

THE DIOCESAN TIMES



DECEMBER 2020 A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

Serving the Anglican Church in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island



Photo: Inspired by the Gospel of Matthew 25:40, this sculpture is a visual representation of Charity. It tells us that we need to see Christ in the poor and the hungry and that we should see our acts of kindness to them as kindness to Him.

When I was Hungry and Thirsty

BY SUSAN DRAIN

Out of the blue this summer, Dean Paul Smith received a telephone call from Timothy Schmaltz offering the Cathedral one of his life-size bronze sculptures. Working from small-town Ontario, Schmaltz has seen his works installed in many public places as far flung as Rome, Washington DC, Dublin, and Singapore. His best-known piece, "Homeless Jesus," is a bundled life-size figure sleeping on a bench, his bare feet showing the marks of nails. It has, not surprisingly, been a topic of controversy, but the challenge to passersby and the representation of Christ as one of the "least of these his brethren" is very moving. One cast of the Homeless Jesus has been in the forecourt of Christ Church Anglican Cathedral in Ottawa since 2018.

The statue being offered (and which Council voted to accept) is called "When I was Hungry and Thirsty" and shows figure like that of the Homeless Jesus with his hand out-stretched toward the viewer. Schmaltz told the Dean that he had chosen All Saints Cathedral because of our mission statement, and because of our neighbourhood.

You can see the sculpture at <https://www.sculpturebytps.com/large-bronze-statues-and-sculptures/when-i-was-hungry-thirsty/> and read more about Timothy Schmaltz's art and mission at <https://www.ncronline.org/news/media/timothy-schmalzs-sculptures-are-only-shocking-gospels>

The final details of the arrangement are being worked on but a mid-November installation is anticipated.

We love to say "YES!"



By REV. CANON JUDY ROIS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
ANGLICAN FOUNDATION

At AFC we love, more than anything, to say Yes! and to help our parishes imagine more. The Foundation has been saying yes steadily and unfailingly—through good times and bad—for more than sixty years.

In the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, since 2010, we have said Yes! to nearly \$450,000 in grants and loans for your parishes. The vast majority of that has been invested

in buildings and programs, including projects that reduce barriers and make it possible for those with mobility issues to continue to participate in church life and some of the most dynamic after-school programming in the Canadian church.

Additionally, AFC has funded the National Justice Camp, the purchase and installation of high density, mobile shelving to house diocesan archival records, an after-school program called, Musical Friends, renovations to facilities at St. Anne's Camp, and 3 grants to YouthNet, an after-school program for teens. AFC's commitment to theological education resulted in \$65,000 of bursaries to students at Acadia Divinity College and the Atlantic School of Theology. AFC also granted AST a total of \$15,000 for repairs in the residence buildings.

This past May, in spite of the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis and the impact on AFC's investment portfolio, we said Yes! to St. John's Church in Westphal, Dartmouth, Capella Regalis Men and Boys Choir, Halifax, and an eco-loo in the Anglican Parish of French Village, Upper Tantallon.

For nearly ten years now as Executive Director of the Foundation, I've had a front row seat to some of the Canadian church's best ideas: the ministries and programs parish visionaries might undertake if only they had some strategic funding to help them get started. Knowing what I know about the innovative and compassionate character of the church, nationally, I cannot help but feel hopeful about the future.

Please be assured that AFC will continue to be a force for stability: we have been there and will continue to be there no matter what the future may hold. In order for AFC to remain strong and vibrant,

however, I am asking those who can continue to partner with us to do so. If you are a member, I ask you to renew your membership. If you have never been a member of the Foundation before, please accept this invitation to pay-it-forward.

The social and economic impact of COVID-19 on people and communities will undoubtedly give rise to compassionate and innovative responses on the part of our churches. To those currently discerning how to meet a real and pressing need in their communities—faithful leaders in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island among them—we want to respond as generously as

possible.

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

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



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COLUMNIST

Fruitcakes and bright red bows to share



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All material subject to editing.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

The first day of the month BEFORE the month of publication: e.g., the deadline for the March edition is February 1st.

Life continues to chug along in the midst of the pandemic. Thanksgiving came and went; Hallowe'en came and went. All Saint's Day came and went, and Advent has arrived. It amazes me how life just goes on with or without our input. We always thought that it was so important to have a fall Bazaar, to have the church filled with the fruits of harvest on Thanksgiving Sunday, for the Men's Club to hold their Roast Beef dinner in early November. Thanksgiving came, the Bazaar date came, and early November came ...and went.



ST. BART'S BY THE BOG

Sarah Neish

All of these events that seemed to give our lives as a parish structure have been absent this year and yet.... Advent is here. Christmas is coming! No amount of 'Covid 19' fear will stop Christmas from coming. We need to prepare for the coming as we do every year. Father Jason has been doing his best to spur us into action both in the parish and in our own homes. His sermons have been filled with messages of hope and the promise of the Baby Jesus.

We are now singing (softly as ordered by Dr. Strang) the beautiful hymns of the Advent season. Many have taken on the old-fashioned job of making Christmas cakes filled with rum soaked dried fruits and nuts. Jason made a special note of "Stir-up Sunday" and some of us were asked to bring the 'makings' of our cakes to be blessed at the offertory.

We will age the goodies over the month of December and share them with many of our older members who

no longer feel up to the task of Christmas baking. Jason says he will deliver the baked treats when he does his Christmas shut-in home communion visits. Sounds like a wonderful idea and one that will send a ray of hope into the community in this very strange and different Christmas season.

My Orin and a few of his buddies plan to go out to cut the boughs we use to decorate St. Bart's. He says if I can break my arms mixing all that fruit and rum into cakes to share then he and 'the boys' (none of them under the age of 70) can take a morning to cut spruce branches for the church. He says it wouldn't be Christmas without a huge wreath on the front door of the church. A huge wreath with a big red bow!

We won't be blessed with houses filled with family this year. The sounds of laughter will come to us via "Face time" calls and email messages from family. The turkeys will be as small as they were on Thanksgiving day, the pies will be fewer

too. We plan to share our Christmas dinner with a couple down the road who are completely alone. We will deliver their hot dinners and they will exchange the plates of roast turkey for desserts they have made so that we really are sharing our feast. The rectory family will be well fed when Irene James and her husband bring their yuletide feast up the driveway for the family. Benny Smith will be there at the rectory to share in the meal and we can be assured that he will have any and all snow cleared away from the front doors of the church so that we can gather ...masks in place... to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

It will be different, it will be strange in many ways but it will be so reassuring to hear the message of Christmas in our parish church and we will sing (softly as per Dr. Strang's orders) the wonderful carols of hope and faith and new birth and we will pray that next year finds us all back in our pews, without masks.

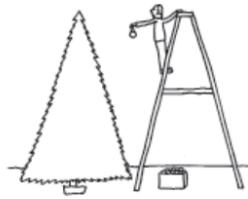
I'll keep you posted;
Aunt Madge.

THE CHRISTMAS CHECKLIST

FOR CHURCHES



DIG OUT THE CRIB FIGURES



DECORATE THE TREE AND CHURCH



CHOOSE PEOPLE TO READ THE LESSONS



MAKE SURE THE CHOIR IS READY



DELIVER THE CHRISTMAS PUBLICITY LEAFLETS



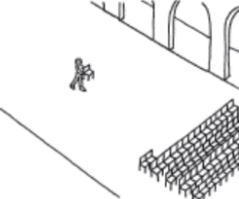
CLEAN EVERYWHERE



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Dave Walker cartoonchurch.com

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Teach Us to Pray:

Advent, awe and anticipation



REV. FRANCES DROLET-SMITH
DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVE, THE
ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER



Image of an old-fashioned Christmas card.

“Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love Divine; Love was born at Christmas, Star and Angels gave the sign.”

When I was a child, my family lived for a time in Soest, a town in the North Rhine area of western Germany. My father was part of a garrison of Canadian

soldiers stationed at Soest and we made our home there for 3 memorable years. Though I was only 7 or 8 at the time, my recollections are vivid: cobblestone streets, timbered houses, a bustling market square, numerous medieval churches, impressive fortifications – even a gate and portcullis! and 6-metre thick stone walls which encircled the town.

My first memories of

celebrating Advent are from that time. In late November, we’d bought a fresh bough wreath at the market, fitted with candles, three purple and one pink. We added a scripture reading and short prayer to the “usual” blessing at our evening meal – and, of course, a candle lighting. With our German and Canadian neighbours, we celebrated “Nikolaustag”, St. Nicholas Day, on December 6 – made unforgettable by a visit to our home by a very tall, (though rather thin by “Santa Claus” standards) jovial Bishop, dressed in an elegant blue velvet, fur-lined coat and stocking cap (more practical than a mitre in frigid night air), with high leather boots, white gloves and a beautifully carved crozier. From a leather bag on his shoulder, he dispensed German chocolate, clementines and traditional Pfeffernüsse cookies – tasty morsels, spiced with anise, ginger, cardamon and white pepper. The visit filled me with awe and anticipation that still comes with every Advent.

It was during our first Advent in Soest that I received a 45-rpm vinyl record of a British children’s choir singing what has since become a kind of anthem for my Advent preparations: “Love Came Down at Christmas”, a poem set to music, written in 1885 by Christina Rossetti. Her direct and earnest lyrics capture the simplicity, and the mystery, of the Incarnation: that God’s prodigious generosity was made manifest in the humblest of ways: a babe born in a stable, born to change the course of human

history, to heal fractured relationships between neighbours and to usher in an imperishable bond with God. As quoted in *The Message*, “The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood” (John 1:14). That is, “Love came down” to live among us, to live with us, and this Divine Love, this all encircling, infinite, intimate grace is freely given.

As this deceptively simple poem / hymn moves towards its final lines, Christina Rossetti issues the real challenge of our Advent preparation: how best to greet this Eternal Love made human? What difference does our encountering such a Love make in how we live our lives and where does it lead us?

How do you describe the indescribable beauty and grace of Divine Love? We can’t, at least not in any adequate way, but should spur us on into action – not for our own sake, or solely for those already within our sphere, but for those unlike us, those in need, those alone, or hungry or afraid.

As this strange, bewildering year draws to a close, may our Advent prayer be one of awe, anticipation and action – for such a Love as this is the only fitting response to Emmanuel: “God here among us”, bringing us all to light - and to life.

REV. FRANCES DROLET-SMITH
DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVE, THE
ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

CORRECTION from November edition: Canon Russell Elliott was 103 on his birthday this year.

Strive for Five



REV LAURA MARIE PIOTROWICZ
RECTOR, ST. JOHN’S, LUNENBURG

Around this time of year, we more frequently see the image of the pregnant Mary - a mother-to-be with rounded belly, with that special glow, often laughing. It’s beautiful, and evokes all the ‘warm-fuzzies’ that we embrace as we experience our Advent journey together.

Imagine, however, if an unmarried pregnant teenager walked into our church building on a Sunday morning, alone with her bag, in evident discomfort as her time to be delivered draws near. Would we embrace her with the same enthusiasm?

For the majority of society, we would not: there is a fierce stigma attached to teen mothers, comments of

‘babies having babies’ are common, harsh judgement on disaster TV shows like “Teen Moms”. Society finds new ways to blame the mother, often choosing to overlook the biological requirements to achieving pregnancy: “It takes two to tango” as they say.

Yet teen pregnancy is not a new thing, and it’s not something that is going away. The need for comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and education continues, especially in rural communities and areas experiencing lower financial resources. And while numbers are decreasing, the Canadian average of 25 pregnancies per 1000 females aged 15-19 means teen pregnancies

are not rare. (The impact of COVID on teen pregnancy rates is not yet analysed/ reported)

But when that pregnant teen is in our midst, we can choose to put aside our desire for knowledge about the circumstances of the pregnancy (it’s not our business), and our societally normative harsh tongue of judgement. Planned or not, an expectant mother is worthy of love and respect, of Christian charity and compassion. For she will bear a miracle, a child of God, a beloved member of our human family.

Perhaps this year, the journey with Mary can remind us of the journeys of so many young women in our communities

who are also struggling: and we can be the presence of love they deserve.

For more information on teen pregnancy education and support resources, contact public health at novascotia.ca/dhw/publichealth/phs-offices.asp princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/health



Communication as art

It could be argued that good Communication is an art form, no matter your lingua franca, culture or ethnicity. The goal is to speak, listen, validate, understand, collect information, so that a positive benefit for all occurs. Concerning communication, there are both good and bad forms. A tone, facial expression, wrong choice of words, putting words into someone else's mouth, lack of listening, interrupting, can create dreadful problems.

Given this, allow me an abrupt change of pace. I loved geometry. As a concrete visual learner, It would have been my best subject if it hadn't been for the math involved :).

Human relationships often have a triangular connection. Unfortunately, these are not always functional or healthy. For example: John did not want to go to Botswana for a long-planned family holiday. He was so adamant that instead of trying to convince his wife directly, he went behind her back to his oldest son Carl. He convinced Carl to tell mom that it was a bad idea to travel to Africa, as it was a place of disease, war and famine, coups, dangerous animals and people. John was successful in getting what he wanted until his wife found out that he was in a triangle



BRYAN HAGERMAN

with his son Carl. Then a huge family dispute broke out. That is called triangulation. In family life children learn from an early age the dark art of triangulation. It comes about when they play one parent off over the other, when it comes to something they want. Parents do the same with their offspring. But and again it is often a dysfunctional way of communication. In politics and in the media, it happens all the time.

According to Wikipedia: **“Triangulation is a manipulation tactic where one person will not communicate directly with another person, instead using a third person to relay**

communication to the second, thus forming a triangle. It also refers to a form of splitting in which one person manipulates a relationship between two parties by controlling communication between them.”

This type of triangulation is not a proper way of resolving issues or of communication between individuals in community. To do so creates distrust, negativity, disunity, and toxicity. It is manipulative a form of communication.

Another form of triangulation is gossip. The Bible says a lot about this too. Gossip can create tremendous negative emotional impact when it is discovered. According to the Cambridge online English Dictionary, Gossip is: **“Conversation or reports about other peoples’ private lives that might be unkind, disapproving or untrue.”** The scriptures speak a great deal about gossip.

“Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down. As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome person for kindling strife. The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts.” Proverbs 26(20-22).

It could be argued that the best way of conflict resolution is the old school way of communication. Two people sit down, face to face, and examine their grievances with no one else in the room. This is not only the best form for resolution it is the Christian Biblical form. We are told how to do this within the church.

“If your brother or sister sins, (against you) go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.” Matthew 18:15

The only healthy form of triangulation in the church is when we go to the elders, and then the church for mediation and hopefully resolution. And in human community relations if the one on one does not work, we bring someone else into the resolution who is respected by both parties. Someone who has both people's best interests at heart.

Within the world of clinical psychotherapy, a therapist often guides people in learning how to listen, and how to best communicate to each other. This is an art, that when practiced to the point of being habituated, creates conversation and communication that is clear, open and transparent.

Relationships are strengthened when we work at being on the same page emotionally when communicating.

Some of the key issues are;

- a) listening with the heart and head,
- b) mirroring back what you think you heard,
- c) eye contact,
- d) speaking to the source of a conflict, perceived or real,
- e) caring for the other better than yourself,
- f) honesty and transparency, openness in conversation.

And this is just the tip of the iceberg.

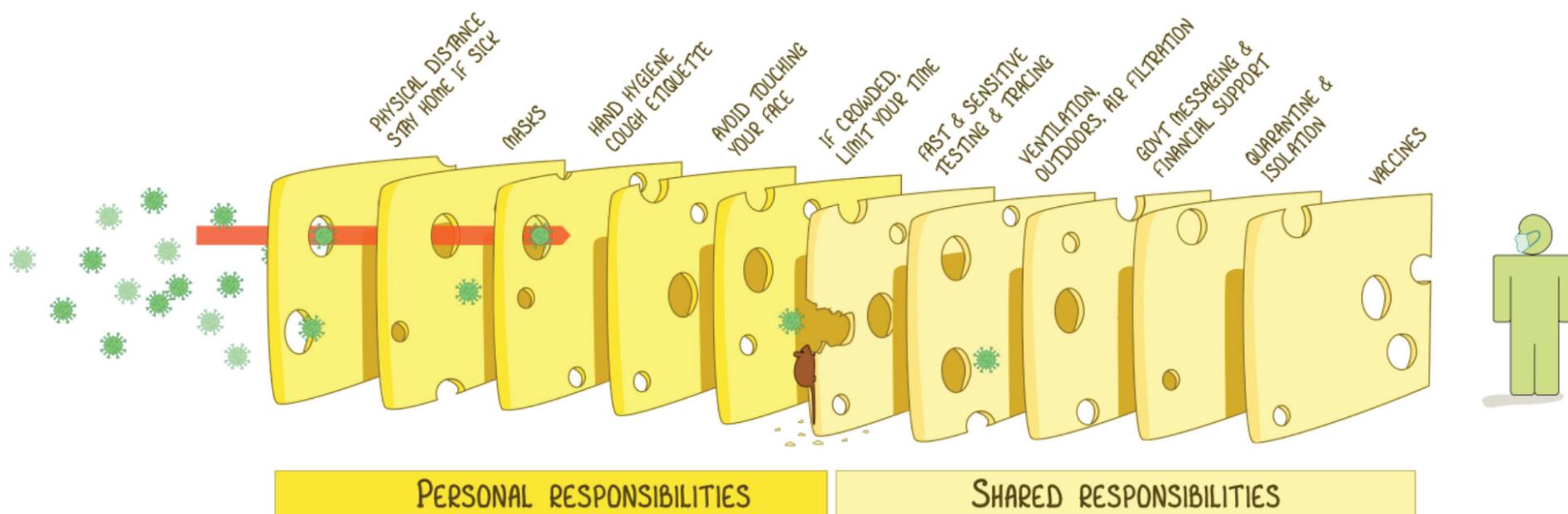
Communication is an art form. One could argue that in marriage, family, and close friendships, it makes up 80 % of the relationship. Triangles generally don't work. Relationships based upon a desire to achieve ongoing harmony and unity comes out of caring for the other more than you care for yourself. Then we have the beginning of the best most productive use of art form.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.” Phil 2:3

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Survive, thrive, lead:

Daring to fail greatly and grow greatly



Photo Credit: Martin Sattler, Unsplash

By Cathy Lee Cunningham, Rector, Church of the Good Shepherd, Beaver Bank

“Advent and Christmas are about a new world. They are thus intrinsically about eschatology....eschatology is about the divine transformation of our earth. It is not about some mass immigration from a doomed world to a blessed heaven. Rather, it is about the end of this era of war and violence, injustice, and oppression. It is about the earth’s transformation, not about its devastation. It is about a world of justice and peace.”

Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan, *The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach us About Jesus’ Birth*, p.240

DARING TO FAIL GREATLY

I have a coffee mug that I purchased several years ago, at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston (one of my favourite places on earth!) On the mug is inscribed a quote from Robert F. Kennedy, J.F.K.’s brother:

“Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.”

I use the mug every single day to remind me that of all the things I think I have failed at, with the right attitude, what I have learned from my own mistakes becomes the bridge over which I cross to “try, try again” until I succeed in adding just a little more peace and a little more justice to the Kingdom of God that is here and now and yet to come. It reminds me that although the greatest leaders in history

failed many more times than they succeeded, they kept going, and from their own mistakes, they learned, grew, became stronger, better, closer to God. Through that learning, they built what is now our present. Through our own learning, we will build on those foundations and add our gifts to the great tapestry of servant leadership woven through time and space by them, a living testament to our belief, hope, and work as God’s children — that light triumphs over darkness.

THE GROWING EDGES

In his book, *The Top Ten Mistakes Leaders Make*, Hans Finzel gave us one of the great classics on servant leadership and a holy process for reflecting on our weaknesses. I like to call my own weaknesses my “growing edges”.



Rev. Cathy Lee Cunningham

In order to get to the growth part, three things need to happen:

1. Acknowledge the weakness;
2. Commit to learn from it;
3. Change what I’m doing, change course, change my very self.

It is indeed an often-painful fact that on our journey of faith, in our striving to realize as much of the kingdom of God in the here and now that we possibly can, we will make mistakes. MANY mistakes. What determines the future outcome is how we choose to use those mistakes as a catalyst for change. I have come to see them as sacred bridges to a better self, a better community, a better world. Here are Finzel’s

TEN MOST COMMON MISTAKES THAT SERVANT LEADERS MAKE:

1. The top-down attitude — the number one leadership hang-up
2. Putting paperwork before peoplework — confessions of a type a personality
3. The absence of affirmation — what could be better than encouragement?
4. No room for mavericks — they bring us the future!
5. Dictatorship in decision making — getting beyond “I know all the answers”
6. Dirty delegation — refusing to relax and let go
7. Communication chaos — singing from the same page in the hymnal
8. Missing the clues of organizational culture — the unseen killer of many leaders
9. Success without successors — planning your departure the day you start

10. Failure to focus on the future — prepare yourself — it’s later than you think

GO TO THE BALCONY: AN INVITATION TO SELF-COMPASSION

Now, if you found it painful to read the list because you have found (or find) yourself having made one — or all ten — of these mistakes, for the love of all things holy, remember to have compassion for yourself. If the list raised resistance for you, keep going. Don’t be afraid, rather, reframe your thinking in a positive way so that you don’t use the list to beat you or leaders in your parish up, but to get on that growing edge and....GROW. Think of yourself as an outside observer of your feelings and behaviours. In conflict resolution, we call this “going to the balcony”. We make a conscious practice of doing what we need to do to calm down, so we can see more clearly where God is calling us to go.

It’s kind of like hovering above the situation to gain a broader perspective. For now, meditate on the picture with the article — clear steeple on top, foggy below. Do what you can to raise your mind out of the fog. Once you’ve made your way out of the fog, to “the balcony,” take a compassionate, honest look at your leadership practices. Observe any uncomfortable feelings that may arise as God calling you to push through your discomfort, explore what’s coming up for you with love, and think about how you might use these revelations as a holy opportunity. Take a moment — or an hour, or a day — to talk with God about what you’re feeling and God WILL speak to you. Remind yourself that not one of us is perfect. We’re here to learn. Jesus is perfect and He always loves us, especially when we commit to grow through our mistakes. In the *January Issue*, I continue my exploration of these *Ten Mistakes That Leaders Make*, by going deeper into them one by one through to Easter, through of the waters of baptism.

Photo Credit: Martin Sattler, Unsplash

If you need any help, assistance or resource suggestions to move through this time of pandemic, contact me directly at cathylee@cathyleecunningham.com and find me on social media @ [vocapeace](https://www.instagram.com/vocapeace).

MISSION (is) POSSIBLE:

Diocesan stories of people responding to God's call

The prayer corner



Photo: St. Mark's Community Prayer Box is a missional opportunity made possible through the ministry gifts of Gordon Cooper, Bob Barnes and Doug Mullenger.

By REV. CANON LISA G. VAUGHN

Being missional is often about doing simple things that have a great impact. Many of our congregations in the Diocese are undertaking a variety of smaller initiatives that are making a difference. St. Mark's, Halifax and their rector, The Rev'd. Nichola Fish-Cumine is one of them.

Leaders in this downtown congregation combined one of their strengths – prayer - with their prime location and connected it to the practical and spiritual needs of the community. On the lawn outside their church, on the bustling corner of Gottingen Street and Russell Street, they established a mission-oriented ministry with a Community

Prayer Box.

“St. Mark's has always been focussed on serving their neighbourhood through advocacy and the food bank, so our vision of mission is perfectly aligned. The Community Prayer Box is a product of our collaboration to love our neighbour,” said Rev. Nichola.

The rector, who was hired to focus on engaging new people with the faith community at St. Mark's, says over the last several months she has been listening and talking with residents and others who frequent the area. She wondered how they could serve people, especially during the turbulent times of COVID.

In September a small team of faithful men in the congregation leapt into action. Parishioner Gordon Cooper constructed the sturdy box. Then he, Doug Mullenger and Bob Barnes installed it. St. Mark's congregation members prayed over it.

“At St. Mark's mission is especially important to us because we understand that it is God's plan for us to bring new believers to Christ and that is our focus in the Hydrostone Community,” the priest explained. “When talking with people ... I kept hearing that people were looking for some way to connect with God during these times of unrest.”

Rev. Nichola says their intention is to be openly hospitable. “We are reaching out to our neighbours who are all members of our parish area, regardless of their beliefs. We love non-believers, the de-churched, unchurched,

spiritual but not religious (SBNR), the seekers, people of different denominations etc. We welcome all requests, prayers, and comments that are dropped into the box.”

Over the weeks scores of prayer requests poured in. Some are signed. Others are anonymous. The odd prayer card includes a phone number and e-mail address. The rector always promptly responds.

“Through our Community Prayer box, we are building a trusting relationship with our neighbours, they are trusting us to pray for their wellbeing, their needs, and their privacy,” said the priest.

When appropriate, some of the neighbourhood prayer requests are shared with St. Mark's congregation during worship. “We are receiving beautiful prayers from our neighbours and praying them during the Prayers of the People. Now, our prayers are truly the Prayers of the People. It is so beautiful to hear our neighbours' concerns, petitions, supplications, and thanks.”

One note expressed gratitude for this gesture of grace during the pandemic. “The person said that our message of hope had ‘saved their soul,’ and given them hope during the lockdown,” shared Rev. Nichola.

Local students are taking advantage of the Community Prayer Box too. “We received prayers at the beginning of the school year asking us to pray for their safety,” she said. “One grade two student asked that we pray for a friend's forgiveness

because they upset them by accident.”

Another day the ministers at St. Mark's received four scribbled prayer requests from a family who were desperately searching for affordable housing.

Of course, not all the messages in the street-side box are positive. Rev. Nichola says there is the odd one that says something unfriendly, but that is still an opportunity to pray for people who are hurting. “We welcome the opportunity to hold them in our hearts and prayers too. God wants us to reach out and love everyone,” she said.

The Community Prayer Box is helping to connect with local downtown folks and to continue to grow St. Mark's parishioners' hearts toward serving the community. “It is producing such spiritual fruit as love, trust, compassion, connection, understanding, listening and praying,” said the pioneering rector.

“It is so especially important to go out into our neighborhoods and listen to what our neighbours need, instead of trying to guess what they need. Yes, it can be scary, but how else do we expect to build connections and trust? When we do this people see the value in what we are doing and will connect in a way that blesses us all.”

Rev. Nichola Fish-Cumine is also participating in the diocesan missional leadership learning cohort, The Connectors TWO.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Sandra Fyfe elected the next Anglican Bishop of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. When consecrated bishop she will be the 17th person to hold the post.

The Service of Consecration is scheduled for Monday, November 30th, 2020 and will

be held at All Saints Cathedral, Halifax.

Inviting Donations for Episcopal Vestments:

Becoming a Bishop can be expensive! In the past, when we've elected a

new Bishop, the Diocese has invited donations from parishes, Parish groups and organizations, and individuals to offset the costs of the special vestments and other items that are required. As we prepare for the consecration of our new Diocesan Bishop on

November 30th, we'd like to do the same.

To make a donation, click on the DONATE tab from any page of the Diocesan website, or click here.

If you'd prefer to make a donation directly to the Diocese or through

your Parish, please send your cheque payable to: Diocese of NS and PEI and note in the memo line that it's for the Episcopal Vestments Fund. You will be issued a charitable receipt by the Diocese. Thank you for your support.



Photo: Residents at Oakwood Terrace Nursing Home knitting poppies and mounting them on a netting.

Creating an online rally & bringing hope to others

BY MARY STONE

By the time you read this the Diocesan Mothers' Union Virtual Fall Rally entitled HOPE will be over. My hope is that it will have been a success.

Mothers' Union rallies have always been a time for members from across the diocese to gather together, to connect, to pray, to listen, to learn, to participate and to enjoy. But this rally would have to be different: the challenge would be to keep the idea of our original rallies and also to do it via an online platform. Using Zoom would give everyone the opportunity to experience the rally and to reconnect with each other. How would we start?

The first step was to select a theme; what did Mothers' Union members need to hear? Words of hope. Mothers' Union is an organization

fuelled by hope. The pandemic has the power to undermine that feeling of hope and the togetherness which binds us together and keeps us motivated. Now would be the time to shine a light on the ways that we can and do instill hope for each other and for our communities – to recognize how this is reflected in the work of Mothers' Union.

The rally plans moved from HOPE as seen in each branch, to HOPE as seen in our Parenting Program in the North and then on to HOPE as exhibited in projects around the world.

Our hopes for the rally were coming together but we were then entering into uncharted waters! How could we make this happen? We needed help... Enter Tanya Moxley, who makes all things technical seem easy. Our hopes were

lifted once again. With Tanya and her Zoom helpers, we were able to use six of the recent Diocesan Electoral Synod sites to host the gathering of branches. Tanya also created an online registration form. We were on our way, feeling hopeful that our members would embrace this idea of an on-site/online rally. Along with speakers, videos, and branch activities, we also threw in door prizes and a silent auction! In the end more than 80 people registered for either on-site gatherings or online. Hope in the future is an integral part of our faith. We lived in hope that the Holy Spirit would guide us in adapting and using this new model.

Mothers' Union branches in NS and PEI are slowly crawling out of their COVID cocoons and beginning to reach out into the community

again. Indeed, one thing that we do know is that, while this pandemic is still with us, we need to find ways of doing our work differently and keeping in contact with those we support in the community.

An example of this can be found with the Mothers' Union members at the Church of the Holy Spirit. They have always made and served a monthly luncheon to residents of the Oakwood Terrace Nursing Home, an event to which the staff and residents always looked forward with much appreciation. Now, with no access to the home, they were not able to continue with this project. However, as it turns out, the residents had undertaken a project, knitting poppies and then mounting them on a netting for display during November. The staff requested help and several Mothers' Union members at

Holy Spirit happily agreed to participate. The banner was displayed at the cenotaph at Sullivan's Pond before and during Remembrance Day. Because the attendance at Remembrance Day services was restricted this year, this display of remembrance and thoughtfulness was even more significant to the veterans and the community. Supporting this project gives hope to the members of the Oakwood Terrace Nursing Home that they have done something significant and are still very much a part of the wider community.

As our Primate Linda Nicholls recently said, "Let us run with faithful perseverance the race marked out for us, facing the challenge of our time in COVID 19...with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone"



Need to be revived?

Battle the winter blahs. Put the joy back into January. Join a group of growers to explore the series **REVIVE**.

Written by a Canadian Anglican (who has family roots at St. Luke's, Dartmouth), Rev. Canon Dr. Dawn Davis designed

this truly dynamic course to be a gift to long-time parishioners. She asks, "How do we go from doing ministry for the church to being in a relationship with this life-giving empowering God? ... Revive aims to provide a supportive structure and community to help that

relationship reignite and come alive!"

Revive is a discipleship program for active lay people who are looking to grow and be spiritually fed. Participants explore prayer, spiritual disciplines, scripture, exciting ministry paths, and are

encouraged to engage in deep questions about faith.

The first module, Communicating with God, runs six weeks. Other modules focus on various ways to study scripture and broadening approaches to ministry.

Revive is being hosted by a Diocesan group and will be held via Zoom. There is no cost, but participation numbers will be limited. Interested? E-mail: lvaughn@nspeidiocese.ca or 902-789-4840.

It's A New Day!

The gift that keeps on giving



Photo: The gift that keeps on giving.

By REV. CANON LISA G. VAUGHN

Several years ago I was given a precious gift. It was when my husband and I were attending an ecumenical clergy retreat just outside Burlington, Ontario. A few years into parish ministry as rector, I was exhausted. It must have been obvious because one morning at breakfast a 30-something woman with a bright countenance politely interrupted our conversation and handed me a piece of paper. She said, "I think you may need this." Not knowing what it was, I thanked her anyway, and she walked away. Opening the loose-leaf ruled slip of paper it simply said, "This may be helpful. Read Exodus 18:13-26."

Turning to the Old Testament passage I rediscovered the text about Moses' father-in-law Jethro, who comes for a visit and sees this great leader sorting out all the people's disputes by himself. Jethro says, "What you are doing is not good. You will surely wear yourself out, both you and these people with you. For the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone."

The wise elder suggests Moses delegate to others and share these responsibilities. He points out that distributing the leadership amongst other respected members not only lightens Moses' workload, but also liberates the community as a whole. More needs of the people are being met in a faster manner. The capacity to do ministry is expanded exponentially and there will be "peace."

Spending time in prayer and reflection with this scriptural gift of permission, I recognized that I needed to make changes about all the ministries I was carrying....mostly alone. As the lead minister in my parish

I recognized it was up to me to relinquish control, identify and raise up leaders and empower them to share in the joy of broader ministries. By choking off the parish's ability to expand ministry I was hurting it.

On the return flight I made a list of the things that only I could do or am most gifted with. The other list was of responsibilities that I was being called to share. A third list included names of faithful men and women in the congregations who may be interested in stepping up and stepping in. I committed these to prayer and approached them personally to consider these leadership roles.

It took a critical sacrifice of time and focused energy to do this. Training, coaching and oversight required my attention. However, this was the best investment of my rector's time and energy, because before too long the ministries began to flourish in fresh ways. As people were being released to join in leadership responsibility, I recognized that I was no longer hindering the ministry as a bottle-neck. The joy and enthusiasm also increased within the various teams.

Admittedly I didn't always establish this new arrangement perfectly, and there was some anxiety that the priest was not attending every meeting and function. However, soon ministries within the parish were humming along and in some cases, expanding. I also discovered that if I trusted God and our people, things would work out fine. It provided me personal breathing room and more margin in case pastoral emergencies arose. I was getting my Sabbath days' rest and I felt liberated from unhelpful expectations



Rev. Lisa G. Vaughn, Diocesan Parish Vitality Coordinator

(mine and others). This was truly a GIFT! A gift that keeps on giving, because it blessed our ministry team, the congregation and most importantly the community, as we had more opportunity for missional impact.

Please note, this is not just a message for clergy (rectors or priests-in-charge). It is vitally important for other committed parish leaders – wardens, organizers, deacons, associate priests, Licensed Lay Ministers, etc. Many of you are finding yourselves physically, emotionally and spiritually run-down and possibly on the edge of burn-out. This is a red flag!

Clearly, expectations of clericalism by both the rector and parishioners needs to shift. If our congregations are to flourish and expand our ministries to meet the spiritual and practical needs of the people around us, we must recalibrate our expectations of the role of the lone leader. No

one person can do it all. The Body of Christ will get sick if we continue in this mode.

So in Churchland we need to modify our expectations about trusting more people to take on key leadership ministries. We will have to intentionally invest a considerable amount of time and energy in discerning who can step into these positions and then train them. Rectors and other leaders who are delegating this way need solid support from others in the parish that this is the path forward towards vitality. They require encouragement and explicit positive feedback so as to help others with these expectation shifts.

Additionally, we will need to have more tolerance that the new people taking on these roles may not do things exactly like the previous leader. It is also important to celebrate the signs of new life, leadership growth and thank those who are stepping up to shared ministry.

To be clear, as we consider the New Testament models of ministry we discover a variety of approaches to distributed leadership and sharing of gifts. Jesus was always mentoring his disciples. He taught his followers and sent out the 70 to minister in pairs (Luke 10:1-9). He invested heavily of himself in the 12 Apostles and gave them authority to undertake top level missional ministry like preaching and healing

(Luke 9:1-6). In particular he poured his leadership cup into that of Peter, James and John. In other words, Jesus was apprenticing them!

Over and over again we see our Lord delegating ministry. He empowers his disciples with the Holy Spirit and authorizes them (and us) as leaders in his final commandments (Acts 1:6-8 and Matthew 28:18-20). Jesus insists that we are to be his "witnesses" and to "make disciples."

We note Jesus wasn't afraid of letting go. He trusted his disciples. Most importantly, he had a genuine desire to see others grow. (Emotionally healthy leaders are generous, unselfish, and not threatened by other leaders taking on more responsibility.)

Another obvious early Church teaching comes from Saint Paul as he coaches local churches to actively engage, appreciate and honour the gifts of all God's people. He offers extensive teaching about the Body of Christ with many members (Romans 12:1-8 and 1 Corinthians 12).

The gift that keeps on giving showed me that if leaders like Moses, St. Paul and our Lord delegated leadership to others, it gave me permission and inspiration to do the same. The Lone Ranger type of leadership in faith community was not and still is not the way of building up the Kingdom.

One of the big revelations during this COVID-19 pandemic is that the Spirit is opening up more opportunities for people to step into ministry, meeting the needs of our neighbours. Many of our parishes are seeing an increase in enthusiasm and interest by parishioners for Christian education, ministry training and exploration of their leadership skills. This is no accident. In fact, this is the gift that keeps on giving!

A FEW BEST PRACTICES FOR DELEGATING LEADERSHIP:

- 1. Low control and high accountability.** The role of the rector or priest-in-charge is as an overseer. Micromanaging other leaders is not empowering, but instead it speaks to a lack of trust and frustrates others.
- 2. Coach and mentor new leaders,** rather than manage them. People build confidence and thrive when they learn how to strike out on their own with solid support behind them.
- 3. The best leaders are always pushing out the ministry,** sharing with others. A leader who clings and clutches to power, insisting they have to do it all, is hurting God's church. Learning to delegate injects energy and excitement into teams as they collaborate for the Kingdom good (Luke 10:17).
- 4. Assign responsibility, not tasks.** Trust people to take on the job, instead of designating a list of must-do steps. Leaders blossom when they are free to discern the ministry themselves.
- 5. Great leaders gather people around them who are smarter and better skilled than they are.** Always be mentoring people to share more in ministry leadership. Think succession plan.

Rev. Canon Lisa G. Vaughn is the Diocesan Parish Vitality Coordinator. For more ideas to navigate pandemic restrictions, visit the Diocesan COVID-19 Resource pages – www.nspeidiocese.ca. For additional articles, inspiration and insights on congregational vitality and mission see the Facebook page "Parish Vitality Coordinator – Diocese of NS & PEI", and the Anglican Net News, "Six-Minute Study."

NEWS FROM AWAY



Dear diocese,

It is now Advent, the time when we watch and wait with Mary. The time for quiet reflection for people of faith. Perhaps easier in pandemic times, when travel and moving about is not quite as easy.

In pre-pandemic times, the rush to Christmas consumed our time, our energy and our focus in attempts to live out a story book Christmas Day.

Today, living with a very uncertain future, we are now spending as much time fretting over what to buy people for Christmas as we are being able to simply be together. This pandemic has certainly changed our priorities.

Shopping might be limited, but the question of gifts might now be much easier.

Buying tickets to the theatre or concerts might not be as easy given the uncertainty of any recipients being able to attend in the foreseeable future. (I missed two concerts and a high school musical since the pandemic hit the Maritimes.)

But supporting local businesses and buying gift cards to spend in those businesses might be the solution for us and salvation for them.

Then there is the one constant gift that everyone in my family gets, a gift for others, something from PWRDF's World of Gifts. <https://pwrdf.org/get-involved/shop-pwrdfs-world-of-gifts/>. Thanks to our parish PWRDF rep, purchasing a donkey, is on

my shopping list this year, but shhhh..... don't tell my family. It's our secret.

For your Christmas shopping pleasure, the Diocesan Environment Network (DEN) tried to ease the shopping dilemma this year by providing you with the opportunity to purchase a work of art from one of the four gifted artists who contributed to the on line Hope & Inspiration Art Show.

We wanted to have a live show but pandemic times demand that we adapt, adapt, adapt. However, the benefit to taking the show on line has meant that everyone in the diocese, and beyond, could appreciate the work of those artists and have a chance to see the

beauty of creation through the eyes of those artists.

BTW: The show is on until Dec. 6, so if you are reading this as soon as the paper arrives in your mailbox you might not be too late to purchase one. Take a last minute peek at the FB page: www.facebook.com/groups/373394600384260/ or the Website: www.nspeidiocese.ca/pages/hope-inspiration

Of course, the art show isn't just an opportunity to shop. In our tradition it is "fair game" to include in our prayer, meditation and reflection time icons and art.

"Art expresses ideas that words cannot and projects dreams we cannot accomplish in other ways. In all its forms, art can remind us of the beauty in the world. Recognizing that the climate crisis is the most significant

crisis of our time, art can inspire us to reconsider our relationship with creation (and the Creator) and point the way to a different, more sustainable world. It is our hope the art will reconnect you with the beauty of the earth. Allow the art to inspire you to face the climate crisis and vow to take better care of our world." <https://www.facebook.com/groups/373394600384260/>

So as you prepare for the journey with Mary, travelling this next few weeks on the road to a stable and the birth of our saviour, taking time for reflection, prayer and contemplation, my prayer will be that you have a rich, meaningful and holy Advent season.

Sending prayers from the outer world,
Rev. Marian Lucas-Jefferies

Art reminds us of our world's beauty.

Art gives us *Hope* for a sustainable world.

Art gives us *Inspiration* to sustain and renew our world's beauty.

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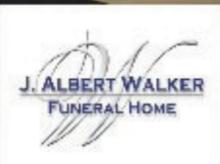
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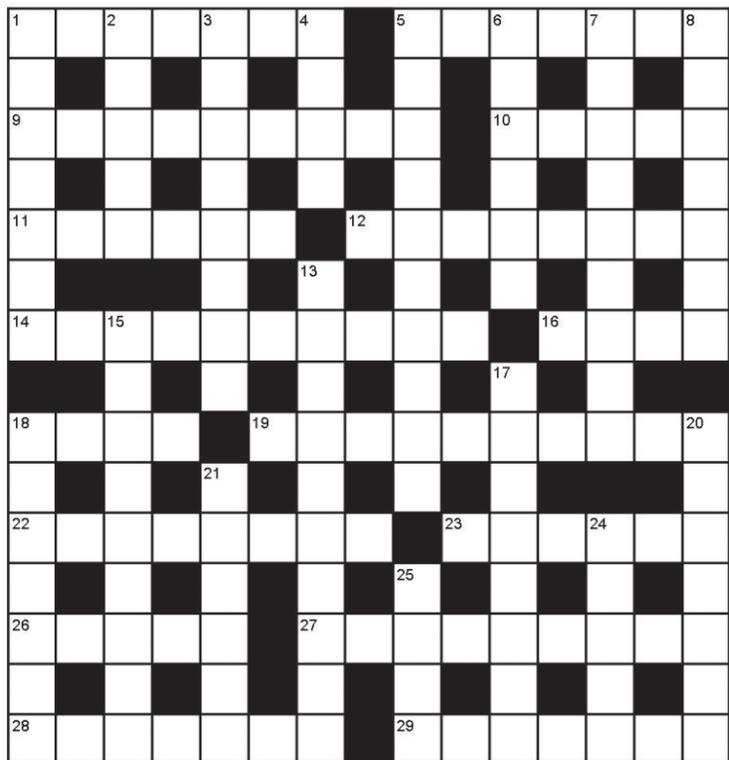
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Bible Crossword

by Maureen Yeats



DECEMBER Puzzle



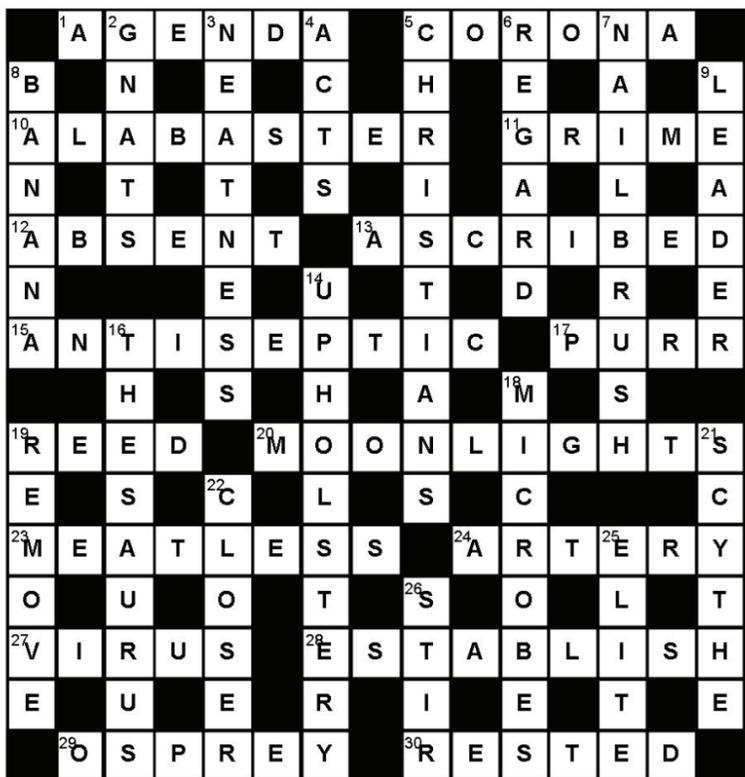
ACROSS:

- 1- "What must I do to inherit _____ life?" everlasting (Mark 10:17) (7)
- 5- "A disciple is not above the _____." instructor (Matt. 10:24) (7)
- 9- December 25th (9)
- 10- "Lift up your heads O _____." openings (Ps. 24:7) (5)
- 11- For a short time (6)
- 12- Larva of certain insect, used as bird food (8)
- 14- Person skilled in the practicalities of a subject (10)
- 16- Not new (4)
- 18- "For what will it profit them if they _____ the world..." acquire (Matt. 16:26) (4)
- 19- Judgments of the quality of artistic work (10)
- 22- Font with thick heavy characters (8)
- 23- Satiated (6)
- 26- Actress who played Granny in the "Beverly Hillbillies", _____ Ryan (5)
- 27- "For while your _____ is known to all" dutiful compliance (Rom. 16:19) (9)
- 28- Devices for keeping gates closed (6)
- 29- No longer living, for example, dodos (7)-

DOWN:

- 1- Cast a spell on (7)
- 2- "The _____ was a formless void." this planet (Gen. 1:2) (5)
- 3- Baby bird (8)
- 4- "Your word is a _____ to my feet." source of light (Ps. 119:105) (4)
- 5- Four dimensional analogues of a cube (10)
- 6- "Neither death, nor life, nor _____, nor rulers..." heavenly messengers (Rom. 8:38) (6)
- 7- Heated greenhouses (9)
- 8- Continued after an interruption (7)
- 13- Figures made of stuffed clothing to scare birds (10)
- 15- Coolest (9)
- 17- Advocate of a political or social cause (8)
- 18- "I am _____. I stand in the presence of God." an archangel (Luke 1:19) (7)
- 20- Most unhappy (7)
- 21- Anew (6)
- 24- Type of fabric, wrinkles easily (5)
- 25- This place (4)

NOVEMBER Solution



ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN BOARD, Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island

White Ribbon Sunday

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
Against Gender-Based Violence
#OurActionsMatter



Honour **White Ribbon Sunday** - wear a white ribbon on **November 22** and for the **16 Days of Activism** (Nov. 25 – Dec. 10), with **the pledge never to commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women and girls.**

As followers of Jesus, we cannot remain silent in the face of gender injustice. Together we can build a future defined by respect and empathy.

The **White Ribbon** is our campaign – let's help it flourish and grow!



Anglican Church Women Board, Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island

White Ribbon Sunday was initiated by the Anglican Church Women Board, Diocese of NS & PEI. The board chose Christ the King Sunday as White Ribbon Sunday to coincide with the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

Image (16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence) was taken from the Government of Canada website (Status of Women Canada)

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Focus on education

CYNTHIA PILICHOS, ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

The importance of education to the Anglican Church Women Board is evident in so much of our ministry. The very Purpose of the Board emphasizes the importance of study, along with worship and offering, in order both to grow spiritually and advance God's mission in the parish, community, diocese, nation, and the world. The advancement of education has been a feature of a number of our Annual Projects, with the one that culminated in June 2020, *Education – a life changing gift*, contributing \$17,605.00 to support the post-secondary education of 5 youth in Kikima, Kenya. This outstanding contribution was made possible by the generosity of so many in the diocese. Thank you to all our contributors, corporate and individual.

Our current Project, *Supporting Parents: Stories That Matter*, promotes an approach to learning that empowers the



learner and honours her or his experience. The success of this approach depends on having empathetic, trained facilitators versed in the culture of their community. Funds for this Project will support the training of Indigenous facilitators in parishes in the Council of the North through the Mothers' Union's very successful parenting program. Culturally relevant parenting support is a key recommendation of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, so this project allows contributors to respond directly to that recommendation. Cheques are

payable to the ACW Board with "Project" in the memo line. Any cheques to the Board for any endeavour can be directed to the Treasurer, 204 – 111 Pebblecreek Drive, Dartmouth, NS B2W 0L1 (given that the Anglican Diocesan Centre is not yet "officially" open).

Another area of educational support that the Board cherishes is made possible by the *Kingston Memorial Fund* that is invested with the Diocese's Consolidated Trust Fund. Each fall the Board is able to present Anglican postulants studying at the Atlantic School of Theology in the Masters of Divinity program with a bursary. Having already been ACPO approved for ordained ministry, the successful recipients can be full or part-time students, but they are candidates headed for stipendiary ministry upon ordination. While an in-person presentation event was not possible this fall, the Board was happy to mail bursary cheques to: Debbie Fice, Blane

Finnie, Jane Magrath, and Rob Paddock, with best wishes for continued success with their studies.

Inaugurated in 1985 in honour of the 100th anniversary of organized women's ministry in the diocese, the Board initiated a continuing education bursary fund that has come to be known as the *Anniversary Bursary*. The request for every woman to contribute to this continuing education fund was re-opened in 2010 when the Board celebrated 125 years of organized women's ministry in the same year that the diocese celebrated 300 years of continuous Anglican worship. We are happy to accept contributions at any time in order to build the principal of the fund, with donations of \$20 or more receiving an income tax receipt. As for being considered a bursary recipient, any Anglican woman 5 years or more removed from formal education and enrolled in any recognized program is welcome to apply. Contact

acw.nsboard@gmail.com to request an application form. Completed forms are due by December 31. Involvement in one's parish and / or the diocese is a consideration.

We appreciate the importance of learning from the Master himself, the pre-eminent teacher, Jesus. Jesus's metaphoric approach to teaching, with his many parables, often confounded his disciples and continues to challenge us to this very day. These parables provide lessons for life that encourage our continuing exploration and interpretation. In their appreciation and support for matters of teaching and learning, Anglican Church Women welcome opportunities to expand their understanding of the learnings conveyed in these parables. Further, we welcome the support of those in our diocese for any and all of our initiatives of an educational nature . . . and we give thanks for that support!

<p>THE <i>ANNIVERSARY BURSARY</i></p> <hr/> <p>Honours the 100th (1985) and 125th (2010) anniversaries of organized women's ministry in our Diocese.</p> <p>The invitation to all to make a contribution to the <i>Anniversary Bursary</i> is always open. Contributions of \$20.00 or more receive an income tax receipt.</p> <hr/> <p>ELIGIBILITY FOR APPLICATION</p> <p>The <i>Anniversary Bursary</i> - a continuing education bursary.</p> <p>Any woman in our Diocese, 5 years or more removed from formal schooling, enrolled in a recognized program, is eligible to apply (by December 31 of the calendar year). Parish, regional, or diocesan involvement is a consideration.</p> <p>For an Application Form, contact acw.nsboard@gmail.com</p>	<p>ANNIVERSARY BURSARY</p>  <p>Contribute to the <i>Anniversary Bursary</i></p> <p>Cheque payable to the ACW Board, <i>Anniversary Bursary</i> in the memo line</p> <p>Mail to ACW Board, c/o 204-111 Pebblecreek Dr., Dartmouth, NS B2W 0L1</p> 
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