffrey Hall, Cathy Laskey, Rob Marsh, Edward Quann, Brent Ham and John Matheson.

The next meeting is in Sussex on Saturday, Jan. 23. Members of the Parish of Stanley ACW and ACM (Anglican Church Men) took their role as hosts very seriously, preparing a three-course meal of salad, delicious pork roast dinner and lemon dessert.

'It's the best Christmas present ever!'

"Colin" continued from page 1

medicare notified the parents that they would be helping to fund the surgery, Kimberly and Paul felt they had enough money to ensure the surgery would go ahead.

"I shut down the donation side of the website (caringforcolin.ca) late last week," said Kim on Dec. 7. "We got a call from medicare saying they would be negotiating with the Texas hospital. Anything they don't cover, we will be able to cover."

"So our goal of \$200,000 is met."

Money is still coming in to the diocese, and fundraisers are still planned, but that's a good thing, since Colin may need to have more care.

He will need foot surgery probably next fall to deal with his enlarged toes, and said Kim, "He may need a second brain surgery at some point because of the shape and complexity of the tumour."

As for the fundraising, Kim

and Paul are nearly speechless.

"We are completely overwhelmed," said Kim. "We had no idea it would take off like this. It's like trying to stop a freight train."

"God has been so abundant! In all honesty, we wouldn't have met our goal without the church. "We've heard so many stories of churches being blessed by this — kids telling their parents they're praying for Colin."

They even heard from a retired priest in Houston who read their story on the Anglican Journal website and wrote to assure them her congregation is praying for Colin.

"This has been a great effort by the whole diocese," said Bishop David Edwards. "It shows what it is to be a diocesan family. And it's what we learn to be as we try to follow Jesus more and more."

For fundraising co-ordinator the Rev. Jasmine Chandra, this has been the easiest funding campaign she's ever been a part of.

"What's next? I keep thinking

about what else we could take on!" she said.

"I'm just thrilled about it all. It's been great to be involved and see all these good news stories come our way. We've seen people dig deep. It's been fantastic."

Two Christmases ago, Kim and Paul were dealing with an exceptionally cranky baby whose cries went on for 24 hours straight.

It was a tense Christmas, knowing something was wrong, trying to convince doctors but not having a diagnosis.

Last Christmas, they knew they would probably need to seek expensive treatment in Texas and had no idea how to ensure their son would get it.

This year, said Kim, "It's nice to redeem Christmas. We will relax as a family and not worry. We have a plan and it's going ahead. It's the best Christmas present ever!"

Readers are encouraged to continue to pray for Colin, his surgery, his family and his medical team.



DEADLINE for news and photo submissions to the New Brunswick Anglican is the first working day of the month prior to publication.

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THE BISHOP'S PAGE

Don't just paddle on the surface

Prayer is one of the most important things we do as Christians. God's original plan for humanity was that we should be in a close and intimate relationship with him.

Unfortunately, that became broken, and in some senses, prayer is the most effective way we have of maintaining something of that intended relationship.

The challenge is that too often we find it is very difficult to pray and we need help along the way.

For many of us, prayer can seem like something we do when we are in trouble or when we remember to do so. In my life I have found both of these things to be the case.

For a number of years I found my life of prayer to be very thin. I tended to do all the talking and wondered why God often felt at



a distance.

In recent times I have discovered new depths to the life of prayer, but it has meant that I have had to "practice the presence of God."

The best way I can describe the difference between how things were and the way they are now, is to use an image from

swimming. Before it was as if I was paddling on the surface of the water; now it is like being immersed in the depths.

I do not want you to think that this means it is a comfortable place to be at all times.

There is that aspect to it, but when we are in water there is always a sense of danger and the possibility of the unexpected.

Although prayer needs to lie at the centre of our life with God, it is not always a comfortable place to be.

As with any relationship, there are always challenges when we are stretched beyond what we might expect.

It maybe that you have a question: "How do I deepen my life of prayer?"

The simple answer is that, as with many things, there is a need to train — to explore new ways

of relating to God in order to discover the greater depths.

Another question might be, "Are there any resources to help me?"

One answer is that I have sent a copy of Richard Peace's *Meditative Prayer* to every member of the clergy to be used either individually or corporately during Lent.

It is my hope that an emphasis on prayer will help us as a Diocese to corporately deepen our relationship with God.



David Edwards is Diocesan Bishop of Fredericton.

PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS

JANUARY 10
MINTO AND
CHIPMAN

JANUARY 16
SEE THROUGH
THE SCRIPTURES -
ARCHDEACONRY OF
KINGSTON AND THE
KENNEBECASIS (TO
BE HELD IN SUSSEX)

JANUARY 17
HAMMOND RIVER
AND QUISPAMISIS

JANUARY 23
DIOCESAN COUNCIL

JANUARY 24
SHEDIAC *

JANUARY 31
THE NEREPIS AND
ST. JOHN

FEBRUARY 7
DOUGLAS AND
NASHWAAKSIS

FEBRUARY 10
CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL
(ASH WEDNESDAY)

* DENOTES
CONFIRMATION

A gluten-free Eucharist — the time has come

BY THE REV. RODERICK BLACK

All eucharists at St. Philip's Anglican Church, Moncton, are gluten-free. After discussing how we might accommodate our gluten intolerant and celiac parishioners, it was decided that it would be safest to use gluten-free hosts for everyone.

Gluten is a protein found in wheat, rye, triticale and barley. If consumed by gluten-intolerant and celiac people, it can drastically affect their health.

Gluten damages the small intestine's absorptive surfaces in people with celiac disease, so that they cannot absorb nutrients: protein, fat, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, which are necessary for good health.

Celiac disease is incurable, but it is readily treated by following a gluten-free diet.

Celiac disease affect 1 in 133 people, or 340,000 Canadians, who cannot tolerate the smallest bit of gluten in what they digest.

The Canadian government standard for a gluten free product is ≤20 ppm. How big is that?

Take one slice of bread and break it into 7,030 pieces. The gluten content in one of those pieces is 20 parts per million.

This means that if you intinct your wafer in the wine, you have contaminated the wine; if the priest touches the gluten-free host after touching the wheat

host, the gluten-free host is contaminated; and if the two host are on the same paten, the gluten-free host is contaminated.

The Canadian standard protects the majority of celiac people, but some people are so sensitive to gluten that one crumb causes them to have violent vomiting and/or diarrhea.

Many North Americans are going gluten-free and the gluten-free market is growing.

Sue Newell, communication and education officer at the Canadian Celiac Association says, "The market has been growing significantly year over year, so I don't see it as a fad like the grapefruit diet or that sort of thing."

Some parishes have gluten-free hosts available for those who ask. Despite their good intentions, most times the host they offer has been cross-contaminated.

Another difficulty that arises with having alternative hosts is that those who ask for them are unintentionally made to stand out as being different, possibly making them feel embarrassed, so that some simply refuse to go to the communion rail.

This concern prompted one of our parishioners to ask, "Why don't we make all the hosts gluten-free? After all, we do put in elevators for those unable to climb the stairs."

So why can't we make all



hosts gluten-free? The best argument comes from the 1962 BCP where the rubrics state:

"The bread shall be the best and purest wheat bread..." But if we go back and examine corresponding prayer book rubrics we discover that "best and purest wheat" is an addition.

The 1549 BCP concerns itself with the shape and size of the bread and does not mention what it is made from.

The 1552 BCP mentions wheat as an option to the bread that is normally eaten with one's meal.

So what grains were used back then?

Debbie McCarson, in her book, "What Type of Foods Did They Eat During the 1600s in England?" wrote, "When the harvest was good, Englanders could use flours made with wheat, rye and barley.

"When these grains weren't readily available, flours would be made with beans, oats and lentils."

The bread used during the

writing of the first Prayer Book was most likely a combination of grains.

It was only with time, when wheat became the most common bread used at dinner tables, that the rubric used the optional wheat bread from the 1552 BCP to be the only bread allowed.

Today wheat is no longer the common bread used at our tables. Our markets have a great variety of bread made from a mixture of grains.

And today, if you have celiac disease, the bread you use at your meal is made from a mixture of rice, corn, potato and/or tapioca.

Yes, wheat is easier to use. It sticks together better, it taste better and it is cheaper.

But St. Philip's has decided that if we want to be a truly welcoming church — to our brothers and sisters who cannot tolerate one crumb of wheat and who are fearful to get sick from sharing in the body and blood of Christ, plus to those who refuse to eat gluten for health concerns — then for their sakes, we should use a gluten-free host that the whole body of Christ can safely use.

"The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread." (1 Corinthians 10:16-17.)

WHEN YOU ...

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

DIOCESAN NEWS

Meet the diocesan refugee response co-ordinator

The Rev. Chris Ketch has always had a special place in his heart for immigrants



MCKNIGHT FILE PHOTO

The Rev. Christopher Ketch originally thought he would like to be an immigration lawyer, helping immigrants come to Canada. He found a priestly calling instead, but is able to blend the two as the diocesan refugee response co-ordinator. He is seen here at his June ordination.

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

The idea of responding to the Syrian refugee crisis might seem like a gargantuan task, but that hasn't stopped the Rev. Christopher Ketch from stepping up.

He is the diocese's refugee response co-ordinator, appointed last fall by Bishop David Edwards. He is also the priest-in-charge in the Parish of Kent.

"The idea of doing nothing was no longer an option for me," he said. "So I wrote to the bishop."

Chris has had an interest in immigrants and refugees for many years. His career plan out of high school was to become an immigration lawyer.

"From a very young age, I've had a heart for foreigners," he said.

He offered his services to the diocese, and because he is on a half-time stipend, "I theoretically have some time to devote to this."

He is facing a steep learning curve — separating fiction from fact, opening lines of communication with the federal government and with parishes, and getting more familiar with Canadian policy and international law.

He has two solid goals though, even at this early stage. One is to secure a sponsorship agreement holder licence for the diocese and the other is to form a diocesan refugee response team.

The licence is needed so

that parishes, churches and the diocese have the ability to actually sponsor a refugee family. Right now, as the bishop has instructed, we can work with the Atlantic Baptist Convention to support their efforts, since they have a licence.

Chris needs a team to help respond to the crisis as a unified force.

"I'm looking for people from across the diocese to partner with folks presently involved with the Syrian refugee crisis on the ground, or people who simply want to raise awareness and want to pray," he said. "This is not a job for one person. It requires a refugee response team."

He'd love to see at least one person from each archdeaconry join so that information can be shared in, to and from each region.

Lastly, he's looking for people who "love Jesus and have a heart for refugees."

Chris has little intention of meeting physically. This team will use email, telephone and Skype to keep in touch.

One of the first items on the team's agenda will be education and awareness.

"There are a lot of opinions and misinformation," he said. "I want us to be a source of accurate information."

Another task will be co-ordinating activities and events with parishes, even having them partner with others to make the load lighter. Because refugee families will likely end up living in cities,

he feels there is a role for rural parishes to partner with urban parishes that may be sponsoring a family.

In early September, the bishop issued a call to action, so Chris's offer came at an opportune time.

"I am very pleased that Chris is taking on this role, particularly at this time of great need," said Bishop David. "It is my hope that through this initiative we will see many more parishes becoming involved with the care of refugees."

The bishop hastened to add that we must remember an important fact about our Christian heritage — "Jesus was himself a refugee in Egypt," he said.

The passion Chris felt for foreigners as a young student is still strong.

"If we're going to call ourselves Christians, we need to accept refugees. If we're going to call ourselves Canadians, a civil society, we must do this. I echo the bishop in his initial call to action — we have a responsibility as Christians and as Canadians, and we cannot turn a blind eye."

Chris does not see an expiry date on this effort.

"It can't be a flash in the pan for us," he said. "It can't be a pet project we do for six months. In addition to things we can do right now, we must be in this long term — 10 years from now."

Those interested in helping Chris can email him: christopher.ketch at gmail.com .

We need a renewed dedication to prayer; here's help



COMMENTARY
BY JOHN PAUL WESTIN

Bishop David Edwards, addressing the members of our recent Diocesan Synod in Fredericton, spoke about the need for us to deepen our experience of prayer.

"We need to take opportunities to learn how to pray. Prayer is about building our relationship with God; it is an ongoing conversation, not a shopping list or an emergency call in times of trouble," he said.

"Our prayers should go as deep as our souls and yet many followers of Jesus experience dryness and difficulty in their prayer lives."

"We each need to take courses, go on retreat and read about the development of our prayer life. And most of all, pray!"

"If in our

parishes we can learn to pray together and for each other then we will lead richer more harmonious lives."

Our prayers should go as deep as our souls and yet many followers of Jesus experience dryness and difficulty in their prayer lives.

The Spiritual Development Team, acting on the Bishop's Charge, is offering a way to help Anglicans find refreshment and empowerment in their life of prayer.

The way is through the ancient Christian spiritual discipline (or practice) of meditative prayer.

We are encouraging parishioners everywhere to take on the spiritual discipline of prayer this Lent, through reading and working through the book *Meditative Prayer* by Richard Peace.

Meditative Prayer is laid out in eight easy-to-follow chapters, allowing the reader to explore various methods of Christian prayer through the centuries, and experience the reality of God's presence and communication in each.

Coralie Losier was part of a study group at Stone Church that used the book last winter.

"I refer to the *Meditative Prayer* book often. I find the teaching on centering prayer (which Bishop Marsh reinforced) and the Examen most helpful in that they seem to lead naturally into worship and blessing," she said.

Though you can use this guide for a personal journey of prayer, it is ideally suited for exploration with a small group of like-minded friends.

That is the way we intend for it to be used throughout our diocese this year as our Lenten Study Book.

All the parish clergy in the diocese have received a copy of the book and have been asked to lead or at least organize study groups around it in every parish.

It is our hope that this fine little book will be used as a catalyst by the Holy Spirit to inspire and renew the life of prayer throughout the Anglican Church in our province.

Look for notices in your church bulletins about *Meditative Prayer* study groups or ask your clergy about when and where it is starting up in your parish.

Dr. John Paul Westin is the vicar of the Anglican uptown churches in Saint John.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

St. Ann's Junior Choir kicks off

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

God's timing is perfect, and in November, all the pieces fell into place for the birth of a children's choir in Sackville.

"For some time I have been thinking about a music program for children based at St. Ann's Church in Westcock, said the Rev. Dr. Ranall Ingalls, priest and rector in the Parish of Sackville and Dorchester.

"In recent weeks, the ideas, the personnel and the funding to launch such a choir appeared."

In late November, 10 children from ages 6 to 14 showed up for the Children's Choral Workshop at St. Ann's, mentored by some impressive talent.

Garth MacPhee is organist and choirmaster at St. George's Church in Halifax and director of what Ranall calls an outstanding junior choir program there.

After a series of breathing and sound exercises, the group went on to tackle three Christmas songs: Long, Long Ago by W. H. Anderson, a beautiful legato melody; Calypso Carol, by G.M. Fleming; and Ave Maria by Simon Lindley.

"It was exciting to see the way Garth worked with the children, and kept them engaged and interested in the music," said Elizabeth Craig.

That was a lot of musical instruction and practice packed into 90 minutes, but the children enjoyed it, said Elizabeth.

"I heard from the grandfather of the six-year-old this morning and he said she loved it and is anxious for it to start," said Elizabeth.

"It" is a real junior choir, part

of Ranall's plan — and God's — to fill St. Ann's with music a few times a year, and entertain and uplift the community with performances as well.

Saturday's workshop acted as a springboard for the choir, which will begin Jan. 5 with Elizabeth at the helm. She's already heard from seven or eight children who couldn't make Saturday's workshop but are interested in joining the choir after Christmas.

Elizabeth, a member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, is well-acquainted with St. Ann's and its congregation, since she lives nearby and takes in services now and then. She has taught violin and piano in the community for almost a decade.

"[Rev. Ingalls] approached me and asked me what I thought about this. I thought it was a great idea. Then he asked if I'd be ready to do it," she said.

Elizabeth sings, but not with the same confidence that she plays.

"I lead the singing with the kids in church, but we just sing. We don't think about how we sound," she said.

Still, "this is all about God calling leaders who don't wish to be called!" she said, adding the story of Joshua being told to be strong and courageous was on her mind. "I didn't think I had much of a defence!"

Ranall, she said, has surrounded her with resources to help her get started and encourage growth in this little group.

Already people have come forward with offers to help. She is hoping for some assistance from students in Mount Allison



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Above, 10 potential choristers, their eventual choir leader Elizabeth Craig and some parents took in a choir workshop in late November. It was held to launch St. Ann's junior choir in January. Children of the Sackville area are invited to join the choir when it begins, Jan. 5 at 6 p.m. at St. Ann's in Westcock.

At right is the workshop leader, Garth MacPhee, making a point during the lesson. Garth is organist and choirmaster at St. George's church in Halifax.



University's much-vaulted music program as well.

In January the choir will meet for an hour each Tuesday at 6 p.m.

"We'll aim to sing for St. Ann's occasionally, and in the Sackville Music Festival. And if the community asks us to sing, we'll sing.

"I'm excited about continuing these efforts that Garth has begun, as the St. Ann's Junior Choir has now been officially launched!" she said.

While she might not consider

herself a singer, Elizabeth is a musician, teacher and committed Christian.

"I love working with children, and I love God, and to be able to be a part of bringing children to God through music is a joyful task!" she said.

The choir is open to all children of Westcock, Sackville, and surrounding communities. They needn't be Anglican or Christian, nor even religious at all.

The intention is that the choir should be a resource and a blessing for the children, their

families, and the community, said Ranall.

A Foundation For Life grant has helped kick start the choir with \$3,000, and St. Ann's has added \$1,000.

Other funding sources are being sought.

The hope is, with donations, to send three choristers to the annual Diocesan Choir School at Rothesay Netherwood School next summer.

Interested choristers or their parents may contact Elizabeth: emcraig@nbnet.nb.ca



Hiram Nice points to the name of his brother, Don, on one of the war memorials now housed in the Peninsula Branch #62 of the Royal Canadian Legion in Clifton Royal.

New home for war memorials

BY SUSAN JACK

When a church is deconsecrated and sold, there are many decisions to make, one of which is what to do with the memorials and artifacts.

In June, St. George's-St. Jude's Church building in the Lower West Side of Saint John was deconsecrated and subsequently sold. The building held important memorials and artifacts from both parishes that amalgamated in 2012.

Remaining members were

planning to re-form as the Westside Anglican Mission and at the time did not have a permanent location, so the issue of where to house important pieces was significant.

Of particular importance were memorial plaques listing the names of those who served our country in the two great wars from the two parishes.

Happily a call was received from Royden Brien of the Peninsula Branch #62 of the Royal Canadian Legion in Clifton Royal, 30 kilometres away.

With their mission of never forgetting those who served, a couple of members who had ties to the deconsecrated church proposed moving the plaques to their Legion.

On Nov. 11, three plaques from the two former parishes (Carleton and Victoria) were dedicated in their new home in the Peninsula Legion.

We are very grateful to the Legion for their role in honouring those who served our country and making a home for important memorials from our diocese.

PARISH NEWS

New parish, new rector, new name

BY DWIGHT STUART

Bishop David Edwards, assisted by the Ven. Stuart Allan, officiated at the installation of the Rev. Canon Leo Martin as rector of the Anglican Parish of Fundy and the Lakes.

The 4 p.m. service on Nov. 22 was held at the former Saint James – Lakewood Church in East Saint John.

Fundy and the Lakes includes the former parishes of Simonds, Lakewood, and Saint Martins-Black River.

Bishop Edwards took the opportunity to announce a new name for the former Saint James-Lakewood Church.

The new name he chose is



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Bishop David Edwards and Canon Leo Martin celebrated Leo's installation as rector of the Parish of Fundy and the Lakes Nov. 22.

The Church of Christ The King.

It seemed fitting that the announcement was made on the Sunday we Anglicans mark as Christ The King or The Reign of Christ Sunday.

The installation of Canon Martin as the first rector of this new parish marks the conclusion of several years of planning and discussion around delivery of ministry in this corner of the diocese.

The well-attended service heard Bishop Edwards deliver a powerful sermon in which he challenged those in attendance to welcome and recognize Christ as their King.

He asked the congregation to

consider how they might serve God more effectively as part of this new parish family.

Several visiting clergy took part in the service which also saw the bishop present new licenses to seven lay readers from across the new parish.

It was a joyous event with uplifting music led by the parish praise team, followed by a wonderful shared meal and time of fellowship organized by the ladies of the parish.

Despite the joy, there was some sadness as the amalgamation has resulted in the closing of two churches and their deconsecration in early December.

GOD'S KINGDOM: SEE IT, HEAR IT, FEEL IT, LIVE IT

NEW YEAR'S COMMENTARY
BY THE REV. CARRIE IRWIN

I recently saw a little sign that read: "You are not on a journey to God; you are on a journey with God."

As I sat down to write this column for the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer, I thought about that sign and it got me thinking about my own journey with God.

While the particulars of my life journey are unique to me, we all are on a journey, not in an isolated moment in time but as a part of a bigger picture.

As Christians, we believe we are part of a larger narrative, that our lives fit within the lives of those who have come before us and will be a part of the story told by those yet to come.

The new year is a perfect time for reflection. It is a time for looking back at our collective story and connecting with our memories and traditions.

Then looking forward, we bring with us those pieces that shape us and create the landscape of our current lives.

Looking back, I am reminded of a time that was transformative in my life, and I thought I would share that story with you.

I believe we are created to tell stories, as a way to add richness and depth to that tiny portion of life's collective story that we are called to live, enriching and bringing colour and texture to God's creation.

It was Christmas Eve of 1992 in Kuwait City. It was our first Christmas there. Our son John-Ross was three months old, and our daughter Sarah was 17 months old.

Life had settled into a rhythm of sorts within sharia law. There was no visible Christian community for us to connect with, music was banned, and the country was in mourning for the lives lost during the Iraqi invasion.

Somehow, John found a small white Christmas tree, which we decorated with the few ornaments we had brought with us.

Our celebration of Christmas was a private one, as was our worship.

It was late in the evening and a warm breeze was blowing, so I opened the windows of our seventh-floor flat overlooking the courtyard of the Muthana Centre, an enormous complex with a shopping mall underneath.

Many of the city's expatriate workers lived in these build-



ings. There were seven towers of apartments, each with 17 floors that looked out over that courtyard, right in the middle of Kuwait City.

I had my Christmas carols playing ever so softly, and as I stood by that window, feeling a little homesick, I heard the faintest whisper of music coming from another open window.

There were very few lights on, but as I stood by my window, a candle flickered across the courtyard, and that single whisper of music was joined by another and then another.

As I stood watching and listening, the windows began to flicker with lights all around me, in a powerful moment of shared worship.

I ran into the kitchen, and found our one emergency candle, and raced back to the window, to join in this collective moment of praise.

In a land far from home, thousands of miles away from the beautifully decorated churches, I stood enthralled in one of the most powerful moments of worship of my life.

Every candle was a mighty prayer, an unshakable witness to the majesty and might of our creator God.

And in that moment, I wondered about all the other lights I couldn't see, all offering their own witness to God on that night.

In those few minutes while the music played and the candles burned bright, I knew God was there. I knew I could believe in the promise of God's Kingdom because I could see it and hear it and feel it.

Three minutes, more than 20 years ago, and I can still see it, I can still hear it, and I can still feel it.

If we are indeed meant to share our stories and we were pressed to say what Christian faith and life are, we can hardly do better than to say that it is hearing, telling and living a story.

Rev. Carrie Irwin is a member of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Huron.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

HAPPY 105TH

The Parish of Hammond River ACW celebrated its 105th anniversary Nov. 16 with cake and fellowship following a service at Holy Trinity. The original W.A. was founded on Oct. 26, 1910 at the original Holy Trinity Church in Hammond River. At a recent ACW meeting Karen Kalverboer led the group in a Prayer Service of Remembrance for those who have passed away, with many memories shared. The group supports a number of mission activities including having supported children at Bishop McAllister College for many years. Seated, from left: Betty-Anne Waugh, Vi Adams, Judith LeClue, Pearl McKay. Standing, from left: Cleo Cyr, Lillian Sproul, Linda Reid, Sandra Smith, Karen Kalverboer, Joan Scribner, Nancy Floyd, Jane Henderson.

TESTIFY!

God, take control of my life!

BY BOB LEBLANC

My journey began when I came into this world in 1956. My hometown was Amherst N.S. My father shovelled coal to earn a living and my mother was a stay-at-home mom.

I was born on my father's birthday and we shared many together throughout the years. With a name like LeBlanc, it should come as no surprise that I started out in the Catholic church. Every Sunday my father and I would attend. All the prayers were in Latin and the priest did everything.

When I was two years old, I had to have a blood transfusion to save my life. It was the first of many times that I needed saving.

Around the age of 5 or so, I was given a little drink of beer to stimulate my appetite. Well, it did stimulate my appetite, but not so much for food as alcohol. At 11, I got drunk for the first of many times.

Throughout my teen years, I drank almost every weekend, having blackouts, which later I learned were the early stages of alcoholism.

At 17 I left home to work, and not long after that, I had my first introduction to the world of drugs. At first, I only experimented with marijuana, but soon I was trying LSD and other mind-altering substances.



MCKNIGHT PHOTO

The Rev. Bob LeBlanc and his wife, the Rev. Canon Bonnie LeBlanc.



At 18 I had another brush with death. I was talking to two friends who were going out the road. They asked me to join them. Normally, I would have said yes, but for some reason that night, I said no. Within 30 minutes I saw an ambulance rush by me.

The next morning I discovered my friends, ages 16 and 14, had been hit by a drunk driver. The 16-year-old boy was killed and the 14-year-old girl sustained serious injuries.

As I look back on this event, I realize that even then, God had His hand on my life. By the age of 20, I was living in Manitoba and working up north in the iron ore mines. After a night of heavy drinking and taking drugs, I went to work and almost ended up falling into a furnace with a temperature of 2,000 degrees for melting iron ore.

Nobody would have known

where I had gone — I would have disintegrated in a moment. This is the third time that I knew God was protecting me for some reason.

When I was 21 I was back in Nova Scotia and I met my wife-to-be, Bonnie. We went to a dance and she invited me to church the following day.

Remember that I hadn't darkened the door of a church for 10 years, but I said yes to her invitation. Little did I know that it was God again saving my life through this wonderful lady.

We got married in 1980 in Edmonton. By the six-year mark of our marriage, I was still actively drinking and using drugs. Bonnie came to a point where she couldn't take it any longer and in March of 1986 we separated.

By that summer, Bonnie ended up going back to Nova Scotia. I was still living an alcohol and

drug-induced life. We had to sell most of our belongings because it cost too much to transport them back to N.S.

A couple of weeks after Bonnie went back to N.S., I ended up there as well. We were right back where we started when we were dating. She was living with her parents and I with mine.

We saw each other from time to time, but I still hadn't stopped the substance abuse. In November 1986, Bonnie told me that in March it would be a year since our separation and that she could legally file for divorce.

Nothing up to that point had gotten my attention or given me any reason to give up my abusive lifestyle.

However, when I heard the word divorce, something inside of me seemed to snap and before I knew it, words were coming out of my mouth: "I don't want a divorce."

Bonnie was quite shocked to hear those words. She said, "What do you mean, you don't want a divorce? Look at us! You are killing yourself with drug and alcohol abuse. We have lost everything."

"Just tell me what I have to do in order to make it better," I said.

I was so far gone that I didn't have a clue to what my problem was. That is called denial.

And with that, Bonnie said, "You could start attending AA meetings."

And so on Nov. 29, 1986, I took my last drink and stopped taking drugs. I attended AA meetings on a regular basis and learned why I drank and did drugs. I started the recovery process.

One night when I was alone in my parents' basement, I cried out to God and said, "God, take control of my life. Do with it what you want. Use me for your purpose. I surrender my life totally to you."

It wasn't until September of 1987 that Bonnie and I moved back together under the same roof. She was working and I started to get work here and there.

I knew that God was pre-

paring me for something but I wasn't sure what it was. By the mid 1990s I was doing prison ministry and worked in the institution as a part-time chaplain.

But I knew God had more in store for me, so I pursued ordained ministry, thinking I would end up being a prison chaplain. But again, God had other plans for Bonnie and me.

In the year 2000 I began as a priest in the Parish of Westmorland. Three years later Bonnie graduated and we ended up on the Kingston Peninsula.

I suppose I could say that the rest is history, but it has been an amazing journey. By the time this article appears in the NB Anglican I will have celebrated my 29th anniversary of sobriety.

Today, as I look back over my life, I can totally see how God was involved from day one. I owe my life to Him and my beautiful wife, Bonnie, who could see the potential and never gave up praying for me.

For this and everything else that this new life has given me, I am truly grateful. I will never take my life for granted.

God's purpose and plan are being fulfilled in my ministry, and thanks to Him, my life will never be the same!

The Rev. Bob LeBlanc is priest and rector of the Parish of Wicklow, Wilmot, Peel and Aberdeen in northwestern New Brunswick. He is married to the Rev. Canon Bonnie LeBlanc, priest-in-charge in the Parish of Stanley.

•••

Testify is your chance to share what God has done in your life — an amazing miracle or an everyday event that had God written all over it. Send them in and they'll appear, with your name and parish, right in this spot. This won't work without your help, so don't be shy. Sharing our awesome God's works and wonders is a tremendous way to inspire and uplift others. Send via email: gmcknight@diofion.ca or via post: Gisele McKnight, 115 Church St., Fredericton E3B 4C8.

CHAIN OF LOVE



On Thanksgiving Monday parishioners of St. Georges Anglican Church in Bathurst gathered to form a food chain to deliver items to the local volunteer centre next door. Under the direction of Deacon Sandy MacPherson, well over 600 items were passed hand-to-hand, and greatly appreciated by volunteer centre manager Michele Godin.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Lay readers SHAPE up in pilot project

BY CLEO CYR

Fourteen lay readers from the Parish of St. Margaret's in Fredericton, Parish of Bright and the Parish of Prince William, Dumfries, Queensbury & Southampton participated in a six-week pilot project at St. Margaret's organized by the Rev. Rick Robinson and Cleo Cyr, the warden of lay readers in the Diocese of Fredericton.

The pilot project, developed by the Rev. Canon Amiel Osmaston, Ministry Development Officer in the Diocese of Carlisle in England, was reviewed and approved by Bishop David Edwards.

It was designed to help all lay people, including lay readers, discern their gifts and vocations for God's service.

The course requires two hours a week for six weeks and emphasizes building confidence, faith-development and whole-life discipleship, while enabling people to find out the 'shape' that God has made them, using that to serve God in the church, the community and the workplace.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pilot project participants included (seated, from left): Polly Hodgson, Dianne Tomlinson, Peggy Boucher, Cathy Lutes and Cleo Cyr. Standing, from left: Nancy Wiggins, Nancy Robinson, Suzanne Langmaid, Jeffrey Miller, Ken Brien, Audrey Cernivz, Mary Lou Price and Bob Boucher. Missing from photo: Carolyn Pellow, Kathie Stevenson and the Rev. Rick Robinson.

The course is very flexible, and can be offered in a wide variety of settings. Its key elements are spiritual gifts, motivation, abilities and skills, personality and experiences.

The SHAPE acronym refers to Spiritual gifts; Heart's

desire; Abilities; Personality and Experiences.

The course ran from Oct. 7-Nov. 11 and was evaluated by the participants on completion of the sessions. Participants' comments were positive and supportive.

One participant stated, "This course was both positive and uplifting - like a 'nurturing reinforcement.' I grew in my faith journey."

Another noted, "It was good for me, but probably very good for those who are new to being

a lay reader or who haven't had other opportunities to learn (or understand) their spiritual gifts."

Rev. Rick Robinson noted that, "The SHAPE program helped to foster a 'community' of lay readers. The opportunity to share in a group setting within the parish as well as lay readers from other parishes is a real plus."

At the end of the course participants were able to identify their spiritual gifts and make plans for the future to continue to nourish and grow in God's service because they could better describe what that is.

The six weeks was a wonderfully re-affirming experience!

Once facilitator training is completed in each deanery over the next few months, the SHAPE program will be available to all lay readers in the diocese as a continuing education component.

For more information, visit <http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/rural-discipleship-a-nurture/item/9066-your-shape-for-god%92s-service>.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

GREETINGS FROM BISHOP'S COURT

The crew at Bishop's Court had the beautiful, historic house decorated for the season and held an open house Dec. 6. From left: Dylan Nichol, Mark Jacobs, Dimitra Bountalas, Lorena Ellis, and house mom Rebecca Butler. (Absent from photo, house dad Kurt Goddard.)



SUBMITTED PHOTO

THE BUDDY SYSTEM

Mel Mackenzie, on the ladder, and Paul Kaye, holding the ladder, had the job of decorating the high spots at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Minto, for the Christmas season.

COMPANION DIOCESE OF HO

Ho's food adventures

BY HEATHER MILLER

Many people don't travel well; that's not me. I'm not fussy and I love to try new things and explore.

I don't travel first class, but I consider clean sheets and bottled water my necessities.

When I have travelled to the Diocese of Ho in Ghana, our companion diocese, three times now, I relish each encounter with the people and places I visit. I always wish I could stay longer and really get to belong there. However, I am only a cherished guest.

There are many great things to experience in Ghana, and one is the food. As a guest you are treated to some interesting choices, and you are never sure if this is what the Ghanaians eat regularly or serve to those not familiar with the local cuisine.

My favorite foods are those we try on the road, buying from local vendors and usually very fresh and tasty. Great snacks are plantain chips, roasted tiger nuts, fresh corn and cassava buns (like our donuts) and cassava cinnamon buns.

When you travel with Bishop Matthias, lunch often consists of these foods, and maybe starvation influences your tastebuds! On my last trip on the return drive to Accra, Angela, the bishop's daughter, purchased some kenkey from a roadside vendor.

This is fermented corn

dough baked in a plantain leaf and is very popular. I found this food bland and chewy so I could only try a few bites.

Kebabs are also a favorite fast food and we tried goat kebabs at the agriculture fair in Ho.

It was rather disconcerting as little goats roam free all through the towns and are so cute!

Fresh fruit on the road is the sweetest and most flavourful treat imaginable. Think of the best mango you have ever tasted and double that flavor. Then you are close to the taste of ripe mangos of Ghana.

You need lots of wipes for your fingers and face for this indulgence.

As Bishop Matthias is our guide we pass over many vendors before he chooses the best bananas, oranges, mango or pineapple. Of course this also involves great haggling over the price and the amounts, so you are entertained as well as fed.

When travelling through the diocese, we often have supper at the mission houses. The food offered is very tasty and well cooked. Usually there is a lovely Jollof rice, a spicy pepper sauce with vegetables, chicken or fish, and some coleslaw.

You may get offered some Banku, a cooked fermented corn dough — an acquired taste! The ladies always had a dish of Banku for Bishop Matthias. You eat it with your right hand, dipping it in the pepper

sauce for flavour.

On my last trip to Ghana, we visited the bishop's sister-in-law in Accra. Bishop David and I were each served a bowl of pepper sauce with a whole fish in it and a bag of Banku to accompany the soup.

We ate with our hands because nothing else works very well with this meal, but we were in a "brownout" area of the city so we had very little light to see just what we were consuming. High marks for two brave souls!

Drinks in Ghana can also be an adventure. Palm wine was something we tried and decided against; very strong and harsh flavoured. I preferred the Star beer with my meals in a restaurant and bottled water in homes.

The best treat was coconut milk from the coconuts growing on the tree in the bishop's front yard. I can still see him with a huge machete chopping off the tops of the coconuts and passing us each one to drink.

Lucy, the bishop's wife, also made a drink from ginger and many herbs that she bottled and sold. It sounded very healthy and was refreshing when served cold.

Aside from fresh fruit, I cannot say I had a real dessert in Ho when I visited. What kind of Anglicans are they!

We did visit a site in Agbozume where women were baking cassava cookies in an open-air oven. The cassava was



HEATHER MILLER PHOTOS

Top: Hot pepper sauce being prepared. Bottom: Cassava cookies baked in an outdoor oven.

mixed with coconut to make a cookie that was very tasty, and we enjoyed those on our drive back to Ho.

There were many foods I didn't get to try, or don't think I tried!

That does not change the wonderful experience of dining in Ghana and getting to enjoy the food fresh from the countryside in the company of such a generous people. I miss them all.

Ecumenical celebrations kick off St. Stephen Advent

The Parish of St. Stephen was involved in two ecumenical activities in two days on Nov. 28 and 29.

On the 28th they hosted a Christmas concert in support of two outreaches: We've Got Your Back of St. Stephen, and Uganda's Bishop McAllister College student fees.

A super line-up of choirs, individuals and ensembles from the Union Street Baptist Church, Kirk-McColl United, St. Croix Christian Center, Holy Rosary Roman Catholic, our own Anglican Parish entertained.

As well, special guests Chelsie and Danielle Cob-

bett of Fredericton, 11-year old bag-piper Ian Curran, the Valley Gospel Singers, David Humphries (who also emceed in fine style), and Helga Reiss-Brummitt, rounded out the program that took place at Christ Church in St Stephen.

There were more than 100 in attendance. A free-will offering was received with over \$1,000 raised.

Journey to Bethlehem

On Nov. 29 an annual event - The Journey To Bethlehem - took place at the three churches in Milltown.

Beginning at St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church, more than 100 participants attended

a short service of prayers and singing of Christmas hymns.

From there the pilgrimage moved, walking by candle light to little St. Peter's Anglican Church, where they all squeezed in, standing room only.

Archdeacon John Matheson lead another short service of prayers and singing.

Then the pilgrimage went on to the St. Croix Christian Center for yet another small service, followed by fellowship and refreshments.

Both events served as an outstanding show of unity among denominations to kick off the season of Advent.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

David Humphries was emcee during the Nov. 28th Christmas concert at Christ Church in St. Stephen.

PARISH OF STANLEY NEWS

St. Thomas, Stanley celebrates 136 years

All Saints Day for the Anglican Parish of Stanley is forever marked as a day of reflection. It was on this day 136 years ago that the first service was held in Saint Thomas Anglican church.

This year, a re-enactment of events leading up to Nov. 1, 1879 was presented by parishioners using a skit written by Betty MacGillivray. She gathered material from the Diocesan Archives.

"The Diocesan Archives is a wonderful source of our history," said Betty.

"This was an opportunity to look into our past and we are in awe of the accomplishments of our forefathers. The skit was just a small part of historical events."

Under the leadership of the Rev. W.O. Raymond, who was newly appointed to Stanley, plans for a church to replace a dysfunctional school/church were formulated.

Rev. Raymond's father, Lt.-Col. Raymond of Woodstock, designed and directed the

construction.

Beginning in January 1879, the building was completed in time for the All Saints Service of the same year.

The skit, quoting from church documents, was presented by a cast dressed in period costume.

Jason Humble played the role of Rev. Raymond, while other cast members portrayed individuals and families who were significantly involved at that time. Names like Clarkson, Waugh, Douglass and Logan are just a few.

By doing the skit, we learned much that gave us pride and admiration of our ancestors, who with so little, constructed this beautiful house of God.

It was in using the resources of the area and the talents of the people that, when completed, cost \$2,000, although the building was debt-free.

The beautiful font and altar are all we have from the previous church.

Monies were needed but

early on it was decided that the people would work out the amount of their subscriptions.

The rate was \$1 per day's work and \$2 for a man and team. Most of the materials were acquired through subscription.

Many gifts were received, but the most significant was the East window, gifted by His Lordship, Bishop Medley.

This window, it is recorded, had at one time been the West window of Christ Church Cathedral.

On Jan. 7, 1880, Saint Thomas Church was consecrated by the Metropolitan.

Saint Thomas had been the name given to the previous church, believed to be named after the bishop's parish church in Exeter, England.

The ceremony was attended by nine priests from churches in and around Fredericton as well as members from the Cathedral Choir.

Reflecting upon the accomplishments of the Stanley community in 1879, it is almost



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Parishioners assumed the roll of forefathers, telling their part in the construction of Saint Thomas church. Front row, from left: Bill Moss acted the part of David Douglass; Martin Fullarton was Mr. Waugh; Wayne MacKinnon was Mr. Clarkson and Kyle Kirby became John Douglass. Back row, from left: Heather Logan fittingly filled the roll of Mrs. Logan and Jason Humble was the Rev. Raymond, priest in 1879.

incomprehensible to us given the resources of that time.

It is humbling to realize the sacrifices made to give us this

house of God when today we find so many churches struggling to fill their pews and meet their operation costs.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Who is Jesus?

BY BETTY MACGILLIVRAY

Who is Jesus? This is a question many may have asked themselves when they came to "Visit the Crèche" on Nov. 7 at Saint Thomas Anglican Church in Stanley.

The birth of Jesus, portrayed in the 176 different displays,

made one ponder:

Was He rich? — many figures were elaborate. Was He poor? — some displays were simple, homemade and constructed with love and understanding.

What nationality was he? — the figures have quite different appearances, the dress varies and features differ.

Is it amazing that for over 2,000 years we have celebrated the birth of a child, born as the Son of God.

We lovingly portray the Holy family in the dress of the East and their shelter is

humble.

Will we see the parallels in the plight of refugee families? Do we welcome them saying "yes, we will give you room."

Simeon in Luke, chapter 2 says of Jesus, "Mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared before the face of all people."

Does this not give credence to why we, as Christians who celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, must open our hearts to the less fortunate this Christmas season?



EPISCOPAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dec. 1 The Rev. Wandlyn Snelgrove has been appointed Mothers' Union diocesan chaplain.

...

Dec. 1 On Christ the King Sunday, Bishop David announced a new name for the

former Saint James church, Lakewood, in the Parish of Fundy and the Lakes: **the Church of Christ The King.**

...

Nov. 24 Bishop David has recommended the appointment of **Commander David**

Peer as the Diocese of Fredericton's representative to the Atlantic School of Theology Senate. David is also a postulant in the diocese. If approved, his term will run until Aug. 31, 2018 with the possibility of a three-year renewal.

...

Nov. 24 Bishop David has extended the appointment of **Stephen MacMackin** to the Atlantic School of Theology Board of Governors. The new term will run until June 2019.

...

Nov. 10 The Rev. **Christopher Ketch** is appointed Diocesan Refugee Response Coordinator.

...

Nov. 10 The Rev. **Deacon Debbie Edmondson** is appointed Diocesan Representative to Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada).

...

Nov. 10 The Ven. **Rob Marsh** is appointed to the Board of Directors of Safe Harbour Transitional Youth Services, following the resignation from the Board of the Rev. Rob Salloum.

MUSIC COLUMN

Don't ignore the missed gems of 2015

Please, Lord, let those who listen to music *not* depend solely on this article for their news and enlightenment! There is simply so much more out there than I could ever attempt to touch here, and so many more genres that exist beyond the scope of this particular monthly column.

If you have been reading this little column faithfully, then I hope you will have at least found something new to test out over the months and years. Obviously, the music projects chosen for review here are chosen in a very biased manner; namely, my own preferences.

Even then, there are some albums and projects that slip by, and so this month, I shall attempt to at least draw a few of them out into the light. Accordingly, here are some of what I call the missed gems of



2015.

Jon Foreman, lead singer of the excellent hard rock band Switchfoot, recently took on a rather incredible project. He wrote music for four short albums (EPs) that are collectively called The Wonderlands.

Each EP contains six songs (OK, an extra one showed up on Darkness), making for a total of 25 pieces. The idea is that there is a song for every hour of the day.

Jon must not be judged by the lack of complexity of his band. He is a deep thinker, with a huge heart for others,



especially the downtrodden (as evidenced by his work with orphaned children in California).

He is also gifted with words; Jon is poet of exceptional depth of thought, and has created a project which, I believe, will stand the test of time.

Often the music is acoustic with a solo instrument of some sort (clarinet, sax or even cello). Scripture quotes and references abound, as the whole project calls us to use our time well, and at the same time thanking God for the gift of that time in the first place. Listen to all four EPs, in order,

and you will have spent your time well.

Toby Mac, who set records with his earlier album, Eye On It, was back this year with a new release in August, called This Is Not a Test.

He is much more than a rapper; this album features EDM, rock, jazz, and even a little Jamaican flavour in its music.

Toby continues to have fun in this project, and welcomes guest artists Jamie Grace, his own son Truett, and the rest of Toby Mac's former band, dc Talk, who recorded a song together for the first since 2007. It was another strong project for an artist that refuses to slow down.

Canadian worship band The City Harmonic returned with their third album this year, simply entitled, We Are. It was a risk, not only because a third album will show if a band

really has longevity in this industry or not, but also because they chose to do an album full of anthems.

11 songs of full on heavy drums, loud choruses, big powerful guitars, and soaring melodies often get tiring fast, but they somehow pull it off, to both critical and popular success.

This band just might be around for awhile, if record sales, fresh material, and God have anything to say about it.

These three are just a few of the gems that still lurk in the releases of 2015. Check out some of these recordings from the past year, and keep looking for new ones, or new to you, whatever year they might have come out!

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



Dylan Nicoll, Camp Medley alumni, Diocesan Council youth rep, resident of Bishop's Court

- Favourite book of the Bible** - Acts
- Provenance (birthplace)** – Saint John, N.B.
- What you love most about God** – His love is the hope of what's to come
- Favourite place on Earth** - Upper Gagetown, N.B.
- Farthest you've been from home** – Roatan, Honduras
- Favourite meal or dessert** - Pie
- Biggest fear** – Falling off of ladders
- Hidden talent** – I don't know; it's still hidden
- Favourite movie or book** – Movie, Star Wars; book, Surprised by Hope, by N.T. Wright
- Your hobby** – Ball hockey
- Three things always in your fridge** – Eggs, cheese, strawberry jam
- Favourite sports team** - New Jersey Devils

Did you know? – Ordination of women

The first woman ordained to the priesthood in the Anglican Communion was Florence Li Tim-Oi, who was ordained on Jan. 25, 1944 by Ronald Hall, Bishop of Victoria, Hong Kong in response to the crisis among Anglican Christians in China caused by the Japanese invasion.

To avoid controversy, she resigned her licence (though not her priestly orders) after the end of the war.

In 1971, the Synod of Hong Kong and Macao became the first Anglican province to officially permit the ordination of women to the priesthood.

Jane Hwang and Joyce Bennett were ordained as priests by Bishop Gilbert Baker. At the same time, Li Tim-Oi was officially recognized again as a priest.

See Through the Scriptures workshop with Bishop David Edwards

Saturday, January 16
9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Trinity Church
853 Main St. Sussex

Lunch is provided by the ACW - free-will offering -

Workbook - \$20 at the door. Having the workbook is recommended; couples can share.

Please pre-register: anglican.nb.ca/register

Snow date is Jan. 30.

Perhaps you were born for such a time as this.
Esther 4:14

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRIES

Ambitious 2016 schedule for youth

BY JASON SMITH

It's hard to believe that 2015 is gone and we are now in 2016! The YIG team is very excited for the upcoming year and moving forward with God's plan for youth and inter-generational ministries within the Diocese of Fredericton.

We had a great 2015 year and we want to continue the momentum started since the Youth Matters events. In 2016 we want to reach out to parishes to mentor, support and help develop leaders.

With that, communication is key and the YIG team would like to tentatively introduce our upcoming events and how each one can help you and your parish out.

We are in the early stages of developing our year-long mission and some of the information below may change.

We do not have all the dates confirmed yet. However, more information will be available in the NB Anglican, eNews and through email correspondence.

Winter-Spring 2016

Archdeaconry Coffeehouse Conversations – The YIG team will be having a coffee-house style evening in each of the seven archdeaconries to figure out the needs, strengths and weaknesses regarding youth ministry in that particular area.

Discussions may include, what is and what isn't working



MCKNIGHT FILE PHOTO

Camp Medley, seen here, is just one of several events and destinations for youth in the diocese in 2016. The Youth and Intergenerational Group has a lot of plans for the year, including sending kids to Camp Brookwood, Camp Medley, TEC, CLAY and several other events.

in the areas, how the YIG team can support you and sharing stories and resources.

Spring 2016

Youth Mission Conference – A youth conference focusing on mission is still in the planning stage but in the early spring, Camp Medley will host an overnight conference for youth in middle and high school in how to walk in mission.

This conference will include

workshops, guest speakers and much more.

Summer 2016

Summer is always a busy time regarding youth ministry. Most of these events are important foundation blocks for these young disciples as they continue or even begin their Christian journey.

Teens Encounter Christ, May 20-23 (Victoria Day weekend) – This is an annual

weekend for youth aged 16-21 that provides an opportunity to get away from the stress and pressures of school and work; where you can experience living with others in a Christian community.

This is a series of talks, discussions, worship through live music and presentations, all given by peers. TEC is a weekend free of judgement to seek out who Jesus is.

Camp Medley – please visit

<http://campmedley.ca/camps/> for information on their 2016 schedule.

Camp Brookwood – please visit <http://www.campbrookwood.ca/> for information on their 2016 schedule

St. Michael's Youth Conference, August dates TBA – Celebrating its 30th year, St. Michael's is a six-day camp of intense Anglican and theological mentoring by a host of priests and professionals through a combination of morning lessons, afternoon recreation and worship.

CLAY 2016 – Aug. 17-21 in Charlottetown, PEI – Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth gathering. Please see the article in the December edition of the NB Anglican. More information to come in the February edition.

Fall 2016

Diocesan Youth Ministry Conference, October – With the success of the 2015 conference, the second annual youth leader ministry conference will feature new workshops, guest speakers and time to share and connect.

Canadian Youth Worker Conference (CYWC), November – Baptist-run, leaders' training conference which features keynotes, variety of workshops, worship and more.

If you have questions regarding the upcoming schedule or a question for the YIG team, email Jason Smith (jasonsmith1214@gmail.com).

Fear Not! George Eves will help you conquer the Old Testament

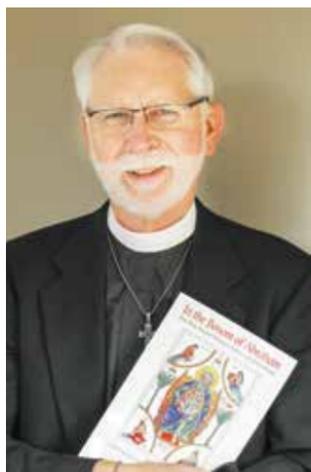
BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Always wanted to delve into the Old Testament, but were too intimidated to open it up?

The Rev. Canon George Eves acknowledges that once we get beyond the familiarity of Genesis and Exodus, our enthusiasm for kings, battles, prophets and visions can wane.

He's done something to remedy that — a decade's labour to write a book called *In the Bosom of Abraham: How Three Ancient Promises Embrace the Biblical Story: Part One: From Creation to the Morning Star of New Creation*.

"I've been thinking about



this for 20 some years," he joked. "I spent 10 years writing it, so I have to sell 30,000 copies to make minimum wage!"

The book's roots are in his

sermons preached at Stone Church in Saint John during his 12 years there.

Those sermons formed some of the content of a course he taught at Threshold Ministries when a suitable textbook could not be found. With other material added, it all came together to form the book, his second.

"The widest target is Christian people keen on the Bible who have difficulty with the Old Testament," he said.

The three promises the title alludes to are the promises God gave Abraham: land, many descendants and a blessing to all nations through his family.

"I trace all that from cre-

ation," said George.

The title implies a follow-up book, which would pick up where this one leaves off, with a vision of the New Creation, he said. That will come if this book is successful.

Looking back through his old sermons and lectures, the research came with a real blessing.

"I found out so much," he said. "I was blown away. The product is a lot of insight. I can only describe it as coming from the Lord."

The book is available in print and ebook formats on Amazon.ca. To sample the content of the book, go to <http://wipfandstock.com/in->

the-bosom-of-abraham.html and click on "Look Inside."

However, the best buy is from George himself for only \$40, a savings of \$15 off the list price.

George's contact information: george.eves.gup@gmail.com or 506-847-4619.

The Rev. Canon George Eves, 69, was called to Stone Church in Saint John in 1987. After 12 years there, he became a teacher of biblical studies at Threshold Ministries. He retired in 2011, but continued to work as a part-time priest at St. Luke's in the Parish of Gondola Point, near Saint John. He has been their interim priest for 13 years, but retired in December.