



## GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY



*For unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Saviour who is Christ the Lord ... you will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.*

This colourful image is one of two by Japanese artist Yasuo Ueno featured on this year's PWRDF Christmas Cards. Suggested donation

for a package of 12 is \$15.00. Credit Card orders may be placed toll free at 1-866-308-7973 or [ylane@pwrdf.org](mailto:ylane@pwrdf.org)

## Toss in toonies to fight AIDS

Toss your toonies in the plate and support HIV/AIDS relief and education, especially in Africa, through the Primates World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF). It's a simple and effective way to help children born with AIDS who otherwise can't get the antiviral drugs that could change in their lives, according to Dr. Stephen Hart of Fredericton.

An active New Brunswick Anglican, long-time supporter of PWRDF and compassionate man, Dr. Hart is inspired by United Nations special envoy Stephen Lewis, who will speak on the AIDS in Africa situation at General Synod in the spring. Organizers are also planning workshops on the topic, filled with information, hope and lots of practical ideas to help the church understand the urgency of the situation and deepen its involvement in the issue locally and globally.

Dr. Hart already understands and wants to see his church involved. "I have heard Stephen Lewis speak, and when he talked about those poor children born with AIDS who did not have access to drugs, it haunted me," says Dr. Hart. "With all the disposable money most of us seem to have here in North America, I would like to see Anglicans rise to that challenge. It can be as simple as putting a

See Earmark on page 2

## Revised constitution and canons adopted by synod

BY ANA WATTS

The Diocese of Fredericton adopted a new constitution, redefined the composition of Diocesan Council and adopted changes to its canons at the 127th Diocesan Synod of Fredericton on Nov. 8 at the University of New Brunswick Student Union Building in

Fredericton. The new documents were developed in order to reflect the diocese's present ministry vision.

In his charge to synod before the constitution and canons motions came to the floor, Bishop Claude Miller said he hoped they would be passed because if they weren't, revision of diocesan policy, guideline and

directive documents would be delayed. "These documents provide the practical application of the intent of the act, constitution, and canons. The present policies, guidelines and directives are dated and require redrafting immediately following the passing of the constitution and canons so that

### Bishop's New Year's Day Levee

Please join  
Bishop Claude and  
Sharon Miller at  
Cathedral  
Memorial Hall  
2:30 p.m. until 4 p.m.  
January 1, 2004

### INSIDE



Taylor College students on a mission in Pennsylvania. See page 8

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## NEWS

## BISHOP INSTALLED



ANA WATTS

Bishop Claude Miller was installed as the Ninth Bishop of Fredericton at Christ Church Cathedral on Nov. 7. At the beginning of the service he and his chaplains approached the west door, he knocked three times and asked for permission to enter.

## General Synod delegates elected

No call for public declaration of position on same-sex unions

BY ANA WATTS

Delegates from every diocese in the Anglican Church of Canada will gather in St. Catherines, Ontario in late May of 2004 for the triennial meeting of General Synod. Among the many items on the agenda is a decision regarding the blessing of same sex unions. As delegates to our Diocesan Synod on Nov. 8 prepared to elect clergy and lay delegates to the national meeting, Canon William MacMullin of Fredericton asked that those nominated state their opinion on the issue, in order to ensure this diocese's stand against such blessings would be represented.

Canon Fred Scott, diocesan treasurer, said he thought any attempt to bind delegates to a specific vote in advance of General Synod would be the same as sending delegates with orders not to listen to presentations or discussions. "We don't even ask candidates for bishop for their vision of the theology before we elect them."

The Rev. William Morton of Salisbury/Havelock said that according to the constitution of the diocese, "delegates are here (at synod) to represent their parishes, but vote by conscience. If we get into

politicking, we're dead in the water." Canon MacMullin countered that in his estimation, there was already a lot of politicking going on. A first-time delegate to synod said she didn't even know who most of the people nominated were or what they looked like, let alone how they looked at issues. Canon Scott told her there was a brief biographical note on each in her registration package.

Candidates did not publicly declare their stand on the same-sex unions issue, but many were asked individually. The following delegates were elected. Clergy: Dean Keith Joyce, Canon William MacMullin and Archdeacon John Sharpe, all of Fredericton, and Canon Albert Snelgrove of Riverview; alternates Capt. David Edwards and Archdeacon Stuart Allen of Saint John, Canon John Matheson of St. Andrews and the Rev. Eileen Irish of Minto. Lay delegates: Mr. Keith Dow of the Kingston Peninsula, Mrs. Shara Golden of Tracy, Mr. Peter Irish of Minto and Capt. Rob Marsh of Quispamsis; alternates Mr. Murray Arnott of Woodstock, Mr. David Watts of Fredericton, Mrs. Heather Carr of Limekiln and Mrs. Catherine MacKay of New River Beach. Youth: Jamie Morell of Fredericton.

Bishop Miller is automatically a delegate.

## Earmark toonies for AIDS

Continued from page 1

toonie on collection plate.

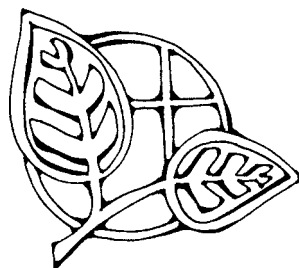
"Some people may toss in a toonie a week, or a toonie a month. Others may put in every toonie that comes into their possession. If they want credit for income tax they can put them in their envelope and mark them for PWRDF. Just so everyone knows that if there is a toonie in the collection plate, it goes to PWRDF for HIV/AIDS relief in Africa." The Primate's Fund has a special initiative to raise \$1 million for HIV/AIDS research and awareness.

Bishop Claude Miller has

endorsed the effort for the Diocese of Fredericton and also offered it to Andrew Ignatieff, executive director of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund in Toronto. It could very well become a national program.

"It would be great to be able to present a cheque representing all those toonies to Stephen Lewis at General Synod," says Dr. Hart.

PWRDF is preparing posters and other promotional materials in support of the toonie program.



**DEADLINE**  
for copy and photo submissions to the New Brunswick Anglican is the first working day of the month previous to publication.

Dec. 1 for the January issue; Jan. 5 for the February issue.

## Hockin to continue Lenten videos

Retired Bishop William Hockin has agreed to video tape a Lenten Bible study program for 2004.

Bishop Hockin instituted the popular program during his

episcopacy and Bishop Claude Miller asked him to continue it. "We thank him for graciously sharing this gift," said Bishop Miller in his charge to synod last month.

## Camp Medley



Annual General Meeting  
Guildhall, Gagetown  
Thursday, Jan. 29  
7 p.m.

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THE BISHOP'S PAGE

# May the Christ child provide all you need

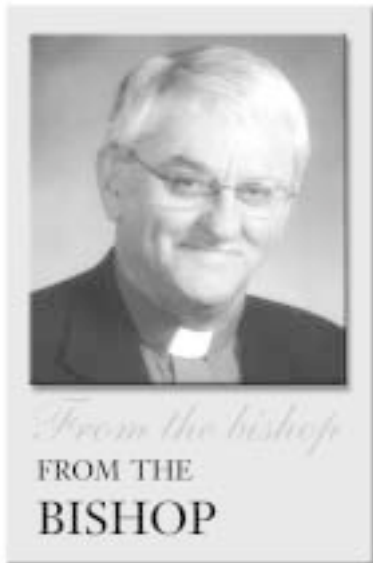
I have a friend. His name is Joseph. On a very cold evening in Advent a few years ago, Joseph rang my doorbell. I was somewhat taken aback to encounter a dark silhouette on my porch. He was stooped over and carried a couple of plastic bags, but he lifted his head and said: "Good evening Reverend, my name is Joseph — it's a cold night."

The porch light revealed a man with long hair and a long, unkempt beard, but it was Joseph's gentle eyes that held my attention, set as they were in the storm of hair and beard.

"I need a little help — \$5.49 to be exact," he said. It was the price of a hot bowl of soup, a coffee and doughnut at Tim Horton's. "I can stay in the coffee shop for the night and be on my way in the morning"

I gave him what he needed. "Thanks reverend, have a Happy Christmas," he said, and was on his way.

Joseph became a regular caller. He made modest requests about twice a year. We exchanged a few words of encouragement and a blessing and he was gone again. I found it difficult to dismiss him without wondering about his



story, and why he traveled constantly, was always on the move.

Occasionally our conversations went deeper than comments on the weather. Once in a while he attended worship on Sunday morning. I learned over the years that he had family — although his parents were dead, he had brothers and sisters scattered across the country. He confessed that he was not happy staying very long in one place. He said that he had many friends in many places.

Late one summer afternoon he called me and asked if I could pick him up and drive him to the Trans Canada Highway. Storm clouds threatened rain. I picked him up at the coffee shop.

"I need a little help Reverend — thanks for coming."

We drove to the highway. He was about to get out when I asked: "Where will you sleep tonight Joseph, it looks like it might rain."

"I won't melt", he said. "I'll sleep under a bridge — I have a blanket, a loaf of bread, a little money, and some fresh fruit I got from a lady near the bus station — I got everything I need here in these bags"

It was the phrase "I got everything I need", that stuck with me.

Since that summer evening, these words have served me well, particularly around Advent, when our world seems to speed up to almost-out-of-control velocity in the rush to 'get ready for Christmas'. It's difficult to say "I got everything I need", when every commodity imaginable screams "Buy me! Give me! Take me home! Put me under the tree!"

Joseph's words are a cry in the wilderness. How seldom we hear, "I got everything I need."

As recorded in scripture, the voice of one crying in the wilderness was John the Baptist. John put a confused and bewildered world on notice as to what it really needed — repentance. Repentance would begin to build a highway to God, leading the believer to His kingdom through the Saviour to come. Joseph, my gentle friend, leads a simple life — with everything he needs. The Joseph and Mary of Nazareth would shelter All That We Need in a simple stable.

May the blessing of the Christ Child provide everything you need this Christmas and for evermore.



+Claude Miller

BISHOP'S PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS	
December 2	Bishop's Counsel
December 24	Christmas Eve Christ Church Cathedral 11 p.m.
December 25	Christmas Day Christ Church Cathedral 11 a.m.
January 1	New Year's Day Bishop's Levee 2:30 - 4 p.m. Cathedral Memorial Hall

APPOINTMENTS

The Rev. Canon Alvin Westgate, the Rev. Christopher VanBuskirk and the Rev. Kevin Borthwick have been appointed Regional Deans of the deaneries of Saint John, Woodstock and Shediac, respectively.

Bishop Claude Miller has also appointed his two domestic chaplains. They are the Rev. Elaine Hamilton of Fredericton and the Rev. Howard Anningson of Grand Manan.

OBITUARY

*Thomas Hubert Drillin*  
1920-2003

The Rev. Canon Thomas Hubert Drillin, who served the Parish of New Bandon for 42 years, died on Oct. 23.

Born in Nelson, Miramichi in 1920, he was the son of the late Thomas H. and Ethel (Golding) Drillin. He earned a B.A. and M. S. Lit. at Kings College in Halifax. He was ordained deacon in 1942 and priest in 1944. He served the Parish of Westmorland in 1943 and was appointed to the Parish of New Bandon in 1944. He served the parish and community until he retired in 1986. He served as a conciliator for the forest industry, worked with the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, was a Mason and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. He was also a founding member of the Guild of St. Joseph, a men's group that undertakes construction, repair and upgrading projects within the church and its environs and also provides fellowship for men.

Canon Drillin served as a Rural dean from 1969 until 1974, and was appointed a canon and member of Cathedral Chapter in 1974.

Upon his retirement in 1986, he moved to Fredericton and served as Honorary Assistant at Christ Church Cathedral.

He is survived by his wife, Vera; one son, Philip (Gayle) of Swan Creek; one daughter, Cheryl Eaton of Dartmouth; two step-daughters, Patricia McKenzie (Rob Tiarks) of West Dublin, NS, and Maureen Oliver (Ken) of Vancouver; two sisters, Gladys Simpson of Douglastown and Vera Peacock (Russ) of Ottawa; five grandchildren, Travis and Kelsey Drillin, Jennifer and Malcolm Oliver and Andrea Eaton. He was predeceased by his parents and his first wife, Laura Crowther.

A Requiem Eucharist was celebrated at Christ Church Cathedral on Oct. 23 by Dean Keith Joyce, assisted by Archbishop Harold Nutter.

## Bishop's deanery visitation schedule

**2004.**  
February — Saint John  
April — Lancaster  
May — St. Andrews  
September — Woodstock  
October — Shediac  
November — Fredericton & York

**2005**  
February — Chaleur & Miramichi  
April — Kingston  
May — Kennebecasis  
September — Saint John  
October — Lancaster  
November — St. Andrews



ANA WATTS

Archbishop Andrew Hutchison, second from left, presided at the installation of Bishop Claude Miller, second from right, in Christ Church Cathedral on Nov. 7. In the photo above, Chancellor Charles Ferris (the top of his head is visible above vice-chancellor Clyde Spinney in the foreground) reads The Certification of Election and The Act of Consecration.



## COMMENTARY

# A Christmas miracle

On sentimental days I consider the White Gift program at our church a loaves and fishes kind of miracle. Our Mothers' Union branch coordinates it, and each year more and more people in the community call for Christmas help — a turkey, groceries, toys. Each year we ask the congregation for more groceries and more gifts. Each year we think "this is it, we're going to come up short". Each year, when we are down to our last dollar, we get a call from a desperate young mother who thought she was going to be able to make it on her own. Each year someone drops off a cheque at the church office a few days before Christmas — enough to cover gifts and groceries for that single mother and her children as well as the one or two other families who will call at the last possible moment. We scramble right up until Christmas Eve. We help everyone who asks.

On more rational days, I wonder why poverty exists; why most of us in the Parish Church have been blessed with enough to share and so many other people in our community have so little. Some of the situations we encounter would break your heart. A few would break your spirit too. Last year we encountered a cheat. This year we have instituted some extra measures to keep from getting caught again. It's a difficult balance, this business of treating people the way you would like to be treated — with dignity and respect — and respecting the resources of the people who so generously donate to our White Gift program. I hope our security measures won't offend the many, many honest people who need our help.

On cynical days I wonder at the material mess we have made of Christmas and worry that programs like White Gift contribute to it. Then I shake my head. I may be old, but not so old I don't remember the childhood joy of a Christmas morning with a gift under the tree from Santa; and I'm certain contributing to a festive family feast is a good thing any time.

We're not going to change the popular focus of Christmas in North America any time soon. It's easy for those of us blessed with enough to share to say the material Christmas is out of



hand, but to stop sharing with those in need is not going to help.

I must admit I was pretty discouraged when we discovered the cheat on our list last year, mostly because I'm usually the one who handles the registration. I talk to these people. I ask them what their children want for Christmas. I still find it difficult to imagine a conversation that involves Tonka trucks and Barbie dolls as dishonest. Duh! I somehow imagined people who try to 'work the system' were different from the people I talked to on the phone.

Thank heaven for our rector. John Sharpe gave the White Gift committee a little pep talk and reminded us that we do what we do because it needs to be done. If people cheat us it's shame on them, not us. So my phone is once again ringing off the hook with White Gift requests, I'm still talking Tonka trucks and Barbie dolls and I'm still sure everyone is telling me the truth. I can't do it any other way. No one seems offended when I explain our extra security measures, so that's a good sign. Isn't it?

Until we solve the problems of poverty and hunger in this world, we need programs like White Gift, food banks, soup kitchens, PWRDF and all the rest. I don't believe hunger and poverty exist in order to give the affluent an opportunity to be generous — but I do believe that while we work toward eliminating hunger and poverty in a meaningful way, we have a miraculous opportunity to be as generous as we can, and watch in wonder as our small sacrifices make a huge difference.

Have a miraculous Christmas.

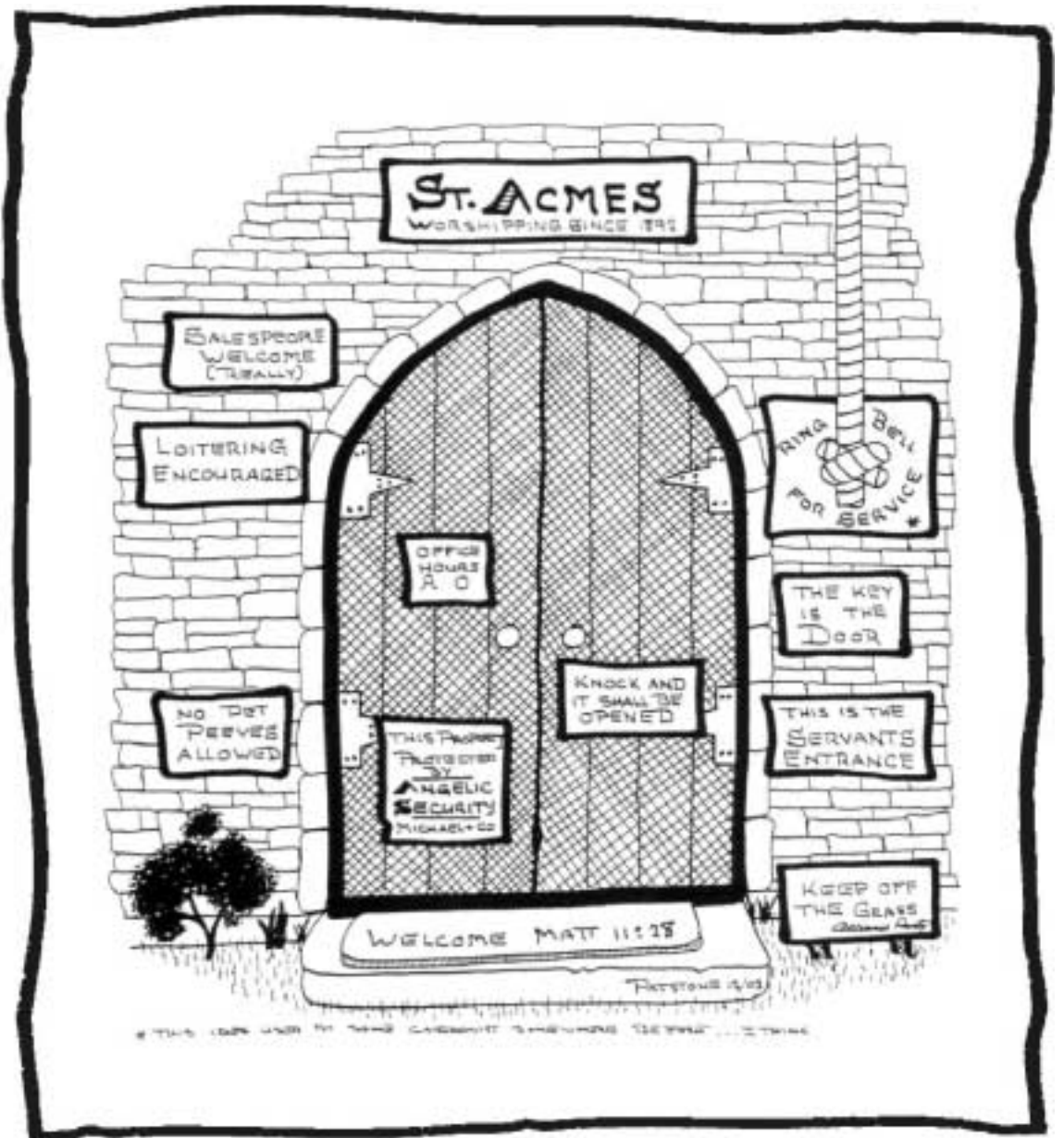
A.

## Do you see it?

The New Brunswick Anglican has been blessed with its own cartoon for more than a year now. The clever cartoonist always signs his work, but your editor has recently twigged to the fact that not everyone has noticed that 'signature'. In this month's cartoon, you'll find it on the

front edge of the doorstep.

'Patstone' is the Ven. Doug Patstone of Bathurst. I have been tempted to dub his offerings 'From the Archdemon', but somehow it doesn't seem appropriate for a church newspaper. I'm open to suggestions. — ed.



# Anglican prayer beads

## An introduction to contemplation and meditation

BY KEITH HOWLETT

The end of a five year relationship left me paralyzed, emotionally and spiritually. I went to the church to pray and found that I couldn't concentrate, so I began to offer God time. I sat — quiet, hurt and depressed. I did this for many days. Eventually the pain wasn't as destructive, and the depression began to be replaced by contentment. I began to have different thoughts about God, people, and myself: good thoughts; refreshing, light and joyful thoughts. The silent prayer became one of the most blessed ways in which I prayed.

Grief had made me silent in prayer. When the grief was past, however, I found it difficult to be quiet. I tried, but my mind was too active and my body was restless. One day I came across an old rosary I had purchased in my youth while visiting St. Anne de Beaupre. I was eighteen years old at the time, and this was twelve years later.

Both my grandmothers were Roman Catholic until they married my grandfathers. My grandmother Christensen had taught me as a child to say the rosary. I wondered if I could still

remember the mysteries, the events in the life of Jesus, to be used as meditation while reciting the prayers. I was surprised that it all came back. I was also surprised that by the time I had finished saying the rosary, I was able to be quiet and once more enter into the precious prayer of silence, where God's love performs its miracles.

Years later I attended the Agnes Sanford School of Pastoral Care and met a priest who practiced the Jesus Prayer, using the orthodox rosary. I learned this prayer and was delighted to discover that this rosary also helped me enter into silent prayer. Over the years I have discovered a variety of prayer beads. They all serve the same purpose; they lead me to silence, and the place of refreshment in God's presence.

The short prayers of the beads and the meditation help to keep my mind from wandering, they give it something to do. In that way my mind is quieted from the many other things it craves to think about. The movement from bead to bead, prayer to prayer, also gives my body something to do and keeps it content, more relaxed. With the mind and the body lulled by the repetition and the meditations, the way is paved to be lost with God in silent prayer, the place of forgiveness, healing, and blessing.

Earlier this year I discovered Anglican prayer beads and I enjoy the variety of ways they can be used. I draw comfort from the prayers of the Anglican tradition, and strength from the beloved passages of scripture so familiar to Anglicans, like the Comfortable words of the Holy Communion.

I am a very moody person, and equally impassioned about many things that give way to anger, even rage. I reach a pitch at which I feel out of control. The prayer beads calm me, help me repent, and open myself to the Lord's forgiveness and correction. Prayer beads also help me to remember verses of scripture. I choose a verse that speaks to me, and repeat it with each bead. Three times around the beads and the verse is in my head, and has found opportunity to speak to my heart.

In order for prayer to be a real act of communion between us and God, we have to discover ways to make that happen. I have discovered several meaningful ways for myself, including prayer beads. I commend them to you.

*The Rev. Keith Howlett is rector of Oromocto. Further information on the purchase and use of Anglican prayer beads is available at <http://members.rogers.com/incense/anglican-prayer-beads.htm> or from Mr. Howlett at 506/357-8741.*



## RESOURCES

## ARCHIVISTS ON TOUR



FRANK MOREHOUSE

Twila Buttmer of the New Brunswick Archives and diocesan archivist Frank Morehouse recently attended a meeting in Ottawa of archivists from the ecclesiastical provinces of Ontario and Canada. Included in the two-day session was a tour of the Gatineau Preservation Centre of Library and Archives Canada. Left to right they are Fred Neal, Ottawa; Ms. Buttmer, Fredericton; Elizabeth Taylor, Ottawa; Lorraine

Slopek, Nova Scotia; Glen Lockwood, Ottawa; Josee Martel, Montreal; Richard Virr, Montreal; Laurel Parsons, General Synod; Mary-Anne Nicholls, Toronto; Barb Lindsay, Rupert's Land; Christopher Trott, President, Canadian Church Historical Society and Paul Banfield, Ontario. Mr. Morehouse is hiding behind the camera.

## REVIEW

Voice of Truth  
Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Great Souls Video Series  
Reviewed by Marsha Mills

The Diocesan Resource Centre has many videos which, when viewed, can enlarge our capacity to understand what has happened and is happening in our world. One such video on Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn reveals how "One word of truth can outweigh the whole world."

This video presents the Russian author's autobiography using real-life film footage interspersed with pertinent journalistic commentaries of his impact on life in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Solzhenitsyn's solid childhood upbringing in the Russian Orthodox Church sustained him during 11 years of exile in a Siberian labour camp from 1945 until 1957. Following the de-Stalinization campaign of Nikita Khrushchev, Solzhenitsyn's novella, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1962) was praised by Pravda, the official organ of the Communist Party.

After January of 1966, however, none of his works were officially published. The *First Circle* and *Cancer Ward* were smuggled out of the country by Soviet intellectuals and published abroad. Solzhenitsyn won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1970, but refused to leave the country to accept it in fear he would not be allowed to return. His fear was well-grounded, because he was deported in 1974. He collected his Nobel Prize then.

Solzhenitsyn lived in the United States for 18 years. During that time he received an honorary doctorate from Harvard University. In his address to the graduating class, he challenged them to face up to the truth of the decadence in American society.

His Russian citizenship was restored in 1990, and in 1994 he returned to his native land.

Through his writing, Solzhenitsyn committed himself to exposing society's injustices and horrific practices. Anyone who views this video will be convinced of the great debt owed to those who have the courage — the Great Soul — to attest to the truth, even at the expense of tremendous personal suffering.

The Diocesan Resource Centre is located in the Anglican House Book Store, 116 Princess St. in Saint John  
506/693-2295  
angbk@nbnet.nb.ca

## Seafarers' Mission seeks Christmas gifts

Again this year, the Seafarer's Union is seeking gifts for the seafarers who visit the port over the Christmas season. While most of us are home enjoying family and friends, these people are far from home, so from mid-December through mid-January we collect and distribute shoe boxes filled with small gifts.

We accept filled shoe boxes, individual items that can be put with others to fill a shoe box, and cash donations. We put the cash

toward the purchase of long-distance phone cards and put one valued at \$15 with each package. This often enables seafarers to make extra calls home during the holiday season.

If you decide to fill a shoe box, we encourage you to use your imagination and fill it with useful and comforting things. Popular items include playing cards, paperback books, film, international stamps, VCR videos, hard candy and

toiletries. Please enclose a note with your name and address so the recipient can send a thank-you note in return.

Shoe boxes can be dropped at the Mission on the west side waterfront in Saint John weekdays between noon and 4 p.m. Call 506-635-1731 for specific directions or to arrange for your box to be picked up. Receipts for financial contributions will be issued upon request.

As much as we appreciate

support at Christmas, we would also like to have more volunteers year-round in order to better serve the seafarers from around the world who stop over in the Port of Saint John. The Mission provides a comfortable atmosphere where seafarers can relax, drink coffee, converse with the Mission staff and place long distance calls to loved ones back home. If you can spare some time in the afternoons or evenings please call the number above.

Men's  
Conference

Bishop Bill Hockin (with his back to the camera) spoke to nearly 100 men at the fifth annual New Brunswick Anglican Men's Conference at the Fredericton Inn in October. Seen here with the the bishop are Ray Dixon of Fredericton, Merle Moore of Minto, Paul Kaye of Scotchtown and Ken Howlett of New Maryland.



SUBMITTED



## SYNOD NEWS

# Revised documents reflect new vision

continued from page 1

so that these tools will be available to enable our vision of ministry. I would recommend that this synod accept the revisions as offered and, if required, bring revisions to the synod of 2005. This would demonstrate more effective stewardship of time and resources and enable the Bishop and Council to move forward."

At the end of the day, the new constitution and canons were adopted with revisions, despite repeated motions to refer them for more study and delay adoption until 2005.

## Consultation

Following two years of work on the documents, the Constitution and Canons Committee presented them to Diocesan Council and archdeaconry or deanery clericus meetings. More than 220 clergy, wardens and lay delegates to synod attended the consultation sessions earlier this fall. Questions and concerns raised during these meetings were addressed in the final documents presented to synod.

Keith Dow, vice-chair of Diocesan Council, moved for the adoption of the new constitution. Professor Beverley Smith of the Constitutions and Canons Committee said much of the former constitution was contained in the new version, including the declaration of principles, which is not to be amended. He pointed out that subsequent synods would, in fact, be able to amend this declaration, but the admonition indicated the importance of the document as "the bedrock of the Anglican Church in this diocese, to be dealt with with extreme care."

Professor Smith also said "The language of the new constitution is so much clearer ... it is a new and fresh document to serve the needs of



ANA WATTS

Chancellor Charles Ferris, who also chairs the diocesan Constitution and Canons Committee (at the podium) presented changes to the dioceses constitutions and canons to Synod on Nov. 8. On hand to offer support and to make presentations of their own were other members of the committee. Left to right they are: the Rev. Dr. Ross Hebb, Mr. Eugene Westhaver, Vice-Chancellor Clyde Spinney and Professor Beverley Smith.

the diocese for a long time."

## Diocesan Council

There was considerable discussion of the reduced size of Diocesan Council, the governing body of the diocese between synods, from 54 to 34. Archdeacon Geoffrey Hall, the bishop's administrative assistant, said this reflected the council's emerging role as an effective leader of ministry, a role it took on following the demise of the Board of Programme. Diocesan Chancellor Charles Ferris called it a governance model with a smaller hub from which many spokes lead to broad representation from the whole diocese.

Concerns were still expressed

about adequate regional representation since at least 16 members of the council would be appointed. Professor Smith and Chancellor Charles Ferris both said that in their consultations they had been assured that regional representation was always considered in the appointment process.

Bishop Miller called the vote and the motion was passed, but the vote was challenged because constitutional changes require voting in houses (clergy and lay) with a two-thirds majority required in each house. The vote was re-called and the required majority in each house was achieved.

Chancellor Ferris presented a motion on the transitional

procedure for establishing the Diocesan Council. Archdeaconry Greater Chapters will elect their respective members before Dec. 31 of this year and the secretary of synod will seek nominations of qualified persons to be appointed. The existing members of council will remain in office until the first meeting of the newly formed council.

## Canons

The eight new canons that came before synod for approval were presented as a consolidation rather than a revision of the 24 previous canons, with the information presented in a more orderly and coherent fashion.

Despite the extensive consultation process, further discussion led to further

amendments, often reflecting common practices not necessarily articulated by the previous canons.

## Committee Challenged

John Williamson of St. Andrews took exception to several sections of Canon VII, beginning with the absence of an oath of allegiance to the sovereign at the induction of a rector. Chancellor Ferris said the committee had followed the Provincial Synod canon in this regard. The oath was reinstated.

Mr. Williamson was also concerned that what was once a clergy 'oath of canonical obedience to the bishop' had become a declaration, which led to a brief philosophical discussion on whether or not any Christmas should swear an oath. The oath was reinstated.

Mr. Williamson then took issue with the absence of mention of the Articles of Faith and said he found the 'surreptitious' deletion of several items troubling. The Rev. Dr. Ross Hebb, a member of the Constitutions and Canons Committee assured Mr. Williamson that reference to the 39 articles had not been deleted but was included in the constitution.

Professor Smith, however, took issue with Mr. Williamson's remark that suggested the committee had attempted to surreptitiously change things without notification, and defended the integrity and dedication of the committee.

Mr. Williamson withdrew his remarks and apologized.

Mr. Dow then moved the canons be adopted as amended and the vote was taken by houses with only two clergy voting against the motion.

Synod then enthusiastically recognized "the good work accomplished by the Committee on the Revision of the Constitution and Canons."

# Task force struck to study General Synod marriage canon

Bishop Miller will strike a task force and facilitate regional hearings to study the General Synod canon on marriage. The work will be complete by late April, in time to inform delegates of the results in advance their attendance of the General Synod meeting in late May. The Rev. Gerry Laskey of

Gagetown had prepared a motion to have consideration of the proposed amendments to the canon put on the agenda for diocesan synod on Nov. 8, but agreed to withdraw it because the bishop called for the study in his charge.

"The last diocesan synod called for the study, but it clearly

was not done," said the bishop. He said he hoped his reference to the issue in his charge would satisfy Mr. Laskey, "otherwise we will be here a long time."

In his charge the bishop said the amendments propose to disband the diocesan matrimonial commissions, but it was his intent to continue the

process under diocesan guidelines developed with the help of the dean and archdeacons.

Synod recommended to the bishop that following passage of amendments to General Synod Canon XXI "On Marriage in the Church" that he establish an Advisory Commission on

Marriage to which parish priests could have recourse, on a voluntary basis, for advice with regard to marriages, not just, but including, the re-marriage of divorced persons. Also that a revision of the current forms be considered to be a tool for clergy to use in marriage preparation.

## Companioned Spiritual Formation



The Diocesan Companioned Spiritual Formation Team is available to assist New Brunswick Anglicans seeking a more disciplined approach to spiritual growth and development.

The program was launched at synod on Nov. 8 with the distribution of a pamphlet announcing its new logo and a website at [www.anglican.nb.ca/csf/](http://www.anglican.nb.ca/csf/). Members of the team include lay and ordained people

who are trained as spiritual directors, and naturally gifted soul friends who wish to help others on their journey. The team is also accessible by telephone at 506/459-1801.



## SYNOD NEWS

# Synod upholds traditional marriage

BY ANA WATTS

Motions calling on General Synod to: uphold traditional marriage and prohibit the blessing of same-sex unions; offer continuing prayerful support and encouragement to dissenting Anglicans in the Diocese of New Westminster where synod voted in favour of the blessing of same-sex unions were passed at diocesan synod on Nov. 8. A motion that would have declared our synod in a "state of impaired communion with the Diocese of New Westminster" was withdrawn.

In his charge, Bishop Claude Miller called for the motion from synod restating the position of this diocese, which affirms and upholds the teaching of the church that marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others, and that no clergy



Canon Philip Ward, left, and vice-chancellor Clyde Spinney worked together to amend the wording of a motion in support of dissident parishes in New Westminster.

person may bless any union or marriage of persons of the same

sex. He also announced that early in the morning of synod, he had received a phone call reporting positive steps had been taken to resolve legal charges relating to the situation in New Westminster.

Wording of the motion regarding the "faithful Anglicans in the territory of New Westminster Diocese who stand in Christian conscience opposed to the blessing of same-sex unions" was revised several times in an attempt to convey the message of support without mentioning names of the people involved and jeopardizing recent progress in the resolution of the legal charges.

Chancellor Charles Ferris said he had stopped short of advising Bishop Miller to rule the motion out of order, but he was concerned that the diocese not address an on-going legal issue in another diocese.

Richard Thorne from Central Kings, an historian and history teacher, also encouraged using "the language of diplomacy", rather than upset the situation with good intentions.

Shara Golden, a professional mediator warned "It doesn't take much to upset the balance. We don't want to upset an opportunity to bring them to the table. We need to be sensitive to the work of the Primate's Task Force."

Not everyone was in favour of such an approach, however. David Flemming of Renforth said he would rather "stand on the word of God than be politically correct." The Rev. Peter Mills of St. Stephen said he didn't have confidence in the primate.

The Rev. Alan Reynolds of Chatham withdrew his motion calling for a state of impaired communion with New

Westminster on the condition that Bishop Claude Miller immediately call a diocesan synod if General Synod votes to bless same sex unions. "I fear we will be pushed out of the Anglican Communion," said Mr. Reynolds.

The Rev. Alan Tapley of Waterford and St. Mark agreed. "We could soon become a 'dissenting minority ourselves.'" he said.

Bishop Miller will establish a Bishop's representative task force to study the issue of human sexuality as it pertains to the issue presently before the Anglican Church of Canada. The task force will report to him before General Synod 2004. "This issue," he said, "while debated in the context of the church's tradition and scriptural teaching, must fairly consider the present pastoral reality around and within us."

## Bishop's charge articulates challenges and opportunities

The morning following his installation at Christ Church Cathedral in Fredericton, Bishop Claude Miller delivered a charge to his first synod. Building on the priorities identified by synods in 2000 and 2001, he went on to articulate his own vision for the diocese. It includes things like a diocesan financial officer and long-term financing plans for new parish construction projects as well as broadened opportunities for spiritual formation. In short, it is general preparation for the Sunday morning when the 70,000 people in New Brunswick who identify themselves as Anglicans all come to church. Average attendance today is about 9,000.

He called the diocesan priorities — youth ministry, the education and development of clergy and lay leaders, stewardship and financial development, and the strengthening of struggling parishes — both a great challenge and a great opportunity.

"We have discovered that in order to develop a reasonable response to the needs in these four areas, enormous amounts of energy and resources are required. We want to give thanks to those who have contributed so much to this development process thus far. However, notice must be given that sustaining new developments will require new strategies, management and administration."

That new administration could well include a diocesan financial development officer. The 2000 synod was asked to consider creating such a position, but it did not take up the challenge. Since that time a volunteer team has focused on

stewardship education and development.

"We have outgrown what can be reasonably expected from a volunteer team," said the bishop. "I would encourage this synod to direct our Diocesan Council to develop a strategic plan that addresses more intentionally the financial requirements for our vision and the merits of a financial development officer for this necessary work."

Archdeaconry Commissions will continue to advise him on the ability of parishes to address their ministry needs and further amalgamations, partnerships and shared ministries may be established. This is the process that led to the formation of a new parish through the amalgamation of four parishes in the Lower St. John River Valley. The result is "a community now concerned with ministry instead of maintenance," said the bishop.

It is also concerned with financing new facilities in order to facilitate its ministry vision. "These realignment initiatives cannot happen without the diocese partnering with the new parish. To this end I will be seeking direction from our Board of Finance as to how parishes can benefit from a strategic interim and long term financing plan for new construction projects."

Bishop Miller's recent studies toward his doctoral degree included work with a local site team to establish a program to enhance spiritual direction and formation opportunities within the diocese. The result is a Companioned Spiritual Formation Team which launched its program with the distribution of literature at synod. It is prepared to offer opportunities for spiritual

growth through training and participation in individual and corporate retreats. Their focus is on spiritual direction, companionship, and mentoring.

"These opportunities will be presented regionally and diocesan-wide with a view to encouraging groups and individuals to seek out companionship on their spiritual journey," said the bishop.

He promised a renewed focus on layreader training, with an opportunity for layreaders to spend a day with the bishop and to participate in a major training event each year.

The annual Clergy College providing continuing theological education will continue, although new sources of funding must be identified. The annual Clergy Conference in 2004 will focus on clergy self-care and the bishop is working with Bishop Fred Hiltz of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island on ways to cooperate in areas of clergy development. "Given the proximity of our dioceses, cooperation should demonstrate improved stewardship on many levels," he said.

At the request of Camp Medley he recently met with a professional fund-raising company that has been given the mandate to study the feasibility of raising \$1.25 million for renewal of the camp's infrastructure. If a campaign is launched it will include capital funds for Camp Brookwood.

In conclusion, Bishop Miller told synod that "If our vision is to be realized then it must be a collective effort. In Acts 2:44 we read 'All the believers were together and had everything in common ... and the Lord added to their number daily.' And in Acts 4:32, 'All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one



ANA WATTS

Bishop Claude Miller was seated in his Cathedra by Dean Keith Joyce during the service of installation on Nov. 7. The following day the bishop delivered his first charge to synod.

claimed that any of their possessions were their own, but they shared everything they had.' We are warned of what befalls us if we fail in this regard." Then he challenged synod to apply that stewardship lesson in the context of this

diocese and called upon those gathered to assume an attitude of prayer and repentance as they faced the business of the day.

The complete Bishop's Charge, the response to the charge, and synod motions are available at [www.anglican.nb.ca](http://www.anglican.nb.ca).



# WorldWide MU pres expected at spring rally

BY ALICE KENNEDY

The Mothers' Union diocesan council is awaiting confirmation that Worldwide President Trish Haywood from England will be guest speaker at our annual diocesan rally in late May. Ms. Haywood will be in Canada for the national conference and the hope is she will visit our diocese at that time.

This possibility was among the events and business discussed at the MU diocesan council meeting at Yoho Lake on Friday evening and Saturday, Sept. 26 and 27. Friday evening was a casual time with snacks and some team building exercises.

The weather was great and some members even had a swim. They took the plunge early Saturday morning so the fog was still over the lake.

After breakfast the new Chaplain, the Rev. Peter Mills, led us in a Eucharist service and then Shara Golden ran a pre-



ALICE KENNEDY

Mothers' Union diocesan council met at Yoho Lake in late September and it was still warm enough to swim!

recorded presentation on the marriage issue. This was a very informative look at the word marriage and how it has been interpreted by the government, the Human Rights Commission and the Bible. Small group discussion followed the

presentation. The Branch leaders are to return to the individual branches to promote education on this issue. The same sex blessing will be a discussion topic at the Canadian Conference. The CD is available from the Baptist Ministries in

Saint John 506/ 635-1922.

The regular business meeting was held after lunch and plans were made for an exciting 2004.

*Alice Kennedy is a past-president of the diocesan Mothers' Union.*

## Students help bring the light of Christ to Franklin Avenue

BY JUDITH MOORE

The 11 Taylor College students who undertook a work mission to Aliquippa, Pennsylvania returned to the college with a new perspective on evangelism — that of coming alongside by restoring buildings and simply listening to those working with them. They learned it from John Stanley of Church Army USA who also works with the Society of the Community of Celebration, followers to a great extent of the Benedictines and includes the Fisherfolk.

The mission was to claim and restore Franklin Avenue for Christ. Entering Aliquippa and finding Franklin Avenue we met

a State Trooper who said: "Get in your vans, roll up your windows and lock your doors. I don't want to be responsible for your deaths on the highway. You came all the way from Nova Scotia (our rental vans bore NS licence plates) to Aliquippa? You must be crazy!"

We found Franklin Avenue and met uplifting prayer and praise with Celebration and John Stanley in chapel services twice daily. Thrice daily we ate meals prepared by various Celebration-Fisherfolk.

"The Community (of Celebration) opened its doors and lives to us and showed us love, kindness and caring. I saw the compassionate heart of

Jesus in every person I worked with there", remarked a first-year student.

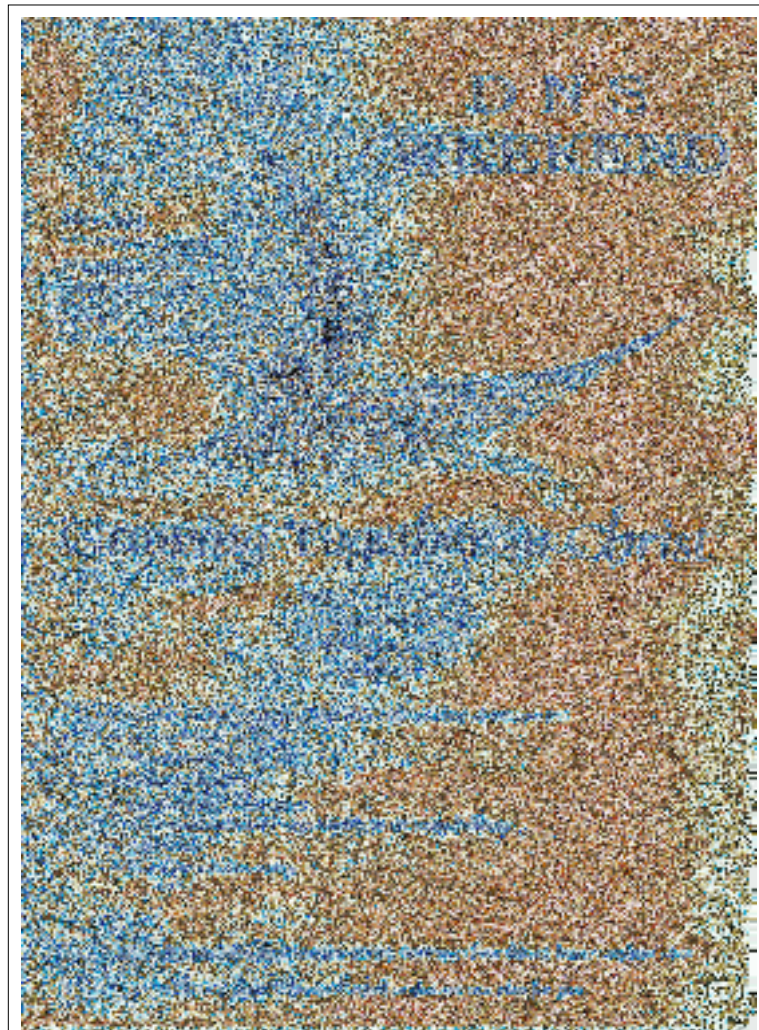
We 'resided' at '789', brushed our teeth at the kitchen sink, used the outside/inside flush. When complete, this two-and-a-half-storey house will be used as a rehabilitation house for addicts who seriously want to turn their lives around. Some of us put primer on its walls, scraped the week before by a group of honours high school students; tore down the front porch and rebuilt it. Thus, the walls inside and the outside facade were transformed and bathed in prayer and with the joyful noise of music!

Others worked on

renovations to a former bar and strip joint to be used as a Christian Café. We put up double glass doors to let more light in as the Light of Christ worked in us.

"Our trip was above all a learning experience. I had an amazing time and I'd go back down there in a heartbeat," said one student

If you would like to know more about Aliquippa, the Church Army College here, the Church Army there, the Community of Celebration and the Fisherfolk please call the Taylor College of Mission & Evangelism at 693-8975 — and/or check out website, [www.taylorcollege.ca](http://www.taylorcollege.ca).



## Christmas Lessons & Carols

4 o'clock, Sunday afternoon  
21 December  
Christ Church Cathedral  
Fredericton

Cathedral Adult Choir  
Cathedral Treble Choir

Michael Capon  
Organist and Choirmaster

Paul Murray  
Associate Organist

Various Parishioners  
Readers

Dean Keith Joyce  
Officiating



More information: [office@christchurchcathedral.com](mailto:office@christchurchcathedral.com) 450-8500

## ACW Roundup

HEATHER CARR  
ACW DIOCESAN PRESIDENT

Our Farraline Place open house was a success. Members from across the diocese came to the lovely home on Queen Street in Fredericton on Oct. 28, 29 and 30 to see the many renovations and upgrades accomplished with ACW donations.

Items needed for the home were also purchased using these donations and it was felt that an open house would provide a way for ACWs to see how much these donations are appreciated by the staff and residents of Farraline Place. Throughout the three days, visitors were greeted by Judy O'Donnell and her staff Ruth Gorlick and I were also on hand.

Visitors were impressed by the warm and homey feeling that greeted them. The residents opened their doors to welcome all and proudly showed off their rooms and in some cases family photos and treasurers. Tea, coffee and a light lunch were provided by Farraline staff who were also willing to share their knowledge of the home with visitors and act as tour guides. Many were first-time visitors to the home and were impressed by what they saw. The ACW wishes to thank all the staff and residents of Farraline Place for opening their home and hearts.

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I attended this year's ACW National Conference at Rosemary Heights Complex in Surrey B.C. from Oct. 16 – 19. Bishop Michael Ingham, Bishop for the Diocese of New Westminster, opened the conference. His chosen topic was considered inappropriate for this conference by most. Our Chaplain for the weekend was the Rev. Wendy Eyre-Gray and she graced us with several enlightening and spiritual services which we all enjoyed. We enjoyed two other guest speakers, Andrea Rosgen, Director of Planned Giving Diocese of New Westminster, and the Rev. Barbara Andrews, Executive Director for Sorrento Retreat and Conference Centre, Sorrento B.C.

This year's conference program was to elect a full executive and put in place a Constitution; Bylaws Of The Anglican Church Women, Anglican Church Of Canada. A draft will be sent to each diocesan president to present to her executive for approval or revision.

Sally Harrison from Toronto stepped up to the Canadian Coordinator position and I was elected vice-coordinator. Two new positions were added to the executive; Ann Kilby of PEI was elected as treasurer and Gloria Hockley of Whitehorse was elected secretary.



# Gagetown guild celebrates 52 years of service

BY MARGARET CRUICKSHANK

On Dec. 28 at St. George's Church in Upper Gagetown, St. George's Church Guild will celebrate 52 years of faithfulness to the Lord and the community at large at a parish Eucharist service. A reception will follow at the River Road Lions Centre.

Over the past five decades, there have been 42 members on the guild list. These ladies have given their time and gifts to oversee the setting of the communion table for Eucharist, to raise funds for the maintenance of the church building, to perform housekeeping duties and to provide the overall necessities for the church building.

The community also benefits from their visible presence as they reach out to those in sickness and sorrow through their many acts of kindness.

They also sponsor annual awards to students of the Gagetown School.

A highlight of their activities each year is the turkey supper held on the last Saturday of September. At one time it was held at Camp Medley, recently it took place at the River Road Lions Centre. The entire community looks forward to sharing the meal and fellowship as well as the ways they have been blessed by the guild. They gather to celebrate God's blessings and the efforts of the ladies who so cheerfully serve the community year after year.

The oldest living member of St. George's Guild is Sylvia Sutton, who is 94-years-young. The officers for 2003 are president Beatrice McIntyre, vice-president Joyce Hinchey, secretary Drusilla McIntyre, and treasurer Margaret Cruickshank.



MARGARET CRUICKSHANK

The Rev. Gerald Laskey presented guild member Drusilla McIntyre with a certificate from the guild

# PWRDF service

BY BETTY MCNAMARA

Sunday, Oct. 19, was PWRDF Sunday in the parish of Minto and Chipman. Being World Food Day, it seemed an appropriate date. This was marked by a special 4 o'clock service at St. Michael's Church, Minto. The service followed the theme for the day: *There is strength in many hands, and working together we can make a difference.* The church was decorated with colourful posters, both those from PWRDF and those produced by the Sunday schools, all highlighting the theme. Each guest was presented with a friendship bracelet made by the hands of the youth.

A display table was prepared with items from the countries where our help is often requested. They included carvings and wall hangings from Africa, woven fabrics from Malaysia, pottery from Cuba and Mexico, hand made paper and ceramics from Thailand, wooden boxes from India, and wooden bowls from Belize.

The service itself was very moving, with the choir singing hymns such as \*Your work, O God Needs Many Hands\*, and various lay people doing readings and prayers. PWRDF supplied the outline of a service which we followed and then added our own personal touch. The theme was woven into all readings and hymns.

Following the service, everyone enjoyed a pot luck meal. This was a meal with a difference; the food was all from local growers and producers. Dishes such as squash with maple syrup, turnip and apple bake, potato scallop, baked ham, baked beans, and desserts featuring blueberries and apples were delicious and caused each of us to think about buying locally. The coffee served was from a family run business in Nicaragua, imported and roasted by Down East Roasters in Notre Dame. We actually made a field trip to the Acadian coast to purchase this exceptional coffee.

On a personal note, I was PWRDF parish rep for a time in the last century. I eventually turned it over to someone else, but now find myself here again and it is the proper fit. I resisted the offer at first but kept getting those nudges from God, and eventually said "Okay, I'll try it again." I know this is where I am supposed to be. The feeling of the presence of the Holy Spirit during that service was very real, not only to me to others in attendance.

## CONFIRMATION IN CHATHAM



MARIE MURPHY

Bishop Claude Miller confirmed five adult at St. Mary's church in the Parish of Chatham on Sept. 28. The candidates are all graduates of the Alpha course and very active in parish life. Seen here following the service are: back row; the rector, the Rev. Alan Reynolds, Bishop Miller and Fred Filler; front row Fred Black, Larry Adams, Christina Adams and Alan MacGowan.

## New vestry learns to manage large parish



CINDY PRICE

Facilitator Bill Gerhardt

BY CINDY PRICE

Vestry members in the new Parish of the Nerepis and St. John met recently with facilitator Bill Gerhardt to get acquainted with their new roles and responsibilities as they govern and work within a large, amalgamated parish.

The book *Raising the Roof* from the Alban Institute, was used to help them understand the transition from a small, family pastoral size to a larger parish serving more than 150 families. Mr. Gerhardt is well aware of the needs of the new parish because he was instrumental in bringing the congregations together to discuss amalgamation and to dream of a future of great possibilities with everyone under the same roof.



## CREATIVE FUN



The preschool/kindergarten class of the Kingston Peninsula School is well acquainted with the creation story. Their teacher, Donna Finlay, made creation boxes for them, which they decorated with creation symbols made from 'fun foam'. From left to right the children are: back row Matthew Nutter, Lyle Bacon, Stephen Sparks, Beaden Finlay and Sarah Williams; front row Natasha Snook, Akia Adair and Sara Erb.



## COLUMNS

# Creating Christmas memories for your children

Helping them remember more than Santa Claus and a turkey dinner requires some effort



I recently came across a great little book, *Make a Christmas Memory - simple things you can do to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas*. (Julaine Kammrath, Concordia, 1996, ISBN 0-570-04874-5) The book focuses on activities which celebrate Christ's birth and it struck me that we have to be intentional about this today. Just a few years ago we were more able to rely on the culture and the school to help us focus on this, even to do it for us.

It is so important to create lasting memories for our children around the wonderful story of the first Christmas. Today they will not get this kind of memory in school, so let us take them to the special services; take them to our church school so they may be part of the Jesse Tree, the Chrismon Tree, the Advent wreath candle lighting ceremony, and/or the Nativity play.

Encourage them to take part in the service project the church adopts at Christmas, take them to other Christmas musical events and so on and so on.

Let us make sure our homes reflect our Christianity as well, by having a creche among our decorations, an Advent wreath on the table and an Advent calendar on the fridge.

One simple suggestion for a guessing game is found in *Make a Christmas Memory*. It could become a Christmas tradition. Think of a Christmas word like manger, myrrh, stable or angel. Put objects that start with the letters of your word in a bag. For myrrh you might have a map, yo-yo, ruler, raisin package and hat. The players must guess the first letters of each object and arrange them to spell the Christmas word.

When I recall my own Christmas memories, the annual family outing to see a show is vivid. When we lived

near Norwich in eastern England we often went to see a pantomime. When we moved to the London suburbs it was sometimes a circus, and I remember ice shows with *Puss in Boots* or *Cinderella* themes.

There were two especially memorable years — one when we went to see the stage play *Peter Pan*, complete with its amazing flying scenes, and the other when we were taken to see the *The Nutcracker*, with the then famous ballerina, Alicia Markova as the Sugar Plum Fairy.

In trying to remember religious memories, it seems that those which have left the most lasting impression are those which involved music. I remember my first Christmas nativity play. I was about seven and one of many angels. The darkened church, the candlelight and the awe of appearing in front of so many people will never be forgotten.

At school every year we would have a class Advent calendar, and would take turns opening the little doors. Of course each of us only got one turn. Since then I have made sure my children and grandchildren have one in their home.

Much later, at my all girls'

high school, the choir put on a performance of Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*. It was my first real introduction to 'modern' music.

The Britten work is for a three part treble choir so was perfect for a girls' school. We practised and practised the unfamiliar dissonances in the music, and I can still sing many of the carols with their old English words. I also learned some theology — *This little Babe, so few days old, Is come to rifle Satan's fold; All hell doth at his presence quake, Though he himself with cold do shake ...*

Later still, there was the magic of the Advent Carol service in King's College Chapel, Cambridge. The beautiful chapel would be in darkness at the beginning of the service and the light would increase as the choir processed and hymns and carols alternated with readings — prophecies of the coming of the Messiah, and that great flurry of heavenly activity which led to the birth of John the Baptist and immediately preceded Jesus' coming. All this is recapitulated for me as I attended the Advent carol services in our own Cathedral in each.

As the music teacher in the schools of Fredericton Junction

and area a number of years ago, I received permission to bus the students from the Patterson and Tracy Elementary Schools to the Sunbury West Middle School. The children from Fredericton Junction Elementary walked across and we had a grand area celebration of Christmas — lessons and carols which the children and I had practised for the previous five or six weeks, and secular Christmas songs as well. One year my sixteen year old son was in hospital being operated on for appendicitis. Conscious of the more than 500 children who had so looked forward to this big Christmas event and practised hard for weeks, and that the buses were already on the road, I anxiously headed for school. Before lunch, the programme completed, I was back in Fredericton at the hospital just in time for my son to be wheeled back into his room — a Christmas memory of a different sort altogether.

I hope there are no medical emergencies in your family this year, and that you have a wonderful Christmas making memories for years to come.

*The Rev. Patricia Drummond is diocesan director of Christian Education.*

# Have I got a story — I mean narrative — for you!

Narrative. It's the new business and government buzzword. You hear it everywhere. Let's do narrative summaries. Let's tell the story. People don't relate, don't give, and don't connect to figures. They need to know the story.

Well, have I got a story for you. It's about the birth of the word. It is the same word that brought our existence into being as recorded in Genesis (God said, Let there be...). This story is the one in which the word became flesh and dwelt among us. It's a long story, a narrative that begins some 2000 years ago.

Well, that's not quite true. This story is timeless, but for the sake of literary convention, let's start it those 2000 years ago when a young girl receives a message: You're going to have a baby! No need for ultra sound, we know it's a boy and don't bother looking through those name books, His name is Jesus.

Before Mary starting thinking about all these things was she pre-ponderous? No, just a girl! But after she received the message from Gabriel she pondered these things in her heart.

Luckily for Mary, the Honorable Roy Romanow had not submitted his findings on health care in Canada and he had not made the statements



used in his Connecting the Dots presentation, that say health and well being are determined in the early years of life. Had she heard this speech instead of what the angel told her, she would have had a lot more to ponder, and to fear.

In an address delivered when he received the International Foundation of Public Service Award, Romanow gave considered advice on how to live a long and healthy life. Imagine how discouraged she would have been about her baby's future had Mary heard this advice and not been assured that God was an active character in her story.

Here is Romanow's advice.

Don't be poor: Rich people live longer than poor people at every stage in life. Poor Mary.

Pick your parents well: Make sure they nurture your sense of identity and self-esteem and surround you with interesting stimuli. Prenatal and early childhood experiences have a powerful effect on later health and well-being. This one might not have worried Mary. Surely

having God as your father would determine a good outcome in life. I do wonder, though, does the high five between John the Baptist and Jesus, while the two were still carried in the womb by Elizabeth and Mary, count as stimuli?

Graduate from high school: Health status improves with your level of education. Does hanging out at the synagogue count?

Don't work in a stressful, low paid, manual job in which you have little decision-making authority or control: Does this apply to all people in ministry?

Don't lose your job and become unemployed: Unemployed people suffer stress and isolation and can become poor and remember what he said about being poor.

Be sure to live in a community where you trust your neighbors and feel like you belong: A civil and trusting community promotes health and life expectancy. I'm sure King Herod's edict to have all boys under two slaughtered did nothing to promote trust and well being in Nazareth. Live in quality housing, but not next to a busy street, in an urban ghetto or near a polluted river: Would a stable do if the animals stayed in one corner?

Mary did have a lot to ponder in the beginning of her motherhood journey. In spite of

the obvious deficits in Jesus' environment, he survived. Most narratives have a strong beginning, middle and end. We are short on details about Jesus' young life and many good storytellers leave out details to leave room for the more interesting parts. We do know that Jesus, though he was God, did have beautiful human attributes that were born out of his early childhood experiences. He ate and drank with outcasts and sinners, he healed the blind, he was on the side of the poor and oppressed. He probably apprenticed with his father Joseph the carpenter and learned some manual skills. But he was also known as Rabbi, an indicator that he had a good religious education. Jesus had a social network of like-minded, albeit slow to get the point friends who supported him right up until that quiet night in the garden. Which brings us near the end of the story.

Baby Jesus grew up in spite of his risky environment. He lived a productive life that contributed to his society. Any mother would be proud. In the end he died a brutal death, a victim of an unjust system. If this were the end of the story it would be time to bring out the Kleenex. But this is no ordinary story. And the end has yet to be

written. This story requires reader response. How do we live in response to Jesus' story? How does the narrative impact our lives? Do we despair because the circumstances of our lives appear to be telling us we are going to fail and that the whole world is against us? Or do we, like Mary, ponder these things in our heart and realize if God has called us to be parents, laborers or executives he will give us the gifts and the grace to fulfill our calling. When God becomes part of our story we never know where we'll find ourselves. Our lives, like words, can take on different meaning, depending on the context in which they are used by God.



*Ruth Coleman lives, writes and sometimes dances in Hampton.*



# Helping us remember what we didn't see

BY JIM IRVINE

People don't bother to take a photograph of something they don't want to remember.

There have been a lot of photographs I never bothered to take. The few I did, I cherish. Some are on my mantle. Others are displayed on a library table in my living room. Some hang on the walls about me. I have even discovered other photographs in drawers and albums and shoe boxes — photographs taken on box cameras by another generation.

I am reluctant to discard these black and white tokens of intention to memory. Most of the people in the scenes are unknown to me. Identifying comments penned in an unfamiliar hand on the back of the prints are of no help. But none of these photos have fallen into my life by accident. Not one was taken other than to help bring to memory a cherished moment, person, event.

Photos invite speculation on my part, but those that exposed the roll of film knew the occasion and wanted to keep it as permanently as they could.

I like to decorate my Christmas tree in the middle of my living room. I begin with the string of lights. The ornaments descend from the crown to the base in increasing size. Garland ties it all together. I slide the tree into a corner, close to an outlet.

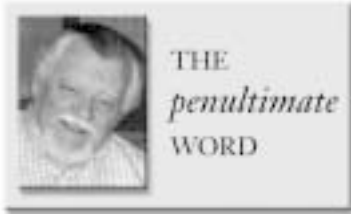
This Advent tradition accomplished recently, I sat and studied its form and shape, wondered what this tree held for me this year. Its miniature lights washed the room in a warm glow and I saw some of the familiar objects that surrounded me in a new light.

A picture on the wall, beyond the upper branches, arrested my attention. It was Our Lady of Czestochowa, an icon attributed to the brush of Luke the Evangelist and discovered by Constantine's mother, Helen, in fourth century Jerusalem.

You may be agnostic about Luke's painting this famous icon of Our Blessed Mother with her Divine Child. I am. Nonetheless, I am confident that, whatever artist's hand recorded the scene, it needed to be remembered. Successive generations, while not witnesses to the nativity, did not discard the icon. They wanted to remember what they had not known.

I thought of the black and white Kodak prints in the drawer of the end table. That something happened, even in our absence, and that we can remember it, is more crucial than our having been present to authenticate it.

I reflected on the icon — you



may know it better as The Black Madonna. To me it is an image of redemption. It has resided in a Polish village since the fifteenth century and attracts pilgrims whose devotion spans generations.

That pilgrimage echoes the footsteps of the men and women who visited Mary and her young son. The mid-wife, and others who helped in the birth, witnessed a procession of grace. As Joseph and his wife hosted the interested and curious, the baby charmed shepherd and chambermaid alike with the aplomb known only to newborns.

Displaced from Galilee, having family in the City of David advantaged this family little. Roman patrols and jostling crowds swelling the city saw the best and the worst. At the behest of the emperor, businessmen and tradesmen, adolescents and the aged returned as though on a pilgrimage. They came to be counted and to be taxed. Publicans and merchants, thieves and petty robbers, prostitutes with their pimps plied their trade.

Our Lady and her Baby saw the refuse of broken lives; lonely beyond the imagination of a young mother homesick for her family so many days walk distant. Fear and apprehension must have prompted Mary to ask of Joseph why had they come at all. She would reassure him (and herself!) of the visit of Gabriel. He would share with her the dream he had, and the conviction of God's hand on them all.

Our Lady and her Baby look at me still, through the thin veil of an icon beyond the uppermost branches of my balsam fir. Mary and her Baby witness still a world no less broken, no less in need of redemption and acceptance, still yearning for restoration and forgiveness.

The image has helped successive generations discover the truth of God's care and compassion. In this penetrating look of Mother and Child my conceit is like dross. Pride is cast down while those suffering from human disregard are raised up and brought closer. The hungry are fed with good things while the rich are sent away; empty, to the astonishment of all.

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Canon Jim Irvine makes his home in Fredericton, N.B.

## INTERCESSIONS

### December

■ **14:** Give thanks for the Church of the Province of Southern Africa, the Most Rev. Njongonkulu Winston Hugh Ndungane; Diocese of Central Newfoundland, Bishop Donald Young; Diocese of Recife: Holy Spirit Anglican Parish, the Rev. Miguel Uchôa Cavalcanti, Coadjutor: the Rev. Geison Sávio de Holanda, Assistant: the Rev. Fernando Acosta, Bishop Robinson Cavalcanti & staff; Diocese of Yukon, Bishop Terry Buckle, Blanche and family; Claude, our bishop; William, George and Harold, retired bishops, and their families.

■ **15:** Parish of Woodstock, the Ven. Walter Williams; Canon Tom Smith (R); Hope Anglican Mission, the Ven. Quintino Orenge, Assistant: Lay Minister Manoel Nunes.

■ **16:** Parish of Andover, the Rev. John Mills; Consoler Anglican Mission, the Rev. Antonio Costa de Oliveira.

■ **17:** Parish of Bathurst, the Ven. Douglas Patstone; Donald Snook, Director, Saint John Inner City Youth Ministry; Salvation Anglican Mission, Lay Minister Jeane G. Arruda de M. Coelho.

■ **18:** Parish of Bright, (Vacant), the Rev. Patricia Drummond, Interim Priest-in-Charge; Saint Francis Anglican Mission Station, the Rev. Severino Abel da Silva, OSF.

■ **19:** Parish of Cambridge & Waterborough, (Vacant) the Rev. Brenda McKnight, Priest-in-Charge; David Larlee, Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, England; Bethel Anglican Mission Station, the Rev. Evilásio Tenório da Silva Júnior.

■ **20:** Parish of Campbellton, (Vacant); Saint Stephen Anglican Mission Station, the Rev. Carlos Alberto Tomé da Silva, OSE, Assistant: ML. Frei Hélio Holmes, OSE.

■ **21:** Pray for the Church of God throughout the world; Diocese of Western Newfoundland, Bishop Percy Coffin; Diocese of Recife: Saint Paul Anglican Parish, the Rev. Juciara Rodrigues, Bishop Robinson Cavalcanti & staff; Diocese of Yukon: Whitehorse - Christ Church Cathedral, Dean Peter Williams, the Rev. Mary Battaja, Associate Minister, Lino Battaja & family; the Ven. Arthur Privett & Muriel Privett (Honorary Assistant); Lay Ministers, Joy Wickett, Dorothy Sorenson, Tom Parlee & George Richardson; Lay Ministers: Evalena Beisser & Anne Linder, Bishop Terry Buckle, Blanche and family; Claude, our bishop; William, George and Harold, retired bishops, and their families.

■ **22:** Parish of Campobello, the Rev. Charles Smart; the Rev. Ted Spencer (R); Saint Luke Anglican Mission Station, Evangelist Samuel Hansen.

■ **23:** Parish of Canterbury, (Vacant) the Rev. Jane Arnott, priest-in-charge; Mount Zion Anglican Mission Station, the Rev. Sérgio Andrade, assistant: lay minister Adilson Ferreira da Silva, OSF.

■ **24:** Parish of Carleton, (Vacant), Bishop George

Lemmon, interim priest-in-charge; Jesus From Nazareth Anglican Mission Station, the Rev. Fernando Acosta.

■ **25:** Parish of Central Kings, the Rev. Robert LeBlanc; Bethesda Anglican Mission Station, the Rev. Juciara Crasto.

■ **26:** Parish of Chatham, the Rev. Alan Reynolds; Paul Ransom, Wycliffe; Martin Luther King Anglican Mission Station, the Rev. Israel Pereira Cardoso, OSF.

■ **27:** Christ Church Cathedral, the Dean Keith Joyce, the Rev. Pat Drummond, honorary assistant; Nativity Anglican Mission Station, the Rev. Bruno Luiz Teles de Almeida, OSF.

■ **28:** Give thanks for the Church of Ceylon, extra-provincial under the Most Rev. Rowan Douglas Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury; Archbishop Michael Peers, primate, & the Council of General Synod; Diocese of Recife: Redeemer Anglican Parish, interim Rector: the Rev. Vera Lúcia Lins Silva, Assistant: the Rev. Nadja Lins, Bishop Robinson Cavalcanti & staff; Diocese of Yukon: Fort Nelson - St. Mary Magdalene; Toad River, Alaska Highway mile 150-506, lay ministry team, Bishop Terry Buckle, Blanche and family; Claude, our Bishop; William, George and Harold, Retired Bishops, and their families.

■ **29:** Parish of Coldbrook & St. Mary's, the Rev. Gregory McMullin; Canon Ron Stevenson, Chancellor to the Anglican Church of Canada; Ipojuca Anglican Mission Station, the Rev. Geison Vasconcelos.

■ **30:** Parish of Dalhousie, the Rev. Andrew Fraser; Mount Moriah Anglican Mission Station, the Rev. Miguel Uchoa, Assistant: lay minister Márcio José de Sousa Simões.

■ **31:** Parishes of Denmark and Grand Falls, the Rev. Julie Armstrong, priest-in-charge; the Ven. Reginald Stockall (R); Mandacaru Anglican Mission Station, the Rev. Jorge Aquino, OSE, Assistant: Lay Minister Jocelenilton Gomes da Silva.

### January

■ **1:** Parish of Derby & Blackville, the Rev. Douglas Barrett; Christ The Redeemer Anglican Mission Station, Lay Minister José Fernandes.

■ **2:** Parish of Dorchester & Sackville, the Rev. Kevin Stockall; Terence Chandra, Wycliffe; House Of Prayer Anglican Mission Station, lay minister Roberta Araújo.

■ **3:** Parish of Douglas & Nashwaaksis, Canon William MacMullin; Burning Bush Anglican Mission Station, Lay Minister Josenaide Maria Lopes Pereira.

■ **4:** Pray for peace, justice and democracy; pray for the clergy and people of the Diocese of Accra (West Africa), Justice Ofei Akrofi, Bishop; Diocese of Recife: Good Shepherd Anglican Parish, Interim Rector: Dom Filadelfo Oliveira Neto, OSE, assistant: the Rev. Bruno Luiz Teles de Almeida, OSF; Bishop Robinson Cavalcanti & staff; Diocese of Yukon: Telegraph

Creek - St. Aidan, Dease Lake; outreach from Watson Lake, Bishop Terry Buckle, Blanche and family; Claude, our Bishop; William, George and Harold, retired bishops, and their families.

■ **5:** Parishes of East Saint John & St. James (Saint John), the Rev. Robyn Cuming; the Rev. Barry Cohen-Thorley (R); Peace Anglican Mission Station, lay minister Solange Cristina Pereira.

■ **6:** Parish of Fredericton, the Ven. John Sharpe, assistant curate the Rev. Elaine Hamilton, Capt. Bonnie Hunt, youth director; New Life Anglican Mission Station, lay minister Marconi Alves de Oliveira.

■ **7:** Parish of Fredericton Junction, the Rev. Neville Cheeseman; the Rev. Donald Trivett (R); Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral, the Very Rev. Sérgio Andrade, auxiliary: Rev. Edmar Carvalho Pimentel.

■ **8:** Parish of Gagetown, the Rev. Gerald Laskey; Emmanuel Anglican Parish, the Rev. Ian Meldrum, coadjutor: the Rev. Vera Nascimento.

■ **9:** Parish of Gondola Point, the Rev. George Eves; David Larlee, Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, England; Resurrection Anglican Parish, the Ven. Luiz Souza de França.

■ **10:** Parish of Grand Manan, the Rev. Howard Anningson; Good Samaritan Parish, the Rev. Manoel Severino Moraes, OSE, coadjutor, the Rev. Fábio Vasconcelos.

■ **11:** Pray for the clergy and people of the Diocese of Alaska, (Province VIII, US, Mark Lawrence MacDonald; Diocese of Recife: Christ The Saviour Anglican Parish, interim Rector: Dom Filadelfo Oliveira Neto, OSE, assistant: the Rev. Bruno Luiz Teles de Almeida, OSF; Bishop Robinson Cavalcanti & staff; Diocese of Yukon: Carcross, Tagish, Johnson's Crossing and Teslin - St. Philip's, outreach from Watson Lake, Bishop Terry Buckle, Blanche and family; Claude, our Bishop; William, George and Harold, retired bishops, and their families.

■ **12:** Parish of Hammond River, the Rev. Peter Gillies; the Rev. Canon Philip Ward (R); Holy Spirit Anglican Parish, the Rev. Miguel Uchôa Cavalcanti, Coadjutor: the Rev. Geison Sávio de Holanda, Assistant: the Rev. Fernando Acosta.

■ **13:** Parish of Hampton, the Rev. Canon Edward Coleman; Saint Paul Anglican Parish, the Rev. Juciara Rodrigues.

■ **14:** Parish of Hardwicke, the Rev. Don Hamilton; Ana Watts, editor, NB Anglican; Redeemer Anglican Parish, interim rector: the Rev. Vera Lúcia Lins Silva, assistant: the Rev. Nadja Lins.

■ **15:** Parish of Kent, the Rev. John Pearce, priest-in-charge; Good Shepherd Anglican Parish, interim rector: Dom Filadelfo Oliveira Neto, OSE, Assistant: the Rev. Bruno Luiz Teles de Almeida, OSF.

Long-term diocesan intercessions are available on-line at [www.anglican.nb.ca](http://www.anglican.nb.ca). Click on Prayer.



## YOUTH

# Youth team moves from planning to action

Jim Morell of Fredericton replaced Peter Irish as chair of the Diocesan Youth Action Committee on Nov. 1. The leadership change is just one of several impacting on youth ministry in recent weeks, and more changes are in store.

"The planning phase is drawing to a close, and we will now be focusing on action. Bishop Hockin has retired and Bishop Miller is our new spiritual leader. We look forward to working with him. And our committee is changing. Peter had to step down so he could concentrate on helping to organize general synod. Jonathon Phillips and Rachel Tapley have graduated and moved on to new careers.

The most significant change, however, is the presence of our new youth director, the Rev. Dr. George Porter, who started work the first of November," says Mr. Morell.

George and his wife Nancy recently worked in the Dioceses of Western Massachusetts and before that were in Rupert's Land (Manitoba).

His appointment is a direct result of a letter our young people (aged 16-25) sent to Bishop Hockin in November 2001. In it they sought stronger diocesan leadership in youth ministry, help to facilitate parish-based spiritual growth opportunities and new styles of worship that would lead to

a personal relationship with Christ. As a result of that letter the committee was formed and a 14-point action plan was developed.

"All through our planning phase we have been encouraged by the leadership of Bishops Hockin and Miller, and the support of the synod and Diocesan Council," says Mr. Morell. "We were particularly encouraged when Bishop Miller, in his charge to synod on Nov. 8, asked that parishes create a new spiritually focused, youth friendly environment in our churches, so that our young people will know that adults take their spiritual development seriously. We were likewise

encouraged that synod reaffirmed youth ministry as a priority."

The youth action committee sees George Porter's arrival as the key in the transition from a diocesan focus to a parish focus, and from planning to action. The committee wants to turn the attention of the whole diocese to responding to the challenges laid out by experts like John Wilkinson and Pete Ward: Can we learn to fish (for our youth) from the other side of the boat? Can we become a more "liquid church". Can we begin doing youth ministry differently at the parish level? Are we ready to change our traditional approaches to worship?

Mr. Porter's first priority will be to get to know the clergy, youth leaders and young people. "The committee is encouraging parishes throughout the diocese to set up regional meetings and invite George to come so they can all share information and get him started in his new ministry."

Mr. Morell also announced that the Porters will be officially and warmly welcomed to the diocese at the conclusion of the Cathedral Youth Service on Dec. 21. All clergy, youth leaders and young people from across the diocese are invited. Mr. Porter will also be the special speaker at the event, which begins at 7:30 pm.

## Pennfield expects young visitors from our companion diocese

If their visas are approved, three Pioneers from our Companion Diocese of Recife, Brazil, will spend their summer vacation experiencing winter in New Brunswick. The 16 and 17 year olds are scheduled to arrive in the Parish of Pennfield in mid-December and remain in the diocese until mid-February. The Rev. Estevao Menezes, assistant curate in their parish, will come with them but is only able to stay until shortly after Christmas.

"These teens are heavily involved in music, youth, teaching and leadership in their parish," says the Rev.

Keith Osborne of Pennfield. "They are reported to be full of enthusiasm, mature in their faith and ready for action! They see this trip not as a tourist thing but as an opportunity to do ministry in whatever setting we can fit into their itinerary. This is a good deal not only for them but for the Parish of Pennfield and for any other parish willing to take them in for a few days."

Mr. Menezes is the brother of the Rev. Simea Meldrum, a former visitor here, and is now the curate in the Parish of Olive's Garden in the town of Setubal. He is also the Estevao

so many New Brunswick Anglicans met at synod in 2001. "His warmth and deep sincerity has been a blessing, even over cyberspace, to those of us who have corresponded with him," says Mr. Osborne. That includes Cathy McKay who befriended Estevao and his friend Josias at synod and kept in touch after that.

Pennfield was twinned with another parish in Recife at the time, but when Mr. Osborne finally wearied of the constant "unable to locate remote server" message on his computer screen, they sought a new one.

"Shortly afterward it seemed that the Lord was opening up for us another route to our Companion Diocese. Cathy's ongoing correspondence with Estevao grew to include his priest and almost automatically a bond was created. We exchanged profiles of our parishes and included each other in our daily and Sunday intercessions.

"When, in answer to an idea, I casually wrote 'Yes, we would love to have you come and visit us', I had no clue as to how seriously that comment would be taken. Estevao e-mailed back

and said, 'We're coming!' And so the adventure begins."

The Pioneers' families are funding the travel costs, and the Parish of Pennfield has scrounged winter clothes. "We want their trauma of facing the cold to be as painless as possible," says Mr. Osborne.

The young people will spend Christmas with their friends in Pennfield but are available to visit other parishes after that.

Please contact Mr. Osborne at [kenosis@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:kenosis@nbnet.nb.ca) or 506/755-2972 to make arrangements.

### CHRISTMAS IN COWTOWN

An awesome 24 hour event for ages 16 to 25.

1 p.m. Dec 29 — 11:30 a.m. Dec 30

Trinity Church, Sussex

Bring skates, sleeping bag, warm clothes, Bible and tons of energy!



Cost: \$20

Preregister with at  
[christmasincowtown@hotmail.com](mailto:christmasincowtown@hotmail.com)  
or

(506) 433-1189 by Dec. 24

## Youth rep reports from PWRDF meeting

BY VICTORIA GARRETT

It was my privilege to attend the Primates World Relief and Development Fund's (PWRDF) Annual General Meeting at Geneva Park Conference Centre, Orillia Ontario, Oct. 30 to Nov. 2.

The days leading up to the business meeting were spent learning what is going on in other parishes and dioceses. This gave many of us fresh ideas on how to bring PWRDF to our homes. It was an excellent opportunity to make connections with national PWRDF staff and volunteers from other dioceses, and to learn that our money is truly going to worthy causes around the world.

The most prominent issues

were communications, the kick off for the HIV/AIDS initiative and support for and importance of our youth.

Diocesan representatives want to know what's going on, specifically with the projects PWRDF is supporting, so by the end of the week it was agreed that bulletin stories, as well as longer stories concerning specific places, would be available on the web by the end of December.

The HIV/AIDS initiative, was discussed individually as well as in the open sessions. Our goal is to raise an extra \$1 million specifically for HIV/AIDS research and awareness. Currently, the worst pandemic in the world is in Africa and we will be attacking the problem

there first. We received resource packages and everyone seemed to be really motivated to bring these issues up in their home dioceses.

There were four members of the national youth council present for the four days. We all pushed the idea of appointing a youth rep for every diocese. The Diocese of Fredericton was the first in the country with the position. By the end of the conference it was agreed that each diocese would try to enlist a PWRDF youth representative to extend the contacts for the national youth council.

*Victoria Garrett is PWRDF Youth Representative for the Diocese of Fredericton.*

### Call for applications Director Camp Medley

deadline Jan 15, 2004

We seek someone with

- a vision for youth
- administrative & leadership skills
- the ability to direct, instruct, encourage, and deal with conflict.

Applications on-line at

[www.campmedley.ca](http://www.campmedley.ca)

or contact Val Phinney

506/849-1770

Applications for other staff positions (deadline Feb. 20)

are also on that site.

### Cathedral Youth Service

Sunday, December 21

7:30 p.m.

Speaker

### George Porter

new Diocesan Youth Director

info: 450-8500 or

[office@christchurchcathedral.com](mailto:office@christchurchcathedral.com)

**MILLGEN** *Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love and in purity.*

1 Timothy 4:12