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Ownership of budget fosters financial shift

BY ANA WATTS

The Diocese of Fredericton posted an operating surplus of more than \$71,000 for the year 2001. "That's remarkable in a diocese that has incurred some major deficits in recent years," said diocesan treasurer Canon Fred Scott.

In the final analysis, diocesan expenses were down by \$10,000, thanks in large part to some creative parish realignments and partnerships; and income was up about \$60,000. Canon Scott credited some of the turn-around to a change in attitude.

"Last year we decided not to cut any more but to move forward, to budget what we needed. We asked parishes to maintain their contributions and to give to the bishop's appeal. We targeted \$25,000 for the bishop's appeal, we got \$27,000. The parishes also exceeded their mission outreach contributions. I think the parishes responded because they felt they 'owned' this budget."

Recent synods have focused on analyzing the wants and needs of the diocese with input from all the parishes. Support for youth, lay development, stewardship and struggling parishes

emerged as priorities. Before the 2001 budget was set to address these issues, as well as on-going diocesan commitments, budget preparation meetings were held throughout the diocese for parish input. The final budget took the results of this consultation into consideration.

"Budget consultation is now part of the system, we'll do it every September," said Bishop William Hockin.

The final operating surplus for 2001 actually came in at around \$45,000, because the diocese took advantage of the extra funds to address a couple of outstanding issues: it paid the costs of an oil spill in a parish; and costs related to the appraisal of properties carried out in 1997/98.

"It's not all good news, though," said Canon Scott. "We still have parish arrears on assessments. Most of them come in, but some will have to be written-off. Arrears are serious and usually reflect the financial reality at the parish level. That's when the bishop gets directly involved. The main thing is, all the parishes were able to pay their priests, although

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Proceeds from dinner to fund youth ministry

Organizers of Bishop William Hockin's second annual diocesan fundraising dinner expect upwards of 350 New Brunswick Anglicans, their families and friends to attend. Proceeds from the Monday, May 13 event, to be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Fredericton, will be placed in the Bishop's discretionary fund, and earmarked for youth ministry in the diocese.

Special speaker for the evening will be Bishop Doug Blackwell of the Diocese of Toronto. "He is an outstanding speaker who has a heart for the gospel and some valuable insights into the future of the Anglican Church in Canada," says Bishop Hockin.

A graduate of Wycliffe College, Bishop Blackwell served

as assistant to the Archbishop of Toronto before being elected to serve the Trent-Durham district of the Diocese of Toronto, which includes Oshawa and Peterborough.

"Last spring's dinner, which was the first, was a tremendous success and netted more than \$19,000," says Jim Morell, publicity chairman for this year's fundraiser. "About 265 people attended the first event. It was like a large family who had gathered for a Sunday afternoon dinner together. There was tremendous spirit in the room, and everyone enjoyed themselves. The Bishop's remarks and the address by the Hon. Margaret McCain (former lieutenant governor) were very well received, and

See **Dinner** on page 2

Lord of the Loos



During a recent tour of the diocese, Canon John Erb, director of the Anglican Foundation, briefed members of Diocesan Council on funding available for buildings, programs. "I'm often called 'Lord of the Loos' because the foundation has helped to replace a lot of out-houses," he said. Theology and music students, social programs, even artistic programs in liturgical dancing and supplies for banners can also be covered by the foundation's loans and grants. He encouraged every parish in the diocese to join the foundation at a cost of just \$50 per year. If every parish in the country joined, the foundation would have \$200,000 more per year to use. Diocesan Chancellor Charles Ferris, in the background, was among the many to hear the message.

Stevenson part of elite group

A Consultation of Legal Advisers to Primates of the Anglican Communion was held at the new International Education Centre at Canterbury Cathedral from March 6 to 13. Canon Ron Stevenson of Fredericton, a former justice of the Court of Queens Bench and the current Chancellor of General Synod, was among the 21 chancellors and registrars from 17 countries in attendance.

One year ago, when the

Primates of the Anglican Communion met at Kanuga, USA Professor Norman Doe of Cardiff University presented a paper on Canon Law and Communion. He asserted that there is a high degree of similarity and unity in the legal systems of the churches that make up the Communion and that such similarities contribute to Anglican identity and to cohesion in the Communion. The Primates received the presentation enthusias-

tically and agreed that a conference of Legal Advisers should be held to pursue the subjects raised by Professor Doe.

Professor Doe, Professor Richard Helmholtz of the University of Chicago and Canon David Hamid of the Anglican Communion Office presented formal papers at the consultation. As well each participant briefly outlined current legal issues affecting his or her church.

See **General Synod** on page 3

Valley parishes to pursue relationship

On February 24, members of the parishes of Grand Bay, Greenwich, Ketepec and Westfield voted in favour of pursuing 'a stronger and more secure future in relationship'.

The vote followed a Service of Celebration at St. Matthew Roman Catholic Church with Bishop William Hockin.

"It was a wonderful service, charged with a positive feeling of 'this is what church could be'. We're thrilled with the possibility of these parishes working together. The recent vote enables them to invest in initial plans from an architect," says the bishop.

The parishes of Grand Bay, Ketepec and Westfield all voted

more than 90 per cent in favour of moving on to the 'community building stage' of their co-operative project. Members of the Par-

ish of Greenwich voted 52 per cent in favour of proceeding to the next step.

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Caryn Crowe addressed Diocesan Council on youth issues. See page 3.

Council Briefs

NAME CHANGES PROPOSED

The working group of the Diocesan Constitutions and Canons Committee will present proposed changes to its full committee later this spring and to Diocesan Council in the fall. Among the proposed changes are new names for the diocese and the Church of England Act of 1942.

"We're doing a major housekeeping job on the act, the canons, the constitution and regulations (the red book)," said Chancellor Charles Ferris, who chairs the committee. "We're not changing the work or ecclesiastical role of the church, but we are trying to update the tools used to facilitate the day to day management of the temporal aspects of the church. We're looking at changing the name of the diocese from Fredericton to New Brunswick, and when we have made the Church of England Act of 1942 a more readable, transparent and gender-inclusive document, we will present it to the legislature, probably as the Anglican Church Act — probably of 2003.

Vice Chancellor Clyde Spinney, former Vice Chancellor Beverley Smith, the Primate's Chancellor Ron Stevenson and the Rev. Barry Craig serve on the working group with Chancellor Ferris.

RECORDS FOR SALE

Diocesan Council approved the sale of published transcriptions of Anglican parish records in response to a request from diocesan archivist Frank Morehouse.

Baptism, marriage and burial records as well as cemetery tombstone inscriptions are freely available already. Technological advances have made it fairly easy, however, for genealogists and others with parish lines to transcribe, index and publish these records. The archives has also transcribed some records. These transcriptions make searches for baptism and other records much faster and more convenient.

Once the transcriptions are printed, these publications are in great demand in genealogical, historical and church circles, said Mr. Morehouse. "Since these records are a unique and important (and possibly marketable) part of each parish, it is possible that parishes would wish to transcribe their own records and use the sale of the publications as fundraisers."

The archivist is not promoting the transcription and publication of the records, but experience indicates this is already being done on a regular basis. "We have already been asked if these publications can be purchased ... We should note that we have no desire for economic gain here — but would turn any 'profit' realized back to the appropriate parish."

Any sensitive information that priests wrote in the records regarding adoption or legitimacy of children would not be included in the transcripts.

"This is a pro-active decision on our part," said Bishop William Hockin. "We need to do this rather than wait for some commercial enterprise to come and do it."

"This is all information that is, and has long been, readily accessible to the public," said Chancellor Charles Ferris.

YOUTH INITIATIVE, YOUTH CAMP, YOUTH GAP

The young people of the diocese called on Diocesan Council to 'do something special to change the lives of youth in the parishes in 2003', the year Bishop Hockin has set aside to focus on youth. They would like that 'something special' to be a full-time Diocesan Youth Co-ordinator.

Peter Irish, chair of the Diocesan Youth Action Team, ac-

companied by young Anglicans Jamie Morell and Caryn Crowe, outlined what has been done, what is being done, and what should be done in the diocese in order to help young people from 16 through 25 grow spiritually.

"There were 20 kids in my Sunday school class when I was young, now there are two, 20-year-olds in my church," said Caryn.

Included in the committee's plans are two, diocesan-sponsored weekend workshops, one in the spring and the other in the fall. The spring workshop would help clergy, youth leaders and young people take innovative and effective approaches to parish youth ministry. The fall session would be aimed at personal spiritual growth and learning.

"Our plan will keep the next generation in church — we've lost the last one," said Mr. Irish.

The cost of a youth co-ordinator position would run close to \$75,000 annually, including programs, but Mr. Irish said there is already about \$30,000 in the budget and suggested the youth co-ordinator could also serve as director of Camp Medley in the summer.

Bev Harrison, chair of the Camp Medley Board, said the camp is looking down the road toward an executive director's position that could be part of a Diocesan Youth Co-ordinator position. Mr. Harrison also presented

plans for an ambitious upgrade Camp Medley facilities.

"We would like to start work in 2003, the year in which the diocese will recognize youth, and we hope to have designs available for display at the Bishop's Dinner in May." Proceeds from the dinner are earmarked for youth ministry, including the diocesan youth camps.

The Rev. Patricia Drummond, Diocesan Director of Christian Education, was on hand at Diocesan Council to present her report. Following the discussions on youth co-ordinators and Camp Medley, she pointed out there is a gap in youth ministry in the diocese.

Ms. Drummond works with Sunday school teachers, clergy, families and others in support of children up to about 12 years old. The Youth Action Committee is chiefly concerned with young people from 16 to 25.

"There are no programs and no one looking after the 12 to 16 year olds. These children are feeling left out and so are their parents," she said.

RESOURCE CENTRE

GETS A HOME

The Church of England Institute, which owns the building on Princess Street in Saint John that houses the Anglican House book store, has agreed to host the new Diocesan Resource Centre as well. A space behind the book store has been allocated for the centre and Anglican House staff will be available to assist those who want to borrow the resource materials.

Organizers advise diners to purchase tickets early

Dinner continued from page 1

people were happy with the whole evening. We'll be following the same format as in 2001, but we're planning for even greater numbers. Given the last minute rush for tickets in 2001, I'd advise people to purchase their tickets early so as not to be disappointed, should we reach our maximum and have to turn people away."

In keeping with the Bishop's declaration of 2003 as "Youth Action Year" in the diocese, the proceeds from this year's dinner will go toward youth ministry.

"I want to build on the tremendous success of the youth consultation held last fall at St. James

the Less parish in Renforth, so the money from this year's dinner will be dedicated to our church summer camps and to various initiatives being recommended by the diocesan youth action committee. At both the diocesan and parish levels, we are all going to have to dedicate time, energy and money to our youth," says Bishop Hockin.

The proceeds from the 2001 dinner covered the cost of the first annual Clergy College, a week-long learning event for diocesan clergy held in June 2001 at the forestry complex on the UNB campus in Fredericton. Attendance at the college was very strong and

the keynote speakers were well received. The Clergy College continues this year, and will become one of the on-going programs of the diocese.

Keith Dow, chairman of the organizing committee for the dinner, commented that he'd like to see Anglicans from every corner of the diocese attend this year. Tickets are \$100 (tax receipt for \$65) and are available from the synod office (for more info call Fred Scott at 459-1801) or Anglican House in Saint John (693-2295).

Information letters have gone out to all rectors and wardens

inviting representation from each parish, and asking that attendance be promoted among congregation members.

The organizing committee has chosen salmon for the main course. A reception will begin at 6 p.m. with the dinner to follow at 7. "It should be a very, very enjoyable evening for our Anglican family," says Mr. Morell. "And youth ministry is an ideal focus. The needs are great and there is much work to be done in this area. The Bishop's support of youth ministry is very much appreciated by the young people themselves."

Diocesan programs need to be evaluated

Budget continued from page 1

three parishes did have trouble with pensions."

Canon Scott made his remarks as he presented the year-end financial statements to Diocesan Council in Fredericton on March 14. At that meeting the Board of Finance also recommended that council recognize the need for 'an effective assessment and evaluation process to ensure various ministries, activities and initiatives in the diocese are meeting its stated goals and objectives in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible' — understanding the Gospel and the Great Commission define our goals and objectives.

There was some discussion on the recommendation. The Rev.

Barry Craig suggested some programs might be 'extravagant but necessary'. Eventually the recommendation was endorsed with the words 'cost-effective' removed. The final recommendation read: that council recognize the need for an effective assessment and evaluation process to ensure various ministries, activities and initiatives in the diocese are meeting its stated goals and objectives in the most efficient manner possible.

One of the programs the finance committee had in mind was diocesan synod. Recent changes in parish representation made the 2001 synod the largest and most expensive on record, a full \$10,000 more expensive than any ever held before.

"Clearly it needs evaluation and recommended changes need to go to our Constitution and Canons Committee. We have outgrown the available facilities, I think anyone who attended the last synod recognizes that," said Canon Scott.

The Diocesan Structures Committee is also concerned with program assessment and evaluation. On behalf of the committee, the Ven. Claude Miller presented Diocesan Council with a template/flow-chart of the many ministries carried on beyond the parish level in the diocese. The chart distinguished ministries commissioned by (or which report more directly to) the bishop from those which are more a part of the diocesan

structure itself. He noted that since the disbandment of the Board of Program last fall, some sort of mechanism is required to evaluate ministries and initiatives and to review annual budget requirements as well as to sponsor and support new ministry initiatives. This mechanism will be established in a consultative process, modeled after the bishop's approach to change.

"The only way that any real change can come about is if all groups and individuals affected by change are involved in deciding what changes are required, so they will have ownership and an understanding of the new processes or structures," said Archdeacon Miller.

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BISHOP'S PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS

APRIL 6

Warden's Day
Christ Church (Parish)
Church
Fredericton
10 a.m.

APRIL 7-9 & 14-16

Bishop's Visitation
Deanery of Kingston

APRIL 16

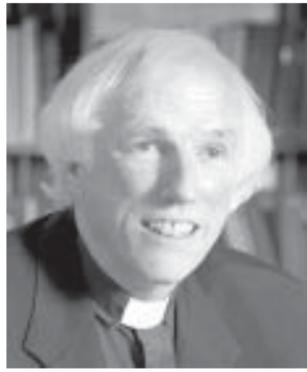
Clergy Spouse's Conference
Villa Madonna, Renforth

APRIL 20

Definitely Not Synod
Workshop
St. George's, Carleton
Saint John

APRIL 22-26

House of Bishops
Toronto



From the Bishop

Stewardship.

Do you feel it — feel the tightness that begins in the neck, runs through the shoulder, down the right arm to the hand, which automatically closes around wallet or purse?

Stewardship is surely one of the most dreaded words in our Anglican dictionary. It conjures little joy, comfort or solace, only this apprehension. We loosely translate it to mean they're asking for more. The strange irony in all of this is the grand and glorious ritual we church people often heap around the Offertory.

I once served in a very low Anglican church in Ontario where everything was low except the Offertory. With great pomp and military precision, 20 sidespersons — all in step, all in navy jackets, all carrying shining brass plates overflowing with envelopes and spare change — marched down the three aisles and came together at the font. A casual observer of this drill might well conclude that making a money offering to God in church was a very serious business indeed — a holy business worthy of God's serious

The myth of scarcity

attention.

As those 20 men and women stood at attention, the choir led us all in Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Indeed, the Doxology is the only good rationale for such an elaborate ritual to show God how grateful we are to Him.

So why then this gap that separates how we feel about Stewardship and personal giving, and singing the Doxology? Why are we so uptight about our own generosity in the name of God from whom all blessings flow?

I believe the answer to this question lies in the myth of scarcity — a faith our culture holds dear, a faith that challenges, even contradicts, any biblical idea of a God from whom all blessings flow.

The myth of scarcity credo reads 'I cannot afford to be too generous with the Church, or the Cancer Society, or the Red Cross, or anyone else for that matter (perhaps even including my own children), because I may not have enough for myself.

Walter Bruggeman writes: "we must confess that the central problem of our lives is that we are torn apart by the conflict between our attraction to the Good News of God's abundance, and the power of our belief in scarcity — a belief that makes us greedy, mean and uncharitable.

"The majority of the world's resources pour into North America. And as we grow wealthier and wealthier we hardly notice our own prosperity, or the poverty of so many others. The

great contradiction is that we have more and more money and less and less generosity. Less and less public money for the needy, less charity for the neighbour."

Statistics Canada tells us that donations to charities and churches are coming from a smaller and smaller pool of givers; that volunteerism is down in Canada, that fewer and fewer people are willing to give time and energy to good causes. How often do we hear, even in our own circles, I don't have enough time, enough energy, enough money. Those voices are not coming from refugee camps in Afghanistan, they are coming from people in the most affluent, wealthy, abundant part of the world.

Our 'giving' problem is not economic, it is spiritual. It amounts to an abandonment of the God from whom all blessings flow. It is a problem that not only affects the income of our churches, but profoundly affects the way we live, what we value most, and what we fear most. It affects how we spend our time, how we live as families and neighbours.

We seem to have lost our memory of a God who delivers on His promises, a God who provides water and manna in the wilderness, who feeds 5,000 people with five barley loaves and two small fish and has 12 baskets of leftovers.

When we remember and believe in that God, when we are sustained by the sacred memories of His provision and abundance, we stand on very different ground.

When a God like that loves, forgives and sustains us day by day we do not cry scarcity — we cry thank you.

A biblical response to such a God is Proportional Giving. We do the math on family income, recognize it as God's gift, and decide how much is ours and how much is God's. (God is on record saying that we get to keep at least 90 per cent!)

Proportional Giving is one way to tell God that we believe His promises. It says no to the myth of scarcity.

Those of us who even attempt to go this road have the tight feeling in our arms and hands replaced with feelings of generosity, freedom and security. Our hearts swell with joy as we sing together — Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Stewardship, rightly translated, means everything I have is a gift from God. We don't tighten and cringe because they are not asking for anything, and we have all we need and more. We have enough time, treasure and energy to share.

We are not responsible for just ourselves, we are responsible for others as well. Sharing our gifts is what life is all about. We give in joy and abundance as God gives to us.

William Hockin is
Bishop of Fredericton

Appointment

The Rev. John Tremblay was re-appointed to St. Augustine's Church, Parish of Quispamsis effective March 24.

General Synod issues discussed

Continued from page 1

Canon Stevenson and Mr. Justice Brian Burrows of Edmonton, Chancellor of the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land, represented the Anglican Church of Canada.

"We discussed proposed amendments to the General Synod Marriage Canon, the new Canon dealing with reception and recognition of clergy of churches with whom we are in full communion, e.g. Evangelical Lutherans, the Licensing Canon and other issues around employment of clergy, the residential schools litigation and contingency plans for the national expression of the Church in the event the General Synod becomes insolvent," says Canon Stevenson.

The Legal Advisers examined, both in group and plenary sessions, "the parameters of an identifiable Anglican common law" and established a series of propositions which will be reported to the Primates when they meet at Canterbury this month. The Consultation also made recommendations to the Primates for further development of a statement of principles of Canon Law common within the Communion.

"Participants in the Consultation were able to take part in the daily worship life of the Cathedral and gained many insights into the history and ongoing life of that important Anglican landmark. We were entertained at dinner by the Dean, the Very Rev. Robert Willis, and by Archbishop and Mrs. Carey.

"During a day in London we lunched with the members of the Ecclesiastical Law Society. It was a memorable week and I was privileged to represent the Anglican Church of Canada."

Court pool named

Members of the Ecclesiastical Court Pool were elected at a meeting of Diocesan Council on March 14 in Fredericton. The court convenes if a dispute arises in the diocese that can not be resolved by any other means. There are 10 clergy and 10 lay members of the court.

The clergy members are the Rev. Barry Craig, the Rev. Don Routledge, the Rev. Bill Morton, Canon Alvin Westgate, the Rev. Peter Gillies, the Rev. William Sheppard, the Rev. Elaine Hamilton, Canon James Irvine, the Rev. Eric Phinney, the Rev. Howard Anningson.

The lay members are Mr. Tom Crowther, Ms. Shara Golden, Mr. Peter Irish, Ms. Judith Moore, Mr. Rick Peacock, Dr. Barbara Pepperdene, Mr. David Watts, Mr. Terry Hutchinson, Ms. Lynn Walsworth, Ms. Kimberley Monteith.

Fredericton Confirmation



Nine young people and two young adults were confirmed recently at Christ Church (Parish) Church in Fredericton. Seen here with Bishop Hockin and parish Christian Education Director Capt. Bonnie Hunt (far right, middle row) they are, left to right: front row Mark Gadd and Ashley Christie; middle row Alyson Judd, Emma Hawkins, Emily Watts; back row Jonah Tremblay, Justin Chapleau, Erin Stevenson, Brian Trafton, Robert O'Donnell, Patrick O'Donnell-Storey.

The mystery of Christian hope

BY DEAN KEITH JOYCE
MOTHERS' UNION CHAPLAIN

The deepest wounds of the heart come from the pain of damaged and broken relationships. Whether it is by 'break up' or by death or through the suffering of a loved one, it is often a searing pain with no relief in sight.

The closer the relationship the deeper the pain. A serious strain in a significant relationship, whether it is between husband and wife, or between parent and child, or between friends can override virtually everything else in one's life. Knowing that a friend or spouse has a terminal illness can leave nothing appearing the same — it fills the mind and heart through every waking hour. Sleep or rest of any kind becomes fleeting and virtually useless to restore energy or strength, let alone hope in a hopeless situation.

Despair sets in when there is no hope. The churning in the belly, the tears, the wrenching, noiseless sobs become the daily experience. The pain is deep in one's soul because the pain in the loved one blinds the eyes of the heart to see any hope in what lies ahead. And it is hope we need. It is hope we crave. We cry out, "Lord, heal my daughter!" "God, save our marriage." "O Lord, my wife has died and I am so alone!" "O God, it hurts like hell and I am really angry at you!"

Nothing can help but God's grace through the work of the Holy Spirit. It is a grace that can help because it is a grace which knows pain and suffering like none other. It is a grace which is given in those most hope-filled, despairing words uttered on the face of the earth, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

This call of Jesus is highly personal. Despite the forlornness of the words, Jesus addresses God very personally — "my God, my God" he says. In the darkness of such dereliction, of such abandonment, there is an intimate connection between Jesus the Son of God, and God the Father.

In our despair we too can know that connection with God. In Christ nothing can separate us from the love of God. That doesn't mean we always feel it, but it is there, a living power that can sustain us in the dark, in the despair that can be so real in our lives.

Our faith is often stretched taut, almost breaking down when the pain is so severe, but God's love and presence is not based on our feelings. It is based on the fact that the One who said those words of desolation on the cross was not contained by that last

barrier of death. That sealed tomb could not hold him. No matter how we feel, in Christ we always live in the hope and power of Christ's resurrection.

No matter how our relationships of home and friendship grow or fail, we have hope in Christ. What seems like death now one day we will know as the release of the new life given to us from the cross through the resurrection of our Lord. Be assured that neither death nor darkness can extinguish the hope we have in our Lord Jesus Christ. "What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:3b-5 NRSV)

He who died has risen, and is alive today. That reality he conveys to us by his Holy Spirit, so that each one of us can speak to God as "my God, my God." Whether that truth overshadows us with profound blessing or we are hanging onto it in desperation as if by the thinnest of threads, it still conveys to us the eternal life-giving hope in God. How and when each one of us appropriates this truth into our lives is going to be different for each individual.

Christianity is not intended to be a "feel good" religion, though it often can give us good feelings, as we seek to be followers, disciples, of Christ in this world. Our hope, our purpose, and the cause for a deep joy that is neither denied nor defined by our feelings, nor by the condition of our human relationships, is found in these closing verses from 1 Corinthians 15. May we know them and live them in all that we do, everyday of our lives.

"When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain." (1 Corinthians 15:54-59 NRSV)



MU member Janet Doucet of Marysville is in training for a marathon in Dublin, Ireland in support of diabetes research. Paddy, her coach and cheerleader, heartily approves of the marathon location.

MU member running to help others beat diabetes

Janet Doucet's sisters in Mothers' Union are behind her all the way — all the way to Dublin, Ireland, where she hopes to run a marathon on October 28.

The long-time member of All Saints Mothers' Union in Marysville (Fredericton), Janet was a diabetic from birth. The youngest of four children, she had a brother die from undiagnosed diabetes as an infant and another sister who almost died of the disease at six months.

She has had a kidney transplant and suffered many compli-

cations of diabetes, including eye damage, cataracts, amputation and kidney failure — but she never let diabetes beat her. In fact, she beat diabetes with a pancreas transplant.

Thanks to that transplant, she is into her third year of insulin-free life.

Janet is a wife, mother, president of the Fredericton and District Branch of the Canadian Diabetes Association, a volunteer for the Alzheimer's Association and recently launched a career as a geriatric nursing attendant.

"The marathon in Dublin isn't a specialty marathon, but a world-class marathon of 26.2 miles. I'm running to support the Canadian Diabetes Association and to tell the world that diabetes doesn't have to stop you, but we have to stop diabetes," she says.

In order to be considered a member of Team Diabetes Canada, Janet must raise \$5,500. She can be reached at 519 Sewell Street, Fredericton, E3A 3E3, 506/474-0434. Cheques in support of Janet should be made payable to the Canadian Diabetes Association.

ACW mission support includes Paul Jeffries

BY ROSALIE BROWN

Part of the ACW purpose is 'to work for and sustain an informed interest in the mission of the church'. The ACW branches in this diocese have certainly adhered to this with their support for the missionary work of the Rev. Paul Jeffries in Uganda.

This support started when Paul began his work there in 1998 at the Bishop McAllister College and has not wavered since then. The branches take keen interest in the reports from Paul and are kept up to date with e-mail and phone calls.

We are proud of the work Paul has done in building up the college. He has carried out many improvements, increased enrollment and provided better health care for the students. This

past year some branches and individual members provided the \$300 necessary to support an orphan at the college for one year.

This enables the student to further his or her education, receive health care, meals and accommodation in a Christian environment. Reports, letters and photos received from the student are heartwarming and tell how much the support is appreciated.

Branches large and small are all part of this on-going support and raise funds in various ways, including offerings at deanery and diocesan meetings. ACW members are pleased to be among the major supporters of this work and, in His name, will continue to give both prayer and financial support.

Reminders

Spring High Tea

at the

Cathedral

Saturday, April 20

4-6 p.m.

Tickets \$12

Call 450-8500

Diocese of Fredericton

ACW

Annual Meeting

May 7-8

Christ Church

St. Stephen

St. Stephen celebrates 200 years of worship and service

BY DERWIN GOWAN

Bishop William Hockin will preach in Christ Church, St. Stephen, on April 19 to mark the bicentennial of the Anglican Parish of St. Stephen.

Other dignitaries, including The Honourable Marilyn Trenholme Counsell, Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, will attend the Evensong service, using the 1662 version of the Book of Common Prayer in use in 1802. The music and other aspects of the service will also reflect the era.

The church invites Christians of all denominations to attend the service which starts at 7:30 p.m. A reception will follow in Trinity Hall.

The Anglican Parish of St. Stephen began with the election of a vestry and church wardens at a meeting of Church of England adherents on Easter Monday, April 19, 1802.

The service on April 19, 2002, will lead off a series of events to mark the anniversary, including special services in Christ Church, St. Peter's Church on Church Street

in Milltown Heights, and St. Thomas' Church at Moore's Mills, in which former clergy from this parish will take part.

On Sunday, April 21, the Rev. Canon John Matheson, Rector of St. Andrews, will preach at a Service of Thanksgiving for 200 Years of Parish Life. He attended Christ Church as a child. This service of Holy Communion starts in Christ Church at 11 a.m. There will be an exhibit of historical artifacts, documents and parish memorabilia in Trinity Chapel.

On Trinity Sunday, May

26, the Venerable Lyman N. Harding, Archdeacon Emeritus of Saint John and Rector at Christ Church from 1969-1973, will preach in Christ Church at a service of thanksgiving for the work and witness of Trinity Church (1870-1973). The Rev. Eric Caldwell will conduct this service.

On the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, June 23, Archbishop Harold L. Nutter, Bishop Emeritus of Fredericton, will preach at a service of thanksgiving for the work and witness of St. Peter's Anglican Church. This service will take place at St. Peter's Church, Milltown Heights, at 11 a.m.

On Aug. 2-3, volunteers will welcome visitors to Christ Church during the annual Chocolate Festival, providing tours of the church and historical exhibits.

On Aug. 18, Bishop George C. Lemmon, also Bishop Emeritus of Fredericton, will preach at the annual service at St. Thomas' Anglican Church, Moore's Mills. The service begins at 3 p.m.

Please join us for any or all of these events as we celebrate this milestone together. Watch for announcements on further bicentennial events.



The angel voices of the St. Luke's Junior Choir in Woodstock add tremendously to the music ministry in the church and the deanery.

Junior choir enriches worship

BY KIM MONTEITH

There are many angel voices in our world. We will hear them if we but listen. Here in the Parish of Woodstock, we hear the voices of angels when our junior choir sings.

Members of our junior choir range in age from six to 12 years. Their reading and musical skills are just as varied, which is a challenge for director James MacKenzie, but their music adds tremendously to the music ministry of not just St. Luke's,

but to the entire deanery.

The junior choir regularly offers anthems of their own and occasionally joins with the senior choir for other anthems and hymns. The juniors have also participated in services at Richmond Corner, Hartland and Florenceville. Last spring they also joined the senior choir at the Cathedral in Fredericton for a service of evensong. This spring (on Mother's Day, May 12, they will again sing Evensong at the Cathedral, this time with the Treble Choir at 4 o'clock.

Our choristers enjoy other activities as well. Bowling, a sleigh ride and McDonald's feasts have all been arranged by a dedicated social director.

With the continued support and encouragement of their director, parents, and the people of the parish, our children with angelic voices will continue to spread their wings and grow in their ministry. We hope other parishes will be encouraged by our success and establish a choir of their own unique angel voices.

Fishin' for the Lord in Hammond River

Holy Trinity Hammond River and The School of Church Music present: Fishin' for the Lord! Traditional and Contemporary Worship under one roof, Friday and Saturday, April 12 & 13.

For the past six months, Holy Trinity Hammond River has maintained a traditional style of worship while at the same time exploring a completely different form of worship style in order to reach those outside the walls of the church-house.

"Many people have asked us what it is we are doing and if it

works. To answer those questions we are inviting you to join us for a Visitors' Weekend to explore the joys and difficulties of balancing both styles of worship on a Sunday Morning," says the Rev. Peter Gillies, rector of the parish.

The School of Church Music will help the parish demonstrate the worship style and music associated with Contemporary Christian Worship. Sessions will include:

- What's happening to my church?
- Where does that big screen go? (The logistics of overhead projectors and a band in the Chancel)

- Can we do it? (The difficulties and joys of introducing Contemporary Christian Worship)
- Where do they find that music? (Music selection, legal responsibilities)
- Using Contemporary Worship to Reach Youth.
- The Worship Band (Who are those people and where do I get some?)

For more information and to register go to: <<http://www3.nbnet.nb.ca/hamriver/workshop>>www3.nbnet.nb.ca/hamriver/workshop.htm

CATHEDRAL YOUTH SERVICE

Christ Church Cathedral

Fredericton

ALL YOUNG PEOPLE (and others) WELCOME!

SUNDAY, April 20, 7:30 p.m.

Speaker

The Rev Wendy Amos-Binks

Rector of St. George's, Parish of McAdam

Music

3rd Sunday 2000

(formerly know as The Cathedral Music Band)

Come for an evening of great music, a fine speaker, and joyful celebration! Need more information? Do call or write.

450-8500

office@christchurchcathedral.com

Diocesan Resource Centre Wish List

We have resources and we have space, but in order to set up our new resource centre. We need some tools of the trade. If you are able to help with any of these, please contact the Rev. Pat Drummond, 460-8349, or anged@nbnet.nb.ca.

¥ Computer

with windows 98 and Internet capability.

With the purchase of a library program, this will speed up the processing, lending and tracking of borrowed items, enable the online catalog to be updated easily, and allow searches by author, title, category or subject. We will be able to find things and so will you.

¥ Printer

Compatible with the above computer, to print labels and notices.

¥ Electronics

We need a TV and a VCR (or a TV/VCR combination), CD player and cassette player for material preview. It is no fun to get a video home only to see it isn't what you need.

¥ One or two small tables

Some people may want to make notes, and the librarian will need space to make displays and repair materials.

¥ Librarian's chair

preferably swivel

If our wishes come true, we should have the Resource Centre up and running at Anglican House in Saint John by the fall.

Jewel of a church



The Anglican Foundation was a major partner in the restoration of St Luke's Church, Parish of Gondola Point. On a recent tour of the foundation projects in the diocese, Canon John Erb (second from left) called the Georgian structure on the Kennebecasis 'A jewel of a church', and presented the parish with an Anglican Foundation plaque. On hand for the occasion were, left to right: Donna Dobbins, Canon Erb, Canon Jim Irvin (rector of the parish), Martha McCully, Don McElman, Jill Lloyd and Mark McCully.

Final feast



On Shrove Tuesday, Anglicans throughout the diocese lined up in church halls for pancakes. In the Parish of McAdam Arnold Adams dished them out for Renee Herron and Laura Ingalls (right), while Alice Hunter waited patiently.

Three of New Brunswick's regional hospitals offer the services of Anglican chaplains.

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Saint John Regional Hospital The Rev. Bill LeGrand (full time) 648-7078 | Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital Fredericton Canon Tom Smith (part time) 455-3432 | Moncton Regional Hospital Pastoral Care Department ask for Anglican Clergy (part time) 857-5348 |
|---|---|--|

Patients and their families are encouraged to call.

The Rev. Patricia Drummond, Diocesan Director of Christian Education & Val Phinney, A clergy spouse active in ministry will address

Being a Christian in Today's World: Making Connections at the Clergy Spouses Conference

Villa Madonna Conference Centre

Renforth

April 16-18

For registration details contact Carolyn vanBuskirk 392-5202 cevanb@nb.sympatico.ca

Share veggies share experiences

BY MARIAN LUCAS-JEFFRIES

SunRoot Farm is a local initiative in Community Shared Agriculture in Nova Scotia where members share in 'the bounty and the challenges of the growing season'.

Their philosophy: "We believe in creating harmonious relationships between the earth and the communities which use it. Our philosophy is to provide fresh, locally grown, affordable produce to Nova Scotians; produce grown through sustainable practices. We share a vision of social justice and environmental responsibility".

Community Shared Agriculture is a mutually beneficial relationship between farmers and members of the community that value organic produce. Members receive a wide variety of organic food delivered to a convenient location throughout the growing season. In this way, the farmer has a guaranteed market and the member gains a direct relationship with the people who produce their food.

SunRoot Farm uses ecological growing methods to provide organic vegetables, herbs, and fruits. Producing organically

means using compost, mulching, crop rotation, biodiversity and companion planting to promote soil fertility and plant growth. They do not use synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, or genetically modified seeds that may be harmful.

During the season, members buy a share, entitling members to: a box of fresh, seasonal certified organic veggies delivered every week; farm visits and celebrations; a SunRoot Produce guide with tasty recipes, cooking and storage tips; and direct participation in food production at the farm.

Because your food travels less distance it is fresher food and requires less packaging, contributing to a healthy environment. Belonging to this kind of community also ensures your dollars stay in the local economy and with local farmers. In short — healthy soil, healthy people and healthy communities!

For more information on Community Shared Agriculture, contact SunRoot Farm, #3101, Highway 236, R.R. #1, Kennetcook, NS B0N 1P0 sunroot@ns.sympatico.ca

The times they are a changin' at AST

Atlantic School of Theology (AST) in Halifax is looking for an energetic, community-oriented Anglican scholar to begin work on July 1. The ecumenical school has invited applications for a full-time, tenure track position to strengthen its Anglican faculty complement. AST is bound by its charter to maintain a denominational balance among its full-time teaching faculty representing its three founding churches — Anglican, Roman Catholic and United.

Theological education at AST is undergoing exciting changes as the School adapts its programs to its evolving educational environment and its courses to the growing potential in dis-

tance, summer school and Internet offerings. A newly negotiated affiliation with Saint Mary's University, Halifax, is opening great opportunities for collaboration.

An 'In Ministry' Master of Divinity Program was recently established to accommodate those who are working in ministry and wish to work toward ordination, but cannot afford to commit to three years of full-time education.

Students in this five-year program attend summer courses at AST and take courses through distance education during the year. For more information on the program, contact Dr. Thomas McMillwraith at 902-496-7945/ tmcillwraith@astheology.ns.ca.

Saint John woman appointed Cursillo lay director



Marianna Stack of Saint John is the new Cursillo Lay Director for the New Brunswick Anglico Cursillo. She succeeds Reid Saunders of Fredericton. Marianna has been involved with Cursillo since 1988 and has served on Cursillo weekends as well as the local Secretariat. She is also area representative on the Cursillo National Secretariat and has been active with the Elizabeth Fry Society for many years.

INTERCESSIONS

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

APRIL

16: Parish of St. Andrews, Sunny Brae with Hillsborough & Riverside, The Rev. Brent Ham; Nativity Missionary Station (Ponto Missionario, da Natividade), Rev. Jorge Aquino, Natal, Brazil.

17: Parish of St. David & St. Patrick, Rev. Canon John Matheson, Priest-in-Charge; Reconciliation Parish (Paroquia da Reconciliacao), Rev. Luiz Marcos Silva, Caruaru -Brazil.

18: Parish of St. George, The Rev. Mary Anne Langmaid; Saviour Mission (Missao do Salvador), Lay Ministry Carlos Tome, Joao Pessoa, Brazil.

19: Parish of St. James, Moncton, The Rev. Donald Routledge; Saint Francis of Assis Missionary Station (Ponto Missionario Sao Francisco de Assis), Rev. Severino Abel da Silva, S. Goncalo do Amarante, Brazil; David Larlee, Wycliffe, Oxford.

20: Parish of St. James (Saint John), Capt. Rod Brant Francis; Redemption Parish (Paroquia da Redencao), Rev. Maria Gorete da Silva, Olinda, Brazil.

21: Jerusalem and the Middle East, President Bishop Iraj Mottanede; partnership with this church, the provincial office across several countries, and in Canada for the Middle Eastern Working Group, Rev. Robert Assaly of Diocese of Ottawa representing the Anglican Church of Canada. Diocese of Recife: Bishop D. Edward Robinson de Barros Cavalcanti & staff; 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 OM, Licensed Lay Minister Edith Josie; Bishop Terry Buckle, Blanche and family; William, our Bishop, George and Harold, Bishops Emeriti, and their families.

22: Parish of Saint John, The Ven. Stuart Allen, The Rev. George Trentowsky; Sower Mission (Missao do Semeador), Rev. Saulo Mauricio Barros, Olinda, Brazil.

23: Parish of St. Margaret's, Rev. Canon Jon Lownds; True Vineyard Missionary Station (Ponto Missionario Videira Verdadeira), Rev. Edmar Pimentel, Caruaru, Brazil.

24: Parish of St. Mark (Stone) Church, The Rev. David Edwards, Interim; Redeemer Parish (Paroquia do Redentor), Rev. Mitsuo, Noyama, Rev. Nadja Maria Lins da Silva, Recife, Brazil.

25: Parish of St. Martin's & Black River, The Rev. Robyn Cuming; Pentecost Mission (Missao de Pentecostes), Lay Ministry Jardson Tenorio, Jaboatao, Brazil.

26: Parish of St. Mary's, The Rev. Barry Craig; Zion Mount Missionary Station (Ponto Missionario Monte Siao), Rev. Leonides Menezes, Umburetama, Brazil; Chris Hayes, Wycliffe.

27: Parish of St. Paul's (Valley) Church, The Rev. Rufus Onyewuchi; Resurrection Parish (Paroquia da Ressurreicao), Rev. Luiz de Souza Franca, Joao Pessoa, Brazil.

28: Anglican Church of Kenya, Archbishop David M. Gitari; Diocese of Recife: Partnership with this church, students and faculty of St. Paul's Theological College

in Limuru, assisted by a grant from Partners in Mission; Bishop D. Edward Robinson de Barros Cavalcanti & staff; 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, & Tom Parlee; Bishop Terry Buckle, Blanche and family; William, our Bishop, George and Harold, Bishops Emeriti, and their families.

29: Parish of St. Peter, The Rev. Ross Hebb; The Rev. William Forgrave (R); Saint Paul Parish (Paroquia Sao Paulo), Rev. Nadja Maria Lins da Silva, Rev. Juciara Nascimento, Recife, Brazil.

30: Parish of St. Philip's, The Rev. Kevin Borthwick; Strong House Life Missionary Station (Ponto Missionario Casa Forte), Rev. Ricardo Mucio, Recife, Brazil.

MAY

1: Parish of St. Stephen, The Rev. Peter Mills; Rev. Canon David Genge (R); Holy Trinity Cathedral (Catedral da Santissima Trindade), Dean: Rev. Paulo Ruiz Garcia, Recife Brazil.

2: Parish of Salisbury & Havelock, The Rev. Ellis Jagoe; Living Waters Mission (Missao Agua Viva), Rev. Simea Meldrum, Jardim Brazil.

3: Parish of Shediak, The Ven. Malcolm Berry, Capt. Hugh Bateman; Bethel Missionary Station (Ponto Missionario Betel), Lay Ministry Evilasio Tenorio, Recife Brazil; Bonnie LeBlanc, Atlantic School of Theology.

4: Parish of Simonds, Rev. Bentley Steers; Bethany Parish

(Paroquia Betania), Rev. Leonides Menezes, Recife Brazil.

5: Anglican Church of Kenya, Mbeere, Bishop Gideon G. Ileri; Partnership with Anglican churches in Africa, and the Conference of Anglican Provinces of Africa, for its work training new bishops, regional development, conflict resolution and policy planning on major issues and challenges facing the church; Bishop D. Edward Robinson de Barros Cavalcanti & staff; 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.

6: Parish of Stanley, The Rev. Ranall Ingalls; The Rev. James Golding (R); Christian Love Mission (Missao do Amor Cristao), Rev. Washington Franco, Maceio Brazil.

7: Parish of Sussex, The Rev. David Barrett; Beatitudes Missionary Station (Ponto Missionario das Bem Aventurancas), Lay Ministry Armando Fiel da Costa, Timbauba Brazil.

8: Parish of Tobique, (Vacant), The Rev. Jane Arnott, Interim; The Rev. David Gray (R); Good Shepherd Parish (Paroquia do Boom Pastor), Rev. Josafa dos Santos, Salvador Brazil.

9: Parish of Upham, The Rev. Philip Pain; Good News Mission (Missao Boas Novas), Lay Ministry Israel Cardoso, Caapora Brazil.

10: Parish of Upper Kennebecasis, The Rev. Leo Martin; House of Hope Missionary Station (Ponto

Missionario Casa da Esperanca), Rev. Miguel Uchoa, Jaboatao Brazil; Terence Chandra, Wycliffe.

11: Parish of Victoria, The Rev. David Kierstead; Good Samaritan Parish (Paroquia do Bom Samaritano), Rev. Filadelfo Oliveira Neto, Recife Brazil.

12: Anglican Church of Kenya, Nairobi, Archbishop David M. Gitari; our partnership with the All Africa Council of Churches, and its work with the Christian Churches of Africa to fulfill the demands of the gospel to enhance Christian unity, to strengthen evangelism, witness, and service in society; Bishop D. Edward Robinson de Barros Cavalcanti & staff; 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.

13: Parish of Waterford & St. Mark, The Rev. Allen Tapley; The Rev. Gerald Gray (R); Christ Liberator Mission (Missao Cristo Libertador), Rev. Jorge Aquino, Joao Pessoa Brazil.

14: Parish of Westfield, (Vacant), The Rev. Don Trivett, Interim; Communion Missionary Station (Ponto Missionario Comunhao), Rev. Marcio Meira, Joao Pessoa Brazil.

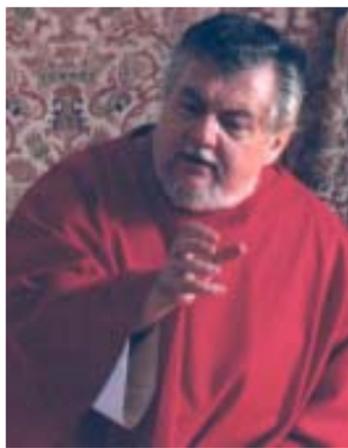
15: Parish of Westmorland, Rev. Robert LeBlanc, Priest-in-Charge; The Ven. Arthur Gregg (R); Calvary Parish (Paroquia do Calvario), Rev. Adonias Ramos, Paulista Brazil.

The intercessions are on-line at www.anglican.nb.ca — click on 'prayer'.

A Ministry of Presence

A few hours ago I returned from the funeral of a man I hadn't known for very long. For the short time I did know him, I admired his friendly demeanor and good humour. Even though he suffered from dementia and was often confused, when I approached him he would raise his arm and wave his hand. I think he recognized my collar and my face, but he did not know my name. I was a recognized stranger, nameless with no personal identity. My ministry with Russell was a ministry of presence, you might say. And he was different when I was present.

Today, with his family present, prayers were said, scripture was read, and I committed his body to fire. Tomorrow I will drive to the cemetery and lead in the prayers at the disposition of his ashes.



the penultimate  Word
BY JAMES IRVINE

Moments of transition in our lives are always significant. As a priest, I have learned that I am privileged to share in these intimate moments. The grief of a family is such a moment and, graciously, I am allowed to approach. At the cemetery, greetings of recognition at a distance will see arms raise and hands wave and the welcoming of approach repeat itself in a ministry of presence — then with Russell, now with those who were close to him.

This evening I sit here in my living room and reflect on the contradictions that accompany us each day. "In the midst of life we are in death," I'll rehearse tomorrow. The cycle of life and death is familiar — painful. As with others who suffer from the ever-increasing indignity of dementia, goodbyes have long since been said. Death simply calls for an encore and the sense of losing a husband, a father, and a friend is reluctantly repeated for the last time.

Some grieve the memory that stretches farther than mine. My memory is more recent, more immediate, shorter. My memory is of a man who joined other men in prayer and weekly worship. My memory is of a man who enjoyed singing hymns, and listening to others sing as well. Quiet and unassuming, Russell would arrive early by ten minutes, raise his arm and wave his hand in greeting as he strode to the chair on my left. We'd talk briefly before the first hymn. He'd make a comment about his day, perhaps about some news, possibly an event that caught his attention and interest. He'd

smile. I might detect a chuckle. I recall my last conversation with Russell. His dementia was more acute and he seemed more confused than usual, but there was a sign of recognition in his eyes, and in his voice. His handshake was a familiar gesture and while he did not know me by name, he acknowledged familiarity. Leaning over his chair so that he could hear me better, I kept his handshake, stroked his back, blessed him. The words of blessing were my last words to him — until today.

I remember his vitality of life and faith: a man with hands cupped and extended to receive the Body of Christ as I moved through the community maze of walkers, wheel chairs and canes; his attentive look during my homilies as he listened to every word, noticed every gesture; his reverence as I etched ashes in a cross on his forehead for Ash Wednesday. "Remember, Russell, that dust you are and unto dust you shall return," I said.

The ministry of presence was not my own but that of the One who, in His name, calls and invites us to be present with others in the midst of life.

My memories are fresh and raw.

Perhaps my grieving would be less heavy, my sense of loss less overwhelming had I remained aloof, distant, circumspect. It would certainly be less painful.

Death is a visitor whose arrival we fear. Death robs us of the joy we share with others. Death is never a long way off, it meets us in the very midst of life. Its approach is inevitable.

Easter hope is contained, affirmed and reflected in this life — now gone — that was shared with others and me. Russell's was a life lived out in length and breadth until breath was no more. His was a life that approached the One who also died, but rose in an Easter assurance of forgiveness, forbearance and love.

The ministry of Presence that sustained Russell in his confusion, loneliness and fear sustains me still.

The Rev. Canon James T. Irvine is rector of Gondola Point.

VBC adventures

BY PATRICIA DRUMMOND

What are your kids doing this summer — scaling faith mountain ... cruising down the Amazon ... shooting rapids ... exploring caves? Do they plan to run away and join a circus summer school ... go on a bug safari ... sail away with Jonah ... run an Olympic race?

All these things and more are possible at a Vacation Bible Club, and they are just the tip of the adventure iceberg, because while they are having fun, your children may also be growing in their faith and experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit at work.

Vacation Bible Clubs provide an ideal way for churches to connect with the children in the area and eventually establish a church school. They are also a great way for the children who are in church regularly to experience a lighter, more informal, relaxed approach to Christian education.

If you want to plan one for your church, here are some tips.

- Make sure your rector is in favour and find out what money might be available for this project. If this is a new venture for your parish and funding has not been included in the parish budget, perhaps you could plan a special VBC fund raising event.

the CD player), and someone to be in charge of the video machine if you use one. Since VBC is a only a one or two week commitment you may be surprised at the number of people who are willing to help out.

- Recruit teachers and helpers. Be sure to include someone good at crafts, someone to run games, someone to make or oversee the making of snacks, someone who might be willing to sew a costume or two for skits or even make a couple of puppets, someone to comfort an upset child or talk quietly to an overexcited one, someone to lead music (that could be an enthusiastic person who can run

- With your team, decide whether you will run a one or two week club, what time of day it will be, the best dates, and where it will be held. The church hall is not always the best place. Sometimes a small club can be held in someone's home and backyard. Weekdays are not the only option either. Saturday clubs which run once a week for five successive Saturdays have been very successful and allow participation from more working parents.

- Choose a curriculum. Websites for several are listed below, and your local Christian bookstore probably has some sample kits.

- Publicize, publicize, publicize. Using electronic clip art available for the program you have chosen, start with your church bulletin, beginning now. Make banners and posters. Put notices up around the community. Distribute flyers in the areas around the church. Put an announcement on the local radio station and in the newspaper. Just before Church School finishes for the summer, do a short

skit in church at children's story time, or have a puppet from the VBC program 'talk' to them. (Many curricula have ideas for this type of thing.

- Order curriculum and supplies. If you have no idea how many children to expect, consider an all-inclusive curriculum or one which allows for the return of unused product. (See below) Your curriculum will contain everything you need to organize your club from here on, including comprehensive supply lists and decorating ideas.

In June, I hope to include a short article on Vacation Bible Club follow-up in the Christian Education Newsletter which is sent to Church School Superintendents. Please send me pictures of your summer clubs (P. Drummond, 326, Massey St., Fredericton, E3B 2Z8, anged.nbnet.nb.ca.). You may get into print!

The Rev. Patricia Drummond is Diocesan Director of Christian Education

David C. Cook

www.cookministries.com
Cruisin' the Amazing Amazon \$128.39

One volume kit which contains everything needed, including music CD.

You need only purchase craft supplies and snack items.

Theme: Nahum 1:7 ... God is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.

Veggietales

www.JonahVBS.com
Jonah: an overboard adventure \$319.19

One volume kit. You only need to purchase craft and snack supplies. Promotional material extra.

Theme: Micah 6:8, He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

VBC Directory

The publishers listed below sell everything separately except for a starter kit, which usually contains a director's guide, a teachers' guide for each age group, a selection of promotional or craft ideas, often a promotional video and sometimes a craft guide. It is more economical to buy the craft idea book than to buy the craft kits.

Augsburg Fortress

www.afcanada.com
Brave Believers: extreme faith stories (A Games theme) Old Testament stories
Theme: When you keep your eyes on Jesus, being courageous is contagious.

Standard Publishing

www.standardpub.com
Faith Mountain
Theme: Hebrews 11
Unused purchases are returnable until Sept. 20

Group

www.groupvbs.com
Bug Safari: Where most curricula have alternative class set-up arrangements, Bug Safari is definitely site-based with children in small, multi-age groups. Creative decorating ideas. Theme: Bible Stories are used to illustrate verses from the psalms.

Concordia

www.e-vacationbibleschool.com
Godzwerkus (Circus School) Rhyming stories. Theme: Mt 19:26 God works in us to accomplish his purposes—"With God all things are possible."

Gospel Light

www.myvbs.com
SonCanyon River Adventure Outdoor options, good meaningful activities like learning how to tie knots, first aid. Theme: Bible Stories are used to illustrate verses from Proverbs

For some, doubt is a notch higher than faith

Inspiration is not readily forthcoming today, even though the sun is shining brightly and crocuses are coming up in the wake of fast-receding snow. Maybe it's my head cold that makes these promises of spring seem untrustworthy and colours the world a drab gray despite all evidence to the contrary.

Well, it's contrary I'm feeling, but however I feel, Christ is risen! Whether I'm euphoric or down in the dumps, Christ is risen indeed! Thank God His mercy doesn't depend on my mood. When we Christians say that our faith is built on a rock, we mean that it rests on hard, unchanging Reality, not one person's speculations or another person's ephemeral experiences. Christians are people who want Christ, One solid to hold onto (and to hold onto them), not the thrill of free-fall into God-only-knows-what abyss. Trendy designer-type, user-friendly versions of Christianity just don't cut it. When I'm all out of sorts and in danger of losing my footing, I sure don't need the ground under me to be shifting!

Within the Christian community, at least in the western world, there's a growing fascina-



From Maggie's kitchen

tion with 'doubt' as a supposedly necessary component of faith. Not, mind you, just an acknowledgement of the doubts which assail us all, but an affirmation, you might say, of those doubts — as if the 'doubting Thomas' were a saint because of his doubts. Never mind that Jesus rebuked him: "Do not be faithless, but believing ... Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe" (John 20:27, 29).

I was reading in an article this morning some excerpts from C. S. Lewis, among them the portrayal in *The Great Divorce* of the apostate C. of E. bishop who turns down the invitation to enter Heaven because "for me there is no such thing as a final answer. The free wind of inquiry must always continue to blow through the mind, must it not?" Later he

asks his guide, "Will [Heaven] leave me the free play of Mind, Dick? I must insist on that, you know."

In truth, with such people doubt isn't usually treated as a component of faith at all, but has been raised a notch higher than faith, as being more worthy of the thinking man's esteem. Our friend Mr. Spong is not to be let off the hook on this. First he declared himself a 'non-theist', redefining the divine as something other than a personal God. Then, after September 11th, he stated bitterly that God doesn't care about us. Which way will he have it? Yes, I've read some of his stuff, but I can't for the life of me make any sense out of it. It only reminds me of the mindlessness into which the technocratic establishment descended in Lewis' *That Hideous Strength*. Mind you, no one these days is going to go to the stake for aligning with the likes of Spong (though a worse fate may await them). As the *Voice of the Martyrs* reminds us, it's believers in Christ who are being killed at this very moment, all over the world. Doubt is cheap; faith may cost you your life. But that's only a concern if you've decided that this life is all there is

— in which case, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die" (1 Cor 15:32).

But God is no liar. His Word is the solid rock of truth, out of which streams His mercy. Christ is risen from the dead, and in Him shall we also rise, if we don't deny Him. In the words of an old hymn:

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' Blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' Name.

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

This year's World Day of Prayer service, a great improvement over past offerings, was adapted from one drawn up by the women of Romania. Romanian Christians, 80% Orthodox, endured much oppression under the years of communism. They surely experienced the cost of belief! Included in the WDP materials was this recipe for a favourite Romanian Eastertide treat.

Mazurkas

Separate 8 eggs; beat the whites until light and frothy. Beat the yolks, one at a time, into
1 cup sugar;
mix in 1 cup flour
1 cup raisins
2 cups chopped walnuts.

Fold in the egg whites.
Pour mixture into a greased and floured 9x13 pan.
Bake at 350 degrees 10-15 minutes, until lightly browned.
Cover with a cloth and let cool.
Cut into squares or diamonds. (You may substitute other fruit and nuts such as chopped figs, orange peel and sliced almonds.)

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