

# The New Brunswick Anglican

MARCH 2001

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## Communications a priority

Effective, efficient and economical communication is a priority to the Diocese of Fredericton and technology is going to play an important role. A computer in every parish could soon be essential.

An information technology expert has assessed synod office computer equipment, set up a working network and coached synod staff on the effective use of their programs. The New Brunswick Anglican, in its entirety, is available on the diocesan web-site ([www.anglican.nb.ca](http://www.anglican.nb.ca)) even before the newsprint copies are delivered by Canada Post. A weekly mass e-mail communication with prayers, notices, updates and links to other electronic ministries is in the works.

"I am not familiar or even comfortable with electronic communications," says Bishop Bill Hockin, "but I am willing to learn and participate in the process. Communication is vital to who we are and what we do as a Church."

Electronic communication will soon replace the 'Clergy Mailing' — a large envelope stuffed with everything from synod office announcements and requests to information from the Christian Education Director and myriad other groups in the diocese.

The cost of the mailings, including paper, photocopying and



*Bishop Hockin admits he is neither comfortable nor familiar with computers and electronic communications, but he is willing to learn in order to improve communication within the diocese.*

postage, is steadily rising. Sometimes time-sensitive material, especially from the Christian Education Director, has to wait unmailed until sufficient other material has been gathered to make the postage costs worthwhile.

The vast majority of clergy in the diocese are already communicating electronically, either on their own or parish computers. The diocese will survey parishes to

ascertain exactly how many parishes still need to be connected.

"The possibility of a computer in every parish will certainly be discussed and encouraged at the Warden's Day in April," says Bishop Hockin. "We need to do everything we can to reduce the cost and improve the quality of communication in the diocese."

Eventually even resources and tools like the Red Book of

clergy and parish guidelines for ministry and diocesan constitutions and canons will be available electronically and linked to the diocesan web page where appropriate.

Bishop Hockin has already effectively used video communication within the diocese.

"We need to be able to work and communicate in the world of the future," says the bishop.

## Bishop's dinner tickets available

Bishop William Hockin will deliver a brief State of the Diocese address during the first annual Bishop's Dinner to be held in Fredericton next month. The Hon. Margaret McCain is guest speaker for the \$100 a plate event in support of the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. Parish wardens and vestries have been supplied with ticket order forms.

"We appreciate the cost of the event is high and hope that parishes or groups within the parishes will perhaps raise funds to send representatives," says Keith Dow who chairs the planning committee. "Our bishop is our chief spiritual shepherd as well as our chief executive officer. He admirably fulfills these two roles. He is committed to support the upcoming clergy college in June and other continuing education and professional development programs for our clergy. These things are essential if our spiritual leaders are to keep abreast of the challenging circumstances they face today. Support of the Bishop's

*continued on page 2*

## Clergy College faculty named

### Bishop encourages attendance

The Diocese of Fredericton first annual Clergy College will offer three courses at the Hugh John Flemming Forestry Centre in Fredericton the week of June 18 through 23. Each course offers five lectures over two days.

Dr. Richard Middleton, assistant professor at Colgate-Rochester Divinity School offers Biblical Faith in a Post-Modern World on June 18 and 19. He is a co-author of two acclaimed books *The Transforming Vision* (1984) and *The Truth is Stranger Than It Used To Be: Biblical Interpretation in a Post-Modern Age* (1995). A semi-autobiographical essay called *Curiosity Killed the Cat*, which recounts his



spiritual and intellectual journey, is available at <http://www.icscanada.edu/html/feature1.html>.

Rev. Dr. John Kydd, who became an Anglican in 1999 following 30 years of ministry in the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, will address Anglican Identity and Spirituality: The Fathers and Now on June 20 and 21. An adjunct faculty member of McMaster Divinity College and the author of many academic and popular articles, he now serves as assistant priest at St. Peter's Coburg, where he has developed an active adult Christian Education program.

The Rev. Dr. Herbert O'Driscoll, a popular author, broadcaster and preacher as well as a former director of the College of Preachers in Washington, fin-

ishes the week with Preaching in the 21st Century. His greatest gift is the ability to bridge the world of the Bible to the world where we live and serve. His course will be presented on June 22 and 23.



Meals and rooms are available to students in a residence at the Hugh John Flemming Forestry school. The cost of each course is \$100, funded by the Clergy Continuing Education fund supported by the Bishop's Dinner on April 19.

All priests and deacons in the diocese are invited to attend, but space is limited. Please register as soon as possible for one, two or all three courses with the Rev. Vicars Hodge, 100 Watson St., Saint John, E2M 1G2.

"I hope wardens and vestries will encourage and assist their clergy to attend," says Bishop William Hockin.

## Thank you ...

**to all those who supported the New Brunswick Anglican and the Anglican Journal through the 2000 Journal Appeal.**

**The Diocese of Fredericton share was nearly \$8,000, more than double our 1999 share of just over \$3,000. Your generosity and confidence are greatly appreciated.**

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### Inside



*The World-Wide Mothers' Union banner is embroidered silk and resides at Mary Sumner House in London, England. See page 5.*

# Alpha Conference set for Saint John in May

An Alpha Conference offering practical and effective ways of bringing evangelism to the local church will be held at St. John's (Stone) Church in Saint John on May 4 and 5. It is intended to help both those who would like to start an Alpha Course and those who would like to maximize the potential of their existing courses.

Alpha is a ten-week course that presents the core truths of the Christian faith around which every major denomination can unite. It is currently running in churches of all the major denominations — Anglican, Baptist, Brethren, Christian and Missionary Alliance, Free

Church, Lutheran, Methodist, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army and United Reform — as well as in a large number of house and non-denominational churches.

Speakers at the Saint John Alpha Conference include: Paul Cowley, who heads the Alpha Prison Ministry at Holy Trinity Brompton Church (HTB) in London, England, where the Alpha Course first began; Karen Reed, Pastor of Evangelism and Discipleship at Broadway Church in Vancouver, who is an Alpha Regional Advisor and member of the Board of Directors for Alpha

Canada; and Vernon Robertson, the National Roman Catholic Advisor for Alpha, who has been instrumental in the growth of the Alpha course within Vancouver's Roman Catholic community.

Archbishop Michael Peers has encouraged the Alpha course with the following endorsement: "As I travel through many parts of Canada and the Anglican Communion, I am increasingly aware of the presence and effectiveness of Alpha as an instrument for evangelism. A particular gift it offers is found in its simplicity of approach, as well as its respect for the integrity of the persons who participate

in the program. I am happy to commend it as one of many tools that witness to the love of God in Christ."

Alpha has grown from 5 courses in England in 1992 to more than 17,000 courses throughout the world in 2001. Attendance to date is estimated at over 2 million people worldwide. In Canada alone, the number of registered courses now stands at over 1200.

For further information, please contact Rodney Senior, Saint John Alpha Conference Chairperson, at 506/847-2934, [saintjohn2001NB@alphacanada.org](mailto:saintjohn2001NB@alphacanada.org).

## Dinner tickets

*continued from page 1*

Dinner is an opportunity for us to share our life and ministry as we garner resources for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund."

Lt.-Gov. Marilyn Trenholm-Counsel will be among the many guests at the roast beef dinner to be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Fredericton on Thursday evening, April 19.

A reception at six will be followed by dinner at seven. Diocesan Chancellor Charles Ferris will chair the event and the Rev. Wilfred Langmaid will play dinner music on the piano.

A charitable donation receipt for at least \$65 will be issued for each ticket and proceeds from the event are specifically earmarked for support of the clergy college.

Tickets are available directly from the Diocesan Synod office in Fredericton (506/459-1801) as well as from parish wardens and vestries throughout the diocese.

"The raising of resources is a responsibility of the faithful, the people," says Mr. Dow.



## Synod 2000 Action Committee

Following the Diocesan Synod of June 2000, Bishop William Hockin initiated and charged the Synod 2000 Action Committee to monitor and co-ordinate a resulting plan. Prior to Synod 2000, the Bishop asked parishes for input and perspectives on the needs of the Diocese and its parishes. The Bishop's Charge focused on four "points" or areas of emphasis extracted from, and built around, the parish input:

- \* Building up and strengthening the Church as it now exists.
- \* Reaching out to those who are not yet part of the church, but could be.
- \* Equipping ourselves with resources.
- \* Giving stewardship and financial development a higher priority and profile.

It is the mandate of the Synod Action Committee, using the Synod response, to explore and track the options and opportunities for moving forward in the areas outlined. Meeting almost monthly since Synod, the Action

Committee has dealt specifically with the response of Synod and has endeavoured to monitor and encourage progress. Expanding the Bishop's "points," and working specifically with the response to the Charge, the Committee identified eight specific areas in which to work:

- \* Faith and Spiritual Growth in our Families
- \* Lay Leadership and Education
- \* Facilitating the Bishop's Leadership
- \* Clergy Development
- \* Resources and Communication
- \* Effective Parish and Diocesan Organizations
- \* Strengthening and Rejuvenating our Youth Ministry
- \* Stewardship and Financial Development

Notable progress has begun in several of these areas. Several members of the Synod Action Committee have become "Task Action Co-ordinators." The co-ordination in several cases has

involved promoting co-operation between already existing diocesan groups and structures and the encouraging co-leadership of smaller working groups. Working with the groups already in place and co-ordinated by the Board of Programme on a regular basis will assure that we are not "re-inventing the wheel" or doubling our efforts in any one particular area. The offer of Diocesan ACW to distribute the table grace card is one example of such co-ordination utilizing structures and groups already in place. Working group meetings have been held on Diocesan Communications and Christian Nurture to explore specific issues in these action areas. Several meetings focusing on the area of ministry to younger people have also taken place with an event being planned for Saint John 25-27 October 2001 at Harbour Station. As mentioned by our Bishop in his 2001 video, a team of three is being assembled to visit a successful lay training event in another diocese with the idea of im-

plementing a similar event here in 2002. This spring's Clergy College will be a first attempt to provide quality continuing education within the Diocese for clergy. A task force has been struck to explore our diocesan structures with the goal of addressing effective diocesan organization.

The life span of the Synod 2000 Action Committee, as stated in its mandate, is at "the discretion of the Bishop." It is reasonable to assume that the upcoming Synod in 2001 will influence the future of the Committee and the continuing action. A positive result of the last Synod is the emphasis being placed on "doing" something about our discussions and decisions. The prayers of all in our Diocese are sought for the continuing work of the Synod 2000 Action Committee as it continues to help co-ordinate our efforts as we move forward.

Peter Irish chairs the committee with Geoffrey Hall as vice. Details are available on the Synod 2000 website linked from [www.anglican.nb.ca](http://www.anglican.nb.ca).

## LETTER

*Parish appreciates construction support*

Dear Ana,

On behalf of the Parish of Upper Kennebecasis, I would like to thank you for your parish profile. It was very well done and greatly appreciated by the members of the parish.

However, in my haste to get the material to you prior to publication, I forgot to add our thanks to the many people, especially Mr. Bill Jones and Maple Leaf Homes, for their help and support during the construction of the new Rectory.

Without all of them, this project would still be on the drawing board.

Thanks again.  
The Rev. Leo Martin  
Rector

*A*

## From generation to generation

Life is complicated these days. Reading is my escape, and when said life gets well beyond what I can handle, only a Dick Francis will suffice. With all due respect to the author (who is rumoured to be the late Mrs. Dick Francis), they're mind candy. I have read several lately.

Before my mind disintegrated to the Dick Francis stage, I read *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver. It is more substantial fare — the story of a Southern Baptist missionary and his family who took 'all the wrong things' to the Congo in 1960. Through the eyes of his wife and four daughters, we come to see the missionary as a man with an obsession he calls faith and an arrogance that masks self-loathing. We also see a world



changed by the civil rights movement in North America, the independence movement in Africa.

I'm of the daughters' generation, the generation so conspicuous by its absence in church these days. As I read the novel I couldn't help but compare my comfortable suburban North American adolescence with their extraordinary African experiences. As far as danger and drama go there is no comparison; but even in rural New Brunswick the

dawn of the 'Age of Aquarius' revealed racism for what it was.

The *Poisonwood Bible* is a coming of age story for a country and a generation. The daughters' African experiences may be different from those of us who grew up on this continent, but I recognize traits of the women they became in myself and among my friends. It would make good reading for those who want to better understand some of the reasons so many of my generation abandon the church, too bad the author hadn't had the insight and the inspiration 25 years ago. Too bad someone doesn't have the same perspective on my daughters' generation.

**N B  
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month previous  
to publication.**

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## BISHOP'S PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS

March 5, 12, 19, 26  
April 2 & 9

11 a.m. & 12.15 p.m.  
Bishop's Lenten Series  
Sports Hall of Fame  
Fredericton

March 6, 13, 20, 27  
12.15 p.m.

Bishop's Lenten Series  
Aitken Bicentennial Exhibition  
Centre  
(ABEC)  
Saint John

March 8  
Diocesan Council

March 18  
10 a.m.

Parish of New Maryland

March 22-25  
Parish of Riverview  
Mission

March 28 — April 1  
Bishop's visitation  
Deanery of Kennebecasis

April 7  
Wardens Day  
Cathedral Memorial Hall



Once asked a man if he would assist me with a new project of ministry.

"Sorry friend," he said, "what I need right now is a time to repair."

"Repair from what?" I asked  
"Well, I have been a Church Warden for five years. I am very tired. I need a time to repair."

Life, even Church life, can regularly toss us around, beat up on us, break our hearts, challenge our endurance. We all need times to repair

The Lenten season is not a good time to retreat from Church affairs, but it is an ideal time to repair the soul. Souls are fragile things. Like any other part of us they need to be cared for, nurtured and fed. Mature Christians do that on a daily basis, but as well every year the Church gives us this forty

## From the Bishop

### Lent — a time to repair

day period to focus a special effort on the nurture of our inner selves.

It is my hope that your parish has some programme for Lenten observance, perhaps a Bible Study, a discussion group, a special book to read. All of us need to take advantage of these things. A visit to your closest Christian bookstore for private reading would be a good idea too. As is setting aside a daily 15 to 30 minute period to read and ponder scripture.

Lent calls us to more than personal or group study though. Lent calls us to an "attitude change." To Repentance. To a fresh way of seeing ourselves and seeing God. In the words of Charles Colson: "Repentance is the process by which we see ourselves day by day as we really are — sinful, needy, dependent people. It is also

the process by which we see God as He is — awesome, majestic and holy. Repentance is the ultimate surrender of the self."

Too many people get through life on the road called denial. They deny the truth about themselves. They deny their need for God and their dependence on Him with "I'll do it my way thank you very much." The problem with the soul is that it tends to shrivel under the weight of such arrogance. It diminishes with pride and self sufficiency.

What our souls do like, however, is honesty, vulnerability, humility and need. It is when we can see our true selves and admit our need for God's grace and forgiveness that the soul begins its process of repair, and life gets on track again.

Lent is the best time of the year for spiritual growth, but it never happens without our effort. God bless you as you open yourself and declare your need for God's love and forgiveness.

*Repair my soul  
O Lord.  
Give me eyes  
to see who I really am  
Not the brightest,  
not the best  
But just your child;  
loved, forgiven, free.  
And then, O Lord,  
Breathe your spirit  
into me.  
Amen*

## Vocations Day date changed

The date of a Vocations Day to be held at Cathedral Memorial Hall in June has been changed. Originally set for June 16, it will now be held on June 23.

Bishop William Hockin and the members of the Examining Chaplains will host this opportunity for men and women within the diocese who feel they may be called to ordained ministry to explore the process.

There is absolutely no commitment attached to attendance," says Bishop Hockin. "We encourage people to come even if the call is still just an inkling or a whisper."

The Rev. Dr. Merv Mercer of Wycliffe College will make a presentation and theology students from the diocese will share their experiences during the day.

"This will be our second Vocations Day. The first was nearly two years ago and was very successful. We have been really impressed with the quality of candidates so far," says Bishop Hockin. "We have students 'in the system' now who attended our first event, and there are others who are still thinking about it."

## Announcement

The Rev. Brenda McKnight was appointed interim, part-time priest-in-charge of the Parish of Cambridge and Waterborough on Feb. 1.

## Lenten series includes Saint John

Bishop William Hockin will take his Lenten reflections to Saint John this year.

Since 1999 Bishop Hockin has offered a Monday lunch-time series of Lenten messages at the New Brunswick Sports Hall of Fame in Fredericton. The event was so popular a second 'seating' was

instituted. This year, the Bishop will offer his thoughts on Tuesdays in the Aitken Bicentennial Exhibition Centre (ABEC) on Hazen Avenue in Saint John.

This year's series of talks focuses on the Book of Job and addresses several questions, including: Dealing with pain, was

Robert Latimer right? Do we get what we deserve? Is there anyone out there for me? and Is God really in control?

The Fredericton series runs at 11 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. on Mondays, March 5, 12, 19 and 26 as well as April 2 and 9.

The Saint John series runs at 12:15 p.m. on Tuesdays, March 6, 13, 20 and 27.

The April talks: Seeing the world through tear-stained glasses; and Being God on Good Friday, are available in Fredericton only.

## Video response deadline March 15

The March 15 deadline for responses to the bishop's January 2001 video is fast approaching.

Building on the momentum of Synod 2000 and a previous video communication with the diocese, Bishop William Hockin recently distributed a video to each parish outlining proposed action at the

diocesan level regarding spiritual development, clergy and lay leadership, diocesan communication and stewardship.

Each parish was asked to present the video at a vestry meeting and its annual meeting. A brief questionnaire was provided with each video in order to encourage

discussion on what that parish is doing in response to the bishop's charge to Synod 2000. That charge was based on response to his first video presented before synod last year.

The questionnaire also enables each parish to once again 'speak' to the bishop of their suc-

cesses and their struggles. Responses should be sent to the Synod Office, 115 Church St., Fredericton, E3B 4C8.

Responses will be used to plan for the upcoming Synod to be held June 7 — 9 at UNB in Fredericton.

## Bishop to be honoured

Bishop William Hockin is one of three clerics upon whom Wycliffe College will confer honorary Doctor of Divinity Degrees at its convocation on May 14 in Toronto.

He will also address the graduating students.

Bishop Kenneth Cragg of Oxford and the Rev. Canon Robert Hulse, rector of St. John's, Elora will also be honoured.

It is the second such degree for Bishop Hockin.

He was honoured by the University of Kings College in Halifax last year.

## Fredericton confirmation



*Bishop Hockin, at the back, recently confirmed nine candidates at Christ Church (Parish) Church in Fredericton: front row Meghan Reed, Allison MacEacheron, Emily Jacobs and Erika King; back row Madeline West, Natalie O'Donnell, Aimie Goyette, Donald Ball and Joseph Mihan. They are seen here with the Rev. Elaine Hamilton, left and the Ven. John Sharpe, right.*

## Newcomer friends



ACW Diocesan president Mary Lou McCann devotes much of her time to refugee families in Fredericton and throughout the province in her work with the Multi Cultural Association and as Refugee Coordinator for the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund. She is seen here with two children who arrived in Camp Argonaut at Gagetown last fall in a wave of refugees from Kosovo. "They started grade one here in Canada and it didn't take them long to adjust to school routines. Now they speak perfect English. It is incredibly rewarding to work with newcomer families," says Mary Lou.

## ACW ANNUAL BANQUET

Tuesday, May 1, 6 pm

Portland United Church, 50 Newport Crescent, Saint John

Tickets \$12 each

make cheques payable to Saint John Deanery ACW  
and send them to either

Beatrice Mealey  
911 Dever Road  
Saint John, NB  
E2M 4J5

Rea Ferguson  
219 Ellerdale St. Apt. 866  
Saint John, NB  
E2J 3W1

(506-672-8573)

(506-652-3513)

please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Cut off date to purchase tickets is April 12

## Give us this day our daily bread

Hear my prayer God;

Give ear to the words of my mouth ... Psalm 54

So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you:

Seek and you will find ... Luke 11:9

Diocese of Fredericton

## Anglican Church Women

### Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 1 & Wednesday, May 2

St. Luke's, Saint John

Speaker:

**Marian Lucas Jeffries**  
**Food for the Starving**

# A 'cuppa' for a cause

## Cathedral ACW serves high tea in support of women's shelter

No need to travel to the UK or to Victoria, BC to enjoy the afternoon delight of high tea! Christ Church Cathedral ACW will be hosting High Tea at the Cathedral on Saturday, April 21st from 4 until 6 p.m..

"We're aiming to offer an experience that comes as close as possible to a real British high tea", says event coordinator Shari Gillis. Guests will enjoy a 'cuppa' accompanied by platters of delectable savouries and sweets in an atmosphere of elegance. Shari and her team promise fine bone china, real linens and more.

The 'more' includes an exhibit of wedding gowns dating from the early 1900's until today displayed museum style and accompanied by detailed descrip-

tions and anecdotes. For many of the gowns it will be return engagement at the Cathedral where they were worn by brides many years ago

Proceeds from High Tea at the Cathedral will be donated to the Grace Campaign for Homeless Women in support of the recently opened shelter for Fredericton's homeless women.

"This is the first time that the ACW has decided to donate all proceeds from a fund-raiser to a specific charity," says Shari. "The Women's Shelter is very much needed in the city, and we wish to support it".

The secret to afternoon tea is a peaceful atmosphere. It is a time to forget about everyday worries and to get in touch with other

important things — gracious surroundings, family and friends.

High Tea at the Cathedral is about all of this and also about the support of a place where women less fortunate than most may also find peace. It's about contributing to a place where they too may forget some of their worries, find a measure of enjoyment and a safe haven to enjoy a 'cuppa'.

High Tea at the Cathedral will take place at the Cathedral Hall, 168 Church Street. Tickets are \$10.00 each and available from Lynda Finley (450-9381) and the Cathedral Office (450-8500). Tickets are limited and will not be available at the door. A table will also be set up for those who may wish to make a tax deductible donation to the Grace Campaign.

## 'Ordinary' people make a difference

### ... exploring food security at home and abroad

BY MARIAN LUCAS JEFFRIES

What can we do? The question echoed in my mind all the way home one evening this winter. I had just spoken to the members of St. Anne's Mothers' Union at the Parish Church in Fredericton about food security — the assurance of enough food at all times to lead an active and healthy life.

Over the past few years I have learned a lot about this subject. As a member of the Board of Directors of Co-op Atlantic I learned about the vulnerability of the food retail trade. As a participant in the 1999 Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) Africa Food Study Tour, I learned a great deal about world food security, particularly about the situations in Ethiopia and Kenya. And last summer, as a delegate to a church-sponsored Food Ministries Conference (thank you ACW for your support), I learned about issues around food security and the work being done to alleviate hunger in Canada.

Today I make presentations, write articles and continue to study the issues around food security. It was during my presentation to the MU branch in Fredericton that one of the members asked: What can we do?

At the time I thought I had answered the question. I glibly listed opportunities to raise awareness, mentioned the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund and other opportunities to raise the issue. I realize now, that wasn't enough.

Soon after that evening I heard Judy Rebeck speak at a fund-raiser for the March of

Dimes in Saint John. She spoke of the effectiveness of that organization in two areas: supporting the disabled and causing change.

"Ordinary people can have a profound effect," she said.

We see that in the success of the Jubilee 2000 campaign. The sheer numbers of 'ordinary' people calling for debt relief for developing countries have caused world leaders to respond.

We see that at the local food bank. Because of the volunteer work of 'ordinary' people, others can eat.

We see that in developing countries. Because of the donations by 'ordinary' people to the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, there is emergency relief and there are programs to help develop sustainable food supplies.

Obviously we can do a lot.

One of the things we need to do to ensure food security is to support farmers. Food is essential to survival. We see a growing crisis in agriculture in Canada while farmers in developing countries often go hungry while they grow food for us.

The Fair Trade movement is an effort to help disadvantaged small producers/farmers through better prices, reasonable interest rates and long term direct and stable trading relationships. It also gives consumers a practical way to help make a difference while it creates an awareness of development issues and social justice. (For more information go to <http://www.transfair.ca/>)

Just Us Coffee Roasters, a worker-owned co-op in Nova Scotia, practices fair trade by purchasing coffee from producer

co-ops to ensure that the farmer who actually produces the coffee receives a fair price. It is available to our supermarkets. We need to ask them to stock it, then purchase it and promote it.

We need to tell the people in our parishes and our communities about the benefits of Fair Trade. We need to serve fair trade products like Just Us Coffee (and now Just Us Tea) at our pancake suppers and other community events, and we need to tell people not only that we are serving fair trade products but why we are serving them.

This diocese has a history of participation in food security activities. I would like to know about them, and I would like to share them with others through future articles in this paper.

At four o'clock in the afternoon on any given day, many Canadians don't know what they will have for supper. Some Canadians and many people in developing countries don't know IF they will have supper.

*By sharing our success stories, we can work toward food security and the alleviation of hunger in our communities, our country and our world. You can contact me at [marijeff@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:marijeff@nbnet.nb.ca).*

Thanks.

# MU banners carried with love and pride

Banners and standards have been rallying points for armies and religious ceremonies from the earliest times. Thought to have originated with the Romans, banners of square cloth were hung from wooden crosspieces. Later Roman emperors had standards made from rich silks, and Emperor Constantine's was marked with a Christian emblem. The Christian church continues to use processional banners to this day.

A Mothers' Union banner is a visible symbol of its members' presence in a parish or diocese. The Canadian Mothers' Union has a wealth of banners, as is evident at any national MU conference. Some of these banners date back 40 years or more while others are brand new. They are all, however, made and carried with love and pride.

There are MU banners at every level — branch, diocese, national and international.

Our International or World-Wide banner was designed and embroidered by Mrs. H. Barclay, a past World-Wide president. It is made of silks and was dedicated at the 1926 jubilee service in Westminster Abbey. It hangs in the entrance hall of Mary Sumner House in London, England, the international headquarters of the World-Wide Mothers' Union.

The Canadian banner was first thought of in 1936 when members began to collect funds. It was ordered in 1950 from the Faith-Craft Shop of Westminster which designed and executed it. The exercise took about 18 months and cost \$610 Canadian. The five by three foot hand-embroidered banner

was displayed in Lambeth Palace during The Festival of Britain for six months before it arrived in Canada in 1951. A message from Queen Mary arrived with the banner commending the execution and design. It was dedicated in January of 1952 by the late Archbishop of Rupert's Land, the most Rev. L. R. Sherman, in St. Alban's Church, Winnipeg. The banner was recently appraised at about \$10,000. It hangs in the parish church of the presiding Canadian President, which is currently St. Alban's in Glen Williams in the Diocese of Niagara.

The Diocese of Fredericton banner took approximately one year to needlepoint and was crafted in the 1980s by Christine Brittain, a dedicated MU member. Although Christine had mastered the art of needlepoint many years earlier, she had never attempted such a large piece so Canon W. A. Bockus was engaged as technical advisor for the project. Upon completion in 1985, the banner was dedicated by Archbishop Harold Nutter, Bishop of Fredericton and Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada.

Branch banners come in all sizes and shapes. They hang in our parish churches and are carried with pride at all diocesan and Canadian functions. Usually crafted with love by one or more of the members, they depict symbols of our faith, from which all our work stems. Some are simply executed while others are works of art, but all represent members who are dedicated to strengthening and preserving marriage and Christian family life.



MU member Christine Brittain (above) crafted the Diocese of Fredericton banner in the 1980s. It was a year-long needlepoint labour of love. It was dedicated by Archbishop Harold Nutter. Above to the right is the hand-embroidered Canadian Banner ordered from the Faith-Craft Shop of Westminster, England, in 1950. The lower banner at the right is the International or World-Wide banner, designed and embroidered by Mrs. H. Barclay, a past World-Wide president. It is made of silks and was dedicated at the 1926 jubilee service in Westminster Abby. Mothers Union branches have their own banners and are visible symbols of the group's presence in the parish.



*Diocesan*  
**Calendar  
of Events**

<p><b>MARCH</b></p> <p><b>8</b> Diocesan Council Location TBA 3:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>11</b> PWRDF Sunday</p> <p><b>14</b> Board of Programme St. Phillip's Church, Moncton 10 a.m.— 3 p.m.</p> <p><b>21</b> Diocesan Communications Planning Group St. John's, Grand Bay 1:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>APRIL</b></p> <p><b>7</b> Diocesan Warden's Day Christ Church Cathedral, Fredericton</p>	<p><b>MAY</b></p> <p><b>1&amp;2</b> ACW Annual Meeting St. Luke's, Saint John</p> <p><b>5</b> Church History Workshop UNB Campus</p> <p><b>16</b> Board of Programme Anglican House, Saint John (tentative) 10 a.m.— 3 p.m.</p> <p><b>June</b></p> <p><b>4 — 6</b> Anglican Editors' Association Annual Conference Kingston, ON</p> <p><b>7 — 9</b> 123rd Diocesan Synod UNB Fredericton</p>
<p><b>23</b> Diocesan Vocations Day Christ Church Cathedral Fredericton</p> <p><b>18 — 23</b> Diocesan Clergy College Hugh John Flemming Forestry Centre Fredericton</p> <p><b>JULY</b></p> <p><b>4 — 11</b> General Synod Anglican Church of Canada University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON</p> <p><b>OCTOBER</b> [dates to be announced] 3rd Diocesan Mens Conference What does a Good Church look like and how can men help? Key Note Speaker: Don Posterski Delta Hotel, Saint John info: <a href="http://renforth.net">http://renforth.net</a></p>	

## Nurturing Relationships

Clergy Spouse's Conference  
April 24 — 26  
Villa Madonna Retreat Centre  
Renforth

Speakers:  
Nancy Nason-Clark  
Ruth Coleman  
Anthea Earle

All Clergy Spouses  
are warmly invited

# Proposals called

## Historic church renovating to better serve seniors

Architectural proposals for the renovation of 'the school house' building of Trinity Church in Saint John were accepted and opened on March 1 by the Ven. Stuart Allen, rector of the parish. At press time it was not known which proposal, if any, had been accepted.

Representatives of five architectural firms attended a briefing on the project on February 14, and it was expected each company would submit a proposal for renovations to the interior of the building in order for the church to continue and expand the services it provides for the parish and to the community.

"We asked the consultants to incorporate input from our Renovation Committee into a

design that takes full advantage of the unique character of Trinity Church," says Archdeacon Allen.

Trinity Church is an historic church in uptown Saint John that can accommodate a congregation of 650 but is seldom occupied by even 100 on a Sunday morning. Renovation of the large school house building is intended to accommodate the needs of a growing number of healthy, active and involved seniors in the city.

"It is a segment of the population that is growing bigger and bigger, especially in the cities. We are going to minister to the senior population, and I don't mean just drop in on them or send them a card," says Archdeacon Allen.

## Parish fundraiser in support of PWRDF

On December 3, the Parish of Oromocto and Maugerville hosted a salad plate tea in support of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund.

A total of \$609.15 was realized at the event.

This was the second such fundraiser the parish has hosted in support of PWRDF.

### March 11 is PWRDF Sunday

*Christ Church (Parish) Church  
245 Westmorland Street, Fredericton*

## Music for Holy Week

*Readings & Music featuring  
Faure's "Requiem"*

*Director: Dianne Wilkins Assisted by Mabel Doak  
Organists: Peter Waterhouse & Eric Tennant  
Baritone Ian Murphy Soprano Justing Blizzard  
Piano Georgina Poulin Reader Ann Passmore  
The Adult Choir & friends  
April 8 at 8pm  
Admission \$5.00*

## YOUTH SERVICE

**Christ Church Cathedral  
by The Green, in Fredericton!**

**ALL YOUNG PEOPLE  
WELCOME!**

**7:30 p.m. Sunday March 18**

**Speaker  
Glen Rayworth**

**of Moncton  
Music by The Cathedral Band**

**Come for a great evening of  
worship and inspiration!**

**Need more information?**

**450-8500**

**office@christchurchcathedral.com**

## Confirmation at St. Peter's



Nine candidates were recently confirmed by Bishop William Hockin at St. Peter's Parish in Fredericton. Among them were, left to right, back row Morgan Ludford, Laura Corscadden, Sarah Hebb, Katriena McKay and Jack Scott; front row, Evan Storey, Sarah Bustard and Sandra Gereau (Photos by Betty Adams).



Akech Makeith, a Kosovar refugee originally from the Sudan and sponsored by the Parish of St. Peter's, was among the candidates confirmed by Bishop William Hockin recently. Akech is taking top level English and employment skills courses.

## Bishop to lead Riverview mission

Bishop William Hockin will lead a Parish Mission in St. John the Baptist Church in Riverview March 22—25. A series of noon-day and evening talks will focus on the mission theme of Walking with God. Theme verse for the mission is: And what does the

Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

People are invited to bring their lunch to the 12:15 Bible studies on Thursday and Friday, beverages will be provided. Evening services on Thursday,

Friday and Saturday begin at 7. On Saturday there will be a men's breakfast at 8 and a parish pot-luck supper at 5.

A service of Holy Communion on Sunday morning at 11 will conclude the mission.

## Sunrise service starts centennial celebrations

Parishioners of St. George's Anglican Church in McAdam began the new year with a sunrise service on January 1 to mark the beginning of the church's 100th anniversary. The service was followed by a pancake breakfast in the Parish Hall, and despite the fact that the event followed New Year's Eve celebrations, 30 souls were in attendance for the service and breakfast that followed.

The service, called a gathering of the community, was lead by lay reader Doug Goss as the parish is presently without a rector. Doug involved many members of the parish in reading various psalms and scripture lessons, and in leading prayers throughout the service.

Services officially began in McAdam on December 29, 1901 when the service of Holy Communion was celebrated by the Rev. J. R. DeWolfe Cowie assisted by the Rev. J. E. Flewelling, who was instrumental in establishing the church in McAdam. The record notes 46 were present for the service and the collection totaled \$3.50.

Interest in a church in McAdam was first recorded on August 7, 1899 when 36 persons attended a vestry meeting of the newly formed congregation. Held

in the local IOOF hall, it proposed that the rector receive a salary of \$75.00 per year. Following that meeting Bishop H. T. Kingdon was contacted about funding for a church in McAdam and he responded favourably indicating that he had \$128.53 on hand for such an undertaking.

Subsequent fund raising by the parish involved an oyster supper and other events which soon brought in the princely sum of \$267.00 toward the cause. By June 11, 1900 it was reported that the bishop was now prepared to put forward \$637.00 toward a new church in McAdam however, in February of 1901 the parish was read a letter from the bishop indicating that building must take place by December of that year. The records indicate that construction started in August of 1901 and the deadline was met, although the records indicate that services on Advent Sunday [December 15] took place elsewhere, so apparently meeting the deadline was just barely accomplished.

In keeping with tradition, it was announced prior to the sunrise service held on January 1 this year, that collection at the service would be in coin only. We

did slightly better than our ancestors, netting \$49.00 for the church coffers.

A number of events are planned to mark this centennial year. The highlight will be an evening of memories portrayed in comedy and theatre by our talented parishioners to be held on June 30, followed by a Social in the parish hall. On July 1 Bishop Hockin will give the sermon for the Sunday service. An anniversary committee is sending our letters to all former parishioners and priests inviting their attendance to mark the centennial at this special service. It will be followed by a dinner in the parish hall.

The committee is chaired by Frank Carroll and includes Elsie Carroll, Betty Lou Christie, Gloria Adams, John and Carla Kilbride, Cameron and Kaye Nason, Jim and Alice Hunter, Ann Garrett, Barbara Sutherland and Doug Goss.

We extend an invitation to all former parishioners to come back to McAdam to help us celebrate our centennial. You can contact Mr. Doug Goss at 209 Saunders Road, McAdam, NB, E6J 1M3, [phone 784-3546] or via e-mail at gossdj@nbed.nb.ca for additional information.

## Parish of McAdam says farewell to 'Charlie' Smart

Last fall, parishioners of St. George's Anglican Church in McAdam gathered to extend best wishes to the Reverend Charles Smart—or 'Charlie' as he prefers to be called—on his retirement after more than 30 years in the Lord's Army.

After 23 years as a lay minister in the Church Army he began theological training at Wycliffe College. He was ordained in Fredericton in 1984. He served in a number of parishes in New Brunswick and spent the past five as rector in McAdam.

Members of the parish presented Charlie with a picture of the church painted by local artist Ed Garrett, as well as a monetary gift. His wife Linden was presented with gifts by the woman's group and received flowers from the parish.

# INTERCESSIONS

## Pray for others overseas, in Canada, and in our own diocese

### MARCH

**15:** Parishes of Newcastle & Nelson, The Rev. William LeGrand; House of Hope Missionary Station (Ponto Missionario Casa da Esperanca), Ministry: Rev Miguel Uchoa, Jaboatao Brazil.

**16:** Parish of New Maryland, The Rev. Tony Bassett; Good Samaritan Parish (Paroquia do Bom Samaritano), Ministry: Rev Filadelfo Oliveira Neto, Recife Brazil; Jessica Swift, Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, England.

**17:** Parish of Pennfield, The Rev. Keith Osborne; Christ Liberator Mission (Missao Cristo Libertador), Ministry: Rev. Jorge Aquino, Joao Pessoa Brazil.

**18:** The Church of South East Asia, Archbishop Datuk Yong, Judy Berinai, teaching at Sahah Theological Seminary; The Province of Rupert's Land, Archbishop Tom Morgan & Provincial Council; Diocesan Office, Bishop D. Edward Robinson de Barros Cavalcanti, Recife Brazil; Diocese of Yukon: Those retired from missionary service: Isobel Greenwood; The Rev. Ben Hall & Nancy Hall; The Rev. Dorothy Thorpe; The Rev. Bruce Aylard & Audrey Aylard, The Rev. Don Sax & Deacon Lee Sax, The Rev. Dr. Ellen Bruce CM, Deacon Effie Linklater, Licensed Lay Ministers: Edith Josie, CM, Bishop Terry Buckle, Blanche and family; William, our Bishop; George and Harold, Bishops Emeriti, and their families.

**19:** Parish of Portland, Capt. Bonnie Hunt, The Rev. Gordon Thompson; Communion Missionary Station (Ponto Missionario Comunhao), Ministry: Rev. Marcio Meira, Joao Pessoa Brazil; The Rev. Robert Pratt (R).

**20:** Parish of Prince William, The Rev. Robert J. Barry; Calvary Parish (Paroquia do Calvario), Ministry: Rev. Adonias Ramos, Paulista Brazil.

**21:** Parish of Quispamsis, The Rev. John Tremblay; Hope Mission (Missao da Esperanca), Ministry: Lay Ministry Claudio Linhares, Joao Pessoa Brazil; The Rev. Nicholas Prosser (R).

**22:** Parish of Renforth, The Rev. Eric Phinney; The Comforter Missionary Station (Ponto Missionario O Consolador), Ministry: Lay ministry Antonio Costa, Joao Pessoa Brazil.

**23:** Parish of Restigouche, The Rev. Bill Morton; Christ The Saviour Parish (Paroquia Cristo O Salvador), Ministry: Rev. Josafa dos Santos, Ilha de Itaparica Brazil; Wendy Amos-Binks, Wycliffe College.

**24:** Parish of Richmond, The Rev. Roderick Black; Jesus of Nazareth Mission (Missao Jesus de Nazareth), Ministry: Rev. Severino Abel da Silva, S. Goncalo do Amarante Brazil.

**25:** The Episcopal Church in the Philippines, Prime Bishop Ignacio Soliba, and the ministry among young people; The Diocese of Montreal, Bishop Andrew Hutchison, Bishop G. Russell Hatton; Diocesan Office, Bishop D. Edward Robinson de Barros Cavalcanti, Recife Brazil; Diocese of Yukon: Whitehorse - Christ Church Cathedral: The Very Rev. Desmond Carroll (Dean), Marion Carroll, & family; The Ven. Arthur Privett & Muriel Privett (Honourary Assistant); Licensed Lay Ministers: Joy Wickett, Richard D'Aeth, & Dorothy Sorenson, Bishop Terry Buckle, Blanche and family; William, our Bishop; George and Harold,

Bishops Emeriti, and their families.

**26:** Parish of Riverview, The Rev. Albert Snelgrove; God Liberator Missionary Station (Ponto Missionario, Deus Libertador), Ministry: Lay Ministry Carlos Alberto Tome, Joao Pessoa Brazil; The Ven. Harry Quinn (R).

**27:** Parish of Rothesay, Rev. Canon Richard McConnell; Emanuel Parish (Paroquia Emanuel), Ministry: Rev. Ian Meldrum, Assistant Ministry: Rev. Edgar Batista, Olinda Brazil.

**28:** Parish of St. Andrew's, Rev. Canon John Matheson; Liberty Mission (Missao da Liberdade), Ministry: Rev. Stephen James Taylor, Assistant Ministry: Rev. Evanilza Loureiro, Jaboatao Brazil; The Rev. Ronald Rippin (R).

**29:** Parish of St. David & St. Patrick, Rev. Canon John Matheson, Priest-in-Charge; Olives Garden Missionary Station (Ponto Missionario Jardim das Oliveiras), Ministry: Rev. Mauricio Coelho, Recife Brazil.

**30:** Parish of St. George, The Rev. Mary Anne Langmaid; Holy Spirit Parish (Paroquia do Espirito Santo), Minister: Rev. Miguel Uchoa, Jaboatao Brazil; Andrew Horne, Wycliffe College.

**31:** Parish of St. James, Moncton, The Rev. Donald Routledge; Mediator Mission (Missao do Mediador), Ministry: Rev. Verulucia Lins Silva, Recife Brazil.

### APRIL

**1:** The Anglican Church of Korea, Presiding Bishop Paul Yoon, especially remembering theological students from Korea studying in Canada, and for our ecumenical work through Canada Asia Working Group; Diocesan Office, Bishop D. Edward Robinson de Barros Cavalcanti, Recife Brazil;

Diocese of Yukon: Fort Nelson - St. Mary Magdalene; Toad River; Alaska Highway mile 150-506: The Ven. Sean Murphy, Archdeacon of Liard, Bishop Terry Buckle, Blanche and family; William, our Bishop; George and Harold, Bishops Emeriti, and their families.

**2:** Parish of St. James (Saint John), Capt. Rod Brant Francis; Nativity Missionary Station (Ponto Missionario, da Natividade), Ministry: Rev. Jorge Aquino, Natal, Brazil; The Rev. Tom Robinson (R).

**3:** Parish of Saint John, The Ven. Stuart Allen, The Rev. George Trentowsky, The Rev. George Trentowsky; Reconciliation Parish (Paroquia da Reconciliacao), Ministry: Rev. Luiz Marcos Silva, Caruaru - Brazil.

**4:** Parish of St. Margaret's, Rev. Canon Jon Lownds; Saviour Mission (Missao do Salvador), Ministry: Lay Ministry Carlos Tome, Joao Pessoa, Brazil; Canon Fred Scott, Diocesan Treasurer & Synod Office Staff.

**5:** Parish of St. Mark (Stone) Church, (vacant); Saint Francis of Assis Missionary Station (Ponto Missionario Sao Francisco de Assis), Ministry: Rev. Severino Abel da Silva, S. Goncalo do Amarante, Brazil.

**6:** Parish of St. Martin's & Black River, The Rev. Robyn Cuming; Redemption Parish (Paroquia da Redencao), Ministry: Rev. Maria Gorete da Silva, Olinda, Brazil; James Duffett, Wycliffe College.

**7:** Parish of St. Mary's, The Rev. Barry Craig; Sower Mission (Missao do Semeador), Ministry: Rev. Saulo Mauricio Barros, Olinda, Brazil.

**8:** Church of Nippon Sei Ko Kai

(Holy Catholic Church in Japan), Primate John Jun'ichiro Furumoto, the National Christian Council in Japan, and for Blair and Jean Williams Volunteers in Mission at the Asian Rural Institute in Nishinasuno; Diocesan Office, Bishop D. Edward Robinson de Barros Cavalcanti, Recife Brazil; Diocese of Yukon: Telegraph Creek - St. Aidan; Dease Lake; Glenora; Licensed Lay Incumbent Lesley Wheeler-Dame; Bishop Terry Buckle, Blanche and family; William, our Bishop; George and Harold, Bishops Emeriti, and their families.

**9:** Parish of St. Paul's (Valley) Church, The Rev. Rufus Onyewuchi; True Vineyard Missionary Station (Ponto Missionario Videira Verdadeira), Ministry: Rev. Edmar Pimentel, Caruaru, Brazil; Rev. Canon Gordon Smith (R).

**10:** Parish of St. Peter, The Rev. Ross Hebb; Redeemer Parish (Paroquia do Redentor), Ministry: Rev. Mitsuo, Noyama, Assistant Ministry: Rev. Nadja Maria Lins da Silva, Recife, Brazil.

**11:** Parish of St. Philip's, The Rev. Kevin Borthwick; Pentecost Mission (Missao de Pentecostes), Ministry: Lay Ministry ardon Tenorio, Jaboatao, Brazil; Rev. Canon Dr. R.B. Smith (R).

**12:** Parish of St. Stephen, The Rev. Peter Mills; Zion Mount Missionary Station (Ponto Missionario Monte Siao), Ministry: Rev. Leonides Menezes, Umburetama, Brazil.

**13:** Parish of Salisbury & Havelock, The Rev. Ellis Jagoe; Resurrection Parish (Paroquia da Ressurreicao), Ministry: Rev. Luiz de Souza Franca, Joao Pessoa, Brazil; Chris Hayes, Wycliffe College.

## Jesus encourages us to think for ourselves

*The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.*  
Ephesians 4: 11ff. (NRSV)

Size seems to make a difference. For my money it's 'medium black, double cupped'. That's the lingo of my Tim Horton's on the MacKay Highway, a lingo spoken across the province, across the country.

My Tim's is a warm place for a coffee and a bagel, a neutral place for table talk — doesn't raise an alarm when I arrange to meet with folks there. A lot of God-talk takes place in those familiar surroundings.

The other day I had an 'appointment' in 'my office' at Tim's. I arrived early, grabbed a medium black, double cupped and found a table with a measure of privacy. While I waited I took a book from my jacket pocket and began to read. Sip. Turn. Sip. Turn. A young man approached, saw my collar.

"James?"

He was my appointment. We shook hands and Luke settled



the penultimate  Word  
BY CANON JAMES IRVINE

into his seat. I asked him if he would like a coffee. He spoke the lingo, I went to get two fresh cups. I was due for a second.

I deliberately left my book on the table. Godless Morality, by Richard Holloway.

"Looks interesting," said Luke when I returned. He carefully

removed the lid from his coffee and asked, "What's it about?"

"Oh, that," I replied, "That's about God. And us."

He arched an eyebrow.

"You know, when it comes to morality, we often hold our own uncertain ground and deflect the responsibility to God. We prefer not to think things through. When our argument gets weak, then we bring in God and say 'God doesn't like it'. This book encourages us to look at our responsibility — to look at our ability to respond to the difficult decisions we have to make in life."

"Yeah," Luke said. "I've had a hard time growing up and I know how difficult it is."

"When we say that God doesn't like this or that, it doesn't mean that we agree with God. It just means that we're through wrestling with some difficult things in our lives."

"I never thought of that, never looked at it in that way," Luke replied.

"Well, what we often do is impose our positions on others and fail to see that Jesus encouraged others to work out their own positions. We judge others by what we do ourselves, or by what

we don't do. But we make mistakes. We're not in a play. There aren't any rehearsals. We're bound to get some things wrong. But we don't always make mistakes and the fact of the matter is, we get a clearer grasp of what's important the more we live our lives."

"I'd like to learn more about what's important."

"You're not alone in that, Luke. Why not join us in a study group? We talk about things like this — about God and about how we handle the difficulties that face us every day."

Holloway says: "Fortunately, there are always plenty of people around who prefer ethical jazz and its skilled improvisations, because they believe it is a truer expression of the real human condition." (p. 130)

Paul put it another way in Ephesians. He reminded the faithful they were to measure themselves by nothing less than the 'full stature of Christ'. They weren't to measure themselves against him as an Apostle. They weren't to measure themselves against the heroes in their lives, or the person next door. They were to measure themselves against what

they had come to know as the full stature of Christ. That measurement, Paul said, would be counted as maturity.

What do we recognize as the full stature of Christ? How do we quantify it? What is the height, the depth, the width of the One who hung from a Cross? Do we measure that stature in terms of compassion, in units of forgiveness, as an expression of forbearance? Do we allow for the struggle and the courage required in the midst of the assault?

Godless Morality is an ethic that demands our subscription in terms of maturity that reflects Jesus — engaged and alive — in our lives. Jesus' ethic took him into the lives of people in want and confusion, in need of grace and in need of forgiveness.

The full stature of the Man rose from the ground and declared to the penitent, "Go and sin no more," without a word of how this might be accomplished. It is just a hope, an expectation, a promise of grace, continuing in the midst of struggle.

# Pause ... accept Holy Week as a gift

*Help children understand the events and experience the liturgies of Holy Week*

BY THE REV. PATRICIA DRUMMOND  
DIOCESAN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

When I was child in England, we had a six weeks school holiday in the summer, but our other holidays revolved around Christmas and Easter, three or four weeks around each festival. The Easter holiday dates varied a little according to whether Easter was early or late each year, but Easter was the "main event" whether it fell at the beginning or the end of our time off.

Easter today is a long weekend for children, and much is made of it at school, but unfortunately, the classroom decorations, talk and stories will be Easter bunny and chocolate egg centred, and there will be no mention of the crucifixion or resurrection. At Christmas the creche may still make an appearance, and there may even be a nativity scene and carols at the Christmas concert, but Easter has become entirely secular. It is, therefore, up to parents and Church school teachers to make sure that Christian children know the stories and grow up with memorable traditions which they, in turn, will pass to their children, for the events of Holy Week and Easter proclaim the central mystery of the Christian faith.

Despite work commitments, and never ending home chores, it is also a wonderful gift to ourselves to take time to pause during Holy Week and enter into all the special liturgies of the season — Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday — for it is only then that one is fully able to appreciate and understand the significance of the season. To attend only one or two of these very special services is like seeing only one or two acts of a four act play, and the whole cannot be fully appreciated if some of the parts are missing. It is important to involve children in all four services if at all possible, and, if not, at least to try to have home activities related to each special time, so that none of the great story is missed.

On Palm Sunday the service is usually wonderfully "child-friendly", for there is a procession, there are often palms to wave or to watch being waved, there may be a dramatized reading of the passion narrative in which children may take part, and palm crosses may be passed out to take home. Children may be intrigued by the way the cross is folded and,

at home, they may like to make another cross out of a strip of construction paper. There is a pattern in the Whole People of God curriculum, Primary level, and in Debbie Trafton O'Neal's book, "Before and After Easter." Alternatively, some children may enjoy figuring it out!

The Monday and Tuesday in Holy week were traditionally "clean up" days, when extra cleaning was done in preparation for Easter, so that homes might shine with "new life". Children might be encouraged to get involved in polishing whatever can be polished, and also to share in some extra baking. If there is a traditional family Easter recipe, they will enjoy being part of its preparation and the talk about grandparents or great grandparents who passed it on.

The Maundy Thursday service may be too late for children. If so, perhaps the family might enjoy a Paschal meal, reminiscent of the Passover celebration, and with some similar foods and appropriate children's Bible stories or readings. The stories of the plagues of Egypt and the Israelites leaving their life of slavery, and of the Lord's Supper, when Jesus instituted what we know as Holy Communion, are told vividly in the *Read with Me Bible*,

recommended by our Bishop. Brian Wildsmith's book *Exodus* is also excellent for its beautiful illustrations. The Bible references are Exodus 12 and Mark 14:12-26.

Traditional foods include roast lamb to remember the lamb's blood sprinkled on the doorposts of the Israelites so that the angel of death would pass by those homes. Unleavened bread is in memory of the bread which was made too hurriedly to be given time to rise before the people of Israel fled and also for the manna with which God fed the Israelites in the desert (you could use pita bread). Charoset is made by mixing 6 grated or finely chopped apples, 1/2 cup raisins, 1/2 tsp. cinnamon, 1/4 cup grape juice or wine and 1/2 cup chopped nuts. It symbolizes the mortar used to cement the bricks made by the Israelite slaves. Moror is bitter herbs (parsley, green onion or radish). They are dipped in salt water to signify the tears shed by enslaved people. Finally, there is red wine or grape juice, to remember the blood of the lamb.

Services on Good Friday and Holy Saturday will vary from church to church. It is also possible that a Good Friday Programme for children may be offered in a church nearby. Whatever event is

attended by the children of the family, it is, I think, important to make this a "different" day in mood and atmosphere.

In the video *Let the Children Come*, which I have shown to many groups, the Rev. Dr. John Westerhoff suggests that from Good Friday until the first service of Easter, whether this be a service of light on Easter Saturday evening or the Sunday morning service, the family should shut off everything in the home using light or heat, as far as is possible for safety. The heat is therefore turned down or off, lights are not used, only cold food and drinks are served, and no hot water is run. This reminds everyone very vividly of Christ's great sacrifice for us, and contrasts greatly with the celebration of Easter when Christ is risen and everything is turned on again.

If there is a service of light, it is very meaningful to light a candle from the Paschal candle in church which stands for the risen Christ (one in a glass container will survive the journey home), and to bring it into the home as the first light of Easter.

May you and your children have a truly blessed Holy Week and Easter.

## Spiritual channel-surfing presents conflicting images

*Even an hour of Sunday school each week won't equip children for the life long battle against sin, the world and the devil*

Life on the net: Today's gem is from a short article by Terry Mattingly called Learning to Preach in Fog.

The question was so simple that Haddon Robinson wasn't sure he had heard it correctly.

"What is Christmas?" asked the man in the next airplane seat, once he learned that he was chatting with a seminary professor. The businessman thought he knew, since he was an ordinary American who had grown up surrounded by old movies and television specials. Then he asked, "What is Easter?" That led to, "What do you mean by 'resurrection'?"

Robinson described the biblical accounts of God raising Jesus from the dead.

This man said to me, "Do all Christians believe that?" I said, "All Christians should believe that. Then he said, "That's interesting. I think I knew about Christmas. But I didn't really know about Easter" ...

Last week, going over hymns for the Sunday service, I asked the junior choir what several of the words meant, like 'manna'. Blank. Prompts. 'Crackers?' These are kids who have been regular in church, coming with their parents and grandparents,



*Maggie's Kitchen*  
by Maggie Harris

regular in Sunday school, where they've had a Bible-based curriculum, and are now confirmed. They are consciously, intentionally Christian. But if they knew as little about math or social studies as they know about the Bible's contents, they'd never graduate.

By contrast, the kids who attended an after-school Bible club I once ran were spotty in their Bible club attendance, and came from families that (like them) never darkened the door of the church and showed no interest in having them baptized. But they knew their Bible stories, by gum.

The difference? Exposure. The Bible club kids attended a two-room school (now closed) where the day began with prayers and a Bible story. The teachers

began at the beginning and read straight through, then began all over again. How many parents do that? Can you imagine the possibilities if they did?

We have suffered a great loss in the secularizing of the schools, but have done next to nothing to compensate for it at home. Forty minutes a week of Sunday school doesn't cut it, nor does a week of Vacation Bible School or church camp in the summer. Even an hour every Sunday in church doesn't cut it, if that's all the exposure our kids get to the content of the Christian faith. They may be believers, but they'll never be informed believers. They'll be missing crucial pieces of armor in their lifelong battle against sin, the world, and the devil.

They won't find the missing pieces on the net, or on television, or in the malls. We have this optimistic idea that the media are a great learning tool. Robinson points to the real effect of the media, which is to fill people's heads and hearts with conflicting images and values, as they engage in 'spiritual channel surfing'.

So I may lie awake at night, thinking of all the nifty and

memorable ways I could present the stories of the Patriarchs, and their meaning as 'types' of Christ's work of salvation. But I know, deep down, that one-shot 'specials', however grand and entertaining, will not undo the effect of hours and hours each day of exposure to soft-headed junk. It's no use just adding more channels to choose from.

A last word from Robinson: Our technological environment 'communicates with images. It doesn't come out and argue. It just simply shows you pictures, day after day after day after day. Before you realize it, in the basement of your mind, you discover that you have shifted your values and many times you've lost your faith.

All the more reason to give real substance to your Lenten Rule. Along with the fasting, get out your Bible, and read it in an orderly manner (not just short, unconnected snippets). If you have children, may I recommend something really constructive? Read to them — daily, starting from the beginning — from a good Bible story book. I was going to recommend Kenneth Taylor's *The Bible in Pictures for Little Eyes*, but have discovered that it's now out of print. Too bad, since it's true to Holy Scripture, each page ends with a question for discussion, the illustrations aren't silly or childish, and (despite the 'little eyes' bit) it's appropriate for older children as well.

### EGGS WITH YOGURT & GARLIC

An ancient Middle Eastern meatless meal for two.

Crush 2 cloves of garlic; mix with 1/2 cup plain yogurt and set aside. Heat 2 tsp olive oil in a small nonstick skillet. Break 3 eggs into the skillet; season with salt and pepper. Top with the yogurt, cover, and cook over low heat about 3 minutes. Serve with warm pita and a green salad. If your cooking is this simple, you'll have plenty of time for Bible reading!