



MU declared an instrument of unity

The world-wide Mothers' Union is the fifth instrument of unity in the Anglican Communion, according to the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Primate of All Ireland.

"This is a powerful statement and a great commission for those of us in the MU," says Kathleen Snow of Fredericton, Provincial President of the Canadian Mothers' Union.

The 9.6 million MU members in 76 countries around the world are dedicated to sharing Christ's love by encouraging, strengthening and supporting marriage and family life. Meeting and a dinner with Archbishop Rowan Williams and Archbishop Robin Eames was on the agenda of the Provincial Presidents meeting in England last summer.

As the Anglican Communion continues to deal with serious issues of division, especially around sexuality, the archbishops told the MU presidents that their organization's broad reach and its commitment to the things that unite its members rather than the things that divide them are of great value to the wider church.

"Our message of unity in diversity is celebrated," says Ms. Snow. "Our bonds of affection

are really bonds of understanding that should be mirrored by the entire Anglican Communion — we all need to talk with each other, rather than at each other."

The meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury was one highlight among many for Ms. Snow during a three-week trip to the United Kingdom. She wore white and marched with 225,000 people at the Make Poverty History Rally in Edinburgh; gathered with 4,500 Mothers' Union members for a two-day general meeting in Ipswich, and visited with her MU sisters in the Northern Ireland diocese of Derry and Raphoe, which is linked with the Canadian Mothers' Union.

The 10-day Provincial Presidents meeting at Wydale, a retreat house in Yorkshire, brought home to Ms. Snow the reality of a world-wide organization.

"Three provincial presidents spoke of the poverty in their countries and of how we, as MU members, could help them. We heard from Vivian of Uganda, Thandi of South Africa, and Violet of the West Indies. As I met many MU sisters to the south and heard their stories, I realized that the challenges of survival that they face make our



Mothers' Union Canadian president Kathleen Snow, right, participated in the Make Poverty History rally in Edinburgh, Scotland last summer. She and other MU provincial presidents were in the UK for a Mothers' Union general meeting in Ipswich which attracted 4,500 members, and a 10-day meeting of provincial presidents at a retreat house in Yorkshire. Seen here preparing for the Edinburgh march, where most of the 325,000 participants wore white, are left to right: Rose Masih, provincial president of the Church of North India; Charmian Patterson, provincial president of Scotland; Claudette Kigeme, an MU worker from Burundi; Vivian Kityo, provincial president of Uganda; Trish Heywood, world-wide president of Mothers' Union; Maud Patten, provincial president of Indian Ocean; and Ms. Snow, provincial president of Canada.

concerns here in Canada at times seem trivial."

The presidents focused on the Mothers' Union as a global organization requiring good communication and leadership,

empowerment, vision and marketing. At the end of the 10 days they issued a unanimous statement outlining practical ways to accomplish their five objects: to uphold Christ's

teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding; encourage parents to bring up their

See MU on page 5

Teachers inspired and encouraged

BY ANA WATTS

More than 80 Sunday school teachers from around the diocese and even a few from other denominations, were inspired and encouraged by the second annual Christian Education Workshop held at Christ Church (Parish) Church in Fredericton on Oct. 1.

Organized by Diocesan Christian Director Liz Harding and the Diocesan Christian Education committee, the event featured 21st century worship with several prayer stations and a hearty lunch as well as the useful workshops.

Ms. Harding's presentation on positive discipline stressed meeting the needs of the children. The Rev. Dr. George Porter, Diocesan Youth Action Coordinator, offered the teachers insight into how to help their students develop foundations for believing as well as be-living. The value of puppets and music were demonstrated by The Rev. David Edwards and Janet Edwards of Taylor College and Cheryl Jacobs of Christ Church



ANA WATTS

More than 80 Sunday school teachers from around the diocese attended a Christian Education workshop day at Christ Church (Parish) Church on Oct. 1. Among those who gave the day rave reviews are Rebecca Jonah of the First Wesleyan Church in Fredericton (left) and Susan Goguen of St. James, Moncton. They are seen here with diocesan Christian education director Liz Harding, who organized the event.

(Parish) Church respectively. There were also tips on presenting Christmas pageants, insights into curriculum models and suggestions for Sunday morning alternatives.

The lunch room was romantically decorated with paper tea lanterns made by

Christian Education committee member Joanne Fitzpatrick, who was challenged to provide a Sunday school craft for the occasion. She offered two types of lanterns, larger ones requiring the dexterity of older

See Teachers on page 5

National ACW elects first NB president

Heather Carr of the Parish of Stanley was installed as national president of the ACW at the group's annual conference near Montreal in September. She is the first member from the Diocese of Fredericton to hold the position.

At the top of her 'to do' list is to convince the National Church that the ACW should have a seat at General Synod. The group has lobbied for this in recent years and at this meeting received a letter from the Primate, Archbishop Andrew Hutchison and now retired General Secretary, Archdeacon Jim Boyles again declining their request.

"I will continue with this project with the help and support of my bishop," said Ms. Carr.

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Tea time at Bishop's Court

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First.last@anglican

All diocesan personnel — clergy, staff and Church Army members — can now be reached through standard e-mail addresses ...
 firstname dot lastname @ anglican.nb.ca.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Final service at St. James', Broad Street

St. James' Church in Saint John will close its doors permanently following a final worship service at 7 p.m. on Thursday evening, Nov. 24. Former clergy and everyone ever associated with the ministry of St. James' are invited.

Declining membership and financial burden were cited as reasons for the closure of the venerable Anglican church with a long history of community outreach.

"I recognize the difficulty of this decision," says Bishop Claude Miller. "We have worked

closely with the parish over the past several years and this step emerged as the only answer. My prayers are with the people of St. James' as I give thanks to God for their continuing witness and faith."

In recent months the parish explored the possibility of amalgamation with the nearby Parish of East Saint John.

"The process of amalgamation was an attempt to offer the parish another option to closure," says Archdeacon Geoffrey Hall,

whom the bishop placed in charge of consultations and planning over the summer months. "Unfortunately, it just wasn't the answer under the circumstances."

At a parish meeting on Sunday, Oct. 16, the congregation informally made plans for worship in the immediate future and discussed the date for the final service. "We want this to be a celebration of a long history of ministry in this parish and community," said church warden Bob Cormier.



St. James' Church FRANK MOREHOUSE

DNS speaker named

Bishop Ann Tottenham of Toronto will be the theme speaker for DNS Weekend 2006 at the St. Thomas University Convention Centre in Fredericton next June 2-4. This weekend, intended to develop and nurture Christians for service with Christ in the church and in the world, will feature its usual array of interesting workshops, awesome worship, live music, inclusive fellowship and a Maritime kitchen party. Registration information will be published in the New Brunswick Anglican and E News when it becomes available. In the meantime, save the dates.



Pilgrim House retreat centre to close

Pilgrim House Christian Retreat Centre will welcome its last official guest at the end of December.

In a letter to Bishop Claude Miller, the women who made their vision of a laity-founded centre a reality that exceeded even their wildest expectations said: "As God and his work grow greater, so we diminish in size ... after 15 wonderful years it is time to retire from the work."

Gloria Paul and Yvonne Mersereau learned a lot about healing and nurturing during their nursing careers. Gloria learned a lot about Christian

retreats when she visited one in her native England in the 1980s. Yvonne owned property on the Back Creek (say it crick) in Hoyt, a hamlet about midway between Fredericton and Saint John. They both have welcoming hearts.

While they both continued to work shifts at the hospital in Fredericton, they built a house to be a retreat as well as their home. In the summer of 1989, Bishop George Lemmon knocked on their door with his staff and officially blessed Pilgrim House.

"We had no idea where the

venture would lead us. Happily, it's been a wonderful walk with our Lord," Gloria and Yvonne said in their recent letter to Bishop Miller. "Fifteen years later we've had the undoubted privilege of, by times, entertaining 'angels unaware.' The grounds, with paths leading to sanctuary areas, water dividing the property into groomed areas and wildflowers, have never failed to amaze us. Ultimately, we feel it is in these grounds and trails, the paths, trees and wildlife, that we learn and feel and see for ourselves his creation and loving kindness. Without toil, all their needs are

met ... It is now time to retire from the work of Pilgrim House, venturing again into the unknown, trustingly. More feeble physically perhaps, but even stronger in faith!"

They admitted to the bishop that there was a lot of sadness in their decision, that they would miss the many people who have been their annual guests.

A dear priest and friend sensed they were only seeing through a glass darkly and assured them this step was not the end but merely a new beginning.

Correction

In the October issue, the mortgage burned in the photo on page 5 belonged to the Parish of Richmond.

Social justice alive and well in the Diocese of Fredericton.

by David Watts

The prophet Micah asks "What does God expect of you? Only this: to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God." With this passage in mind I recently returned from a three-day national church consultation on social justice in Winnipeg. When I received the invitation I worried that our efforts would not measure up to other dioceses, but once I started making lists and doing a little digging, I came to the conclusion New Brunswick Anglicans certainly do their share of this important work. At the conference itself I learned that while some dioceses have formal structures to coordinate their social justice work, most are like ours: the work is carried out at the local level.

The day I sat down to prepare my report for the conference the gospel reading urged "when you give alms, do not let your right hand know what your left hand is doing." It reflected perfectly what I found in my research, we do a lot here in response to the needs of others — not just in terms of physical needs but also their need for justice. But many of us who aren't directly involved in these projects simply

aren't aware of what is happening.

Our diocese is a founding member of the Coverdale Foundation which provides assistance to women in conflict with the law, so we have supported that ministry for decades. We also have a long and faithful relationship with the Primates World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), which enables us to participate in relief, development and justice projects throughout the world. Most of the social justice activities carried out in this diocese, however, are inspired by individuals and small groups.

Gloria Paul of Hoyt is an active and dedicated member of Project Ploughshares, whose members strive "to be peacemakers and to work for a world in which justice will flourish and peace abound."

Saint John is home to an active Kairos group, an ecumenical body that confronts injustice in our society and abroad. The Rev. Chris McMullin, rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, serves on its anti-poverty working group.

The national council of the Canadian Mothers' Union is resident in this diocese until 2008, and its president, Kathleen Snow of Fredericton,

participated in the Make Poverty History demonstration in Edinburgh, Scotland this summer. The world wide Mothers' Union supports this initiative and we will certainly hear more about it in this diocese soon.

Nearly every parish in the diocese is involved in a local food bank or soup kitchen. Some Saint John area churches

support a soup kitchen and mission for former offenders, there are parishes involved in community outreach to young people and low-income housing projects.

These are just a few of the groups and individuals heeding the gospel call to social justice activity.

My friend the Rev. Dr. Iain Luke, who teaches ministry at

St. John's College in Winnipeg, picked me up at the airport and drove me to the conference site at St. Benedict's Retreat and Conference Centre. On the way he said: "As a part of the Christian gospel, social justice is too important to be left only to those who have a passion for it." I took his words as my personal theme for the event.

See Lutherans on page 5



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

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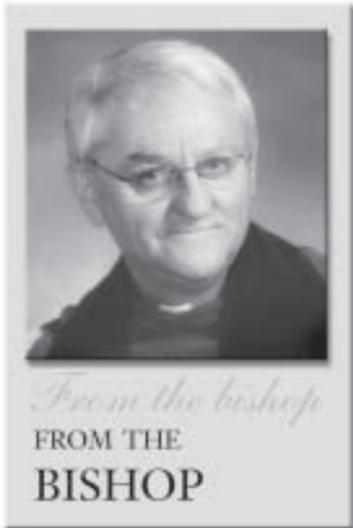
THE BISHOP'S PAGE

Embrace the eternal hope and love of Advent

What might the world be like if all Christians spent more time on the message of Advent than on the routines of preparing for Christmas?

John the Baptist, in quoting the prophet Isaiah, preached a message of repentance as recorded in the Gospel of Luke: "... Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God". (Luke 3.4-6)

If the message of Advent is a call to repentance it means that it is a call to change. The language of John the Baptist expresses the idea of moral and spiritual renewal and it prompts the multitudes to ask "What then shall we do?" (v.10) And the answer to the question is a brief commentary on the social, legislative and political



conditions of the day. "He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise."

Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than is appointed you." Soldiers also asked him,

"And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Rob no one by violence or by false accusation, and be content with your wages." Indeed, the message of the Gospel challenges the high and lofty to share the abundance that God has freely given with the meek and lowly.

Nevertheless, the question "what then shall we do?" cuts across the landscape of human existence and encourages all to change. Change is not easy for any of us, especially when we place our faith in the material surety and homeland security systems we put in place to overcome our fears. Nor is it easy when we have little or no control over our circumstances caused by the imbalance and unfair distribution of the world's wealth.

God knows and is constantly watching over his world. The message of the prophet is to turn from the condescending heights of privilege, and trust only in God's just and

equitable love. In the fifth century Peter Chrysologus wrote: "God saw the world falling to ruin because of fear and immediately acted to call us back with love."

God's calling us back comes from the voice of one crying in the wilderness. God calls us back by the voice of the cry of the babe of Bethlehem.

May we embrace the Advent message of hope and expectation for a new moral and spiritual order in God's world. A world that needs to experience his love, not just for the season but for eternity.

Blessings in His name,

The Rt. Rev. Claude Miller is Bishop of Fredericton

Dinners put youth camps campaign over \$200,000

Proceeds from four more dinners to come

With just three of seven Bishop's Dinners accomplished at press time, the Camps Capital Campaign stood at \$ 207,766.40.

Just over \$3,000 in donations and pledges from the first Bishop's Dinner on Sept. 28 in Woodstock took the fund over the \$200,000 mark. That evening just over 100 people enjoyed a first class evening of food, fellowship and entertainment at the town's civic centre. Archdeacon Walter Williams' wife Lorna catered the meal, which starred pork tenderloin with apples and cider sauce followed by a triple chocolate tiramisu for dessert. There were lots of wonderful stories about Camp Brookwood and Bishop Claude Miller spoke about the importance of Christian youth camps and the urgent need for upgrading our diocesan facilities.

The Moncton dinner at the Crystal Palace Convention Centre on Oct. 5 added another \$6,500 in gifts. In keeping with the season, the more than 100 guests dined on turkey and were thankful for the great entertainment. Archdeacon Malcolm Berry's wife Holly belongs to a professional music group and Capt. Hugh Bateman, also from Shediac, told great stories. Katie and Micah Patterson, who were married just this summer, spoke from their hearts on their experiences at Camp Medley. Again, Bishop

Miller offered an inspiring and pastoral message on the importance of Christian youth camps.

A total of \$3,600 in pledges and donations from the Bishop's Dinner in Bathurst brought the three-dinner total to more than \$13,000.

Archdeacon Pat Drummond and Mr. Don Thompson were masters of ceremonies, lots of fine entertainment followed the chicken breast with basil/mushroom sauce dinner. Matilda Vaughan, a Medley camper in 1946 travelled all the way from Ontario for the occasion and brought lots of photos to share.

More than 300 people attended the first three dinners. Nearly half have already made pledges or donations, the others plan to give to the campaign in the near future, and several parishes and groups are planning events in support of the campaign.

This level of support is of enormous encouragement to the bishop as he decides on the timing of the next camps building project.

Results of the Nov. 2 dinner in Rothesay and the Nov. 9 dinner in Saint John will appear in the next issue of the New Brunswick Anglican. There is still time to purchase tickets for the Westfield Golf and Country Club dinner on Nov. 16 (\$35 from Wes Cosman 506/ 738-8306) and the Fredericton Inn dinner on Nov. 23 (\$30 from Heather Carr 506/ 367-2785 or Cheryl Jacobs 506/ 459-5795).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tenence Chandra will be ordained to the diaconate at St. Margaret's Church in Fredericton at 7 p.m. on Nov. 20.

The Rev. Paul Ranson and the Rev. Ellen Curtis will be ordained to the priesthood at 4 p.m. on Dec. 4 at Christ Church Cathedral in Fredericton.

The Rev. Gordon Thompson is appointed priest and rector of the Parish of Chatham, effective January 15, 2006. He leaves the Parish of Portland in Saint John.

Time for tea at Bishop's Court

Bishop Claude Miller and his wife Sharon entertained retired clergy of the diocese and their spouses/widows at Bishop's Court. The afternoon tea on Sunday, Sept. 11, was well attended. It also introduced the latest antique to the permanent collection at Bishop's Court — a long-case clock (sometimes called a tall-case clock), made in London, England in about 1770.

"It is a traditional eight-day long-case movement and features one of the very last brass-faced dials," says Tim Ross, a Fredericton engineer and antique clock expert who cleaned and oiled its works and made a new pendulum. He regularly does this kind of work for Kings Landing as well.

"We know it is pre 1772 because it has a brass face. White dials appeared about 1772 and put brass out of business. Not only were they cheaper to produce, they were easier to see in the poor lighting conditions of the time. They only had candles and oil lamps," he continues.

The day of the retired clergy tea, however, only the case was in place in the foyer at Bishop's Court. Mr. Ross was still testing the works. The Rev. Les Petrie offered to put his wrist watch in the case until the face and works were installed.

The pagoda style clock case features Chinese lacquer and symbols. "It was made in London and probably shipped to China for decoration," says Mr. Ross. "These clocks were luxury, handmade items available only to the very wealthy."

It boasts a half-hour strike, which is unusual for the type, most only struck on the hour. It also, thankfully, has a silencing mechanism. "When it strikes it sounds like someone hitting a saucepan with a spoon," says Mr. Ross. "If it isn't silenced, it must be placed a long way from the bedroom. Clocks with more melodious chimes were even more expensive."

These clocks keep good time and run for centuries but the condition of the case hasn't enjoyed the same kind of longevity. The lacquer is chipped and broken, revealing the oak beneath. The Chinese decorations on the case are barely discernible, but according to antique expert and appraiser Tim Isaac, no attempt should be made to refinish the wood.

Over the past year several fine antiques have been collected for a permanent collection at Bishop's Court and guests at the tea were encouraged to tour the house and admire them all.

PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS

Nov. 8
Parish of Stanley 7 p.m.

Nov. 9
Diocesan Council
Bishop's Dinner, Saint John

Nov. 15
All Saint's, Saint John* 7 p.m.

Nov. 13-17
Visitation to
Deanery of St. Andrews.

Nov. 16
Bishop's Dinner, St. Andrews

Nov. 20
Parish of Shediac
8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Ordination to the diaconate
St. Margaret's, 7 p.m.

Nov. 23
Bishop's Dinner, Fredericton

Nov. 24
Final service for
St. James', Saint John 7 p.m.

Nov. 27
Christ Church Cathedral 4 p.m.

Nov. 29-Dec. 1
Consecration of bishop
Gander, Newfoundland

Dec. 4
Ordination to the priesthood
Christ Church Cathedral 4 p.m.

Dec. 11
Dorchester Penitentiary

Dec. 17
Trinity, Saint John 6 p.m.

* denotes confirmation



A 1770 English long case clock is the latest addition to the Bishop's Court antique collection.

COMMENTARY

Homosexuality is not a sickness to be healed

The Editor,

I wish to express my gratitude to the New Brunswick Anglican on reporting of my motion to the N.B. Diocesan Synod, but I wish to repudiate its report that, I "was once a homosexual but had been healed."

I prefer to call God's miraculous intervention as a 'transformation' through faith and the renewing of my mind. Living a homosexual lifestyle is not a physical sickness, it is a brokenness, a separation from God; a sin of deadly proportions. (Rom. 3:23) Sin is not necessarily a physical sickness requiring a medical practitioner, although it can lead to one, it is a rebellious attitude and disobedient action against a holy God.

In response to the Rev. Eldon Hay (September NB Anglican), let me be very clear: I am not against the homosexual/lesbian in the church. On the contrary, we as the Church of Jesus Christ must welcome them — as with all sinners — for we all are sinners in God's sight. The church was ordained to preach the gospel to all nations (Matt. 28:19), and thereby, as did Jesus, accept all people who were willing to repent and come to him — sinner and saint alike (although I wonder how many in the church today can truthfully claim to be a saint). It must be said, however, that the church cannot accept people in pastoral or leadership positions who openly espouse any kind of immoral conduct.

Nevertheless, Christ does love us all and gave his life for us; however, he did say, "If you love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15) The gospel of John tells us that "Jesus is the Word", and "the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." (John 1:1,14) Thus the whole word of God — the Bible — is Jesus' commandment to us. It defines sin and rebellion and disobedience for us.

Do we believe it, accept it in our lives, and by faith, live it? "When you obey me, you remain in my love." (John 15:10). He is calling his church to repentance and holiness! Where is the church corporate today? Can we say it is obeying Jesus' commandments? "Those who obey God's commands, live in fellowship with him." (1 John 3:24), and "...obey everything I have commanded you." (Matt. 28:20) His word tells us to flee sexual immorality! (1 Cor. 5:9)

Yes, God does love us all (he created us for himself). When we come to him, he does accept us where we are, but, he does not want us to stay there; in our carnal immoral and sinful nature.

Through sanctification, He calls us to repentance and holiness; "... being transformed by the renewing of the mind." (Rom. 12:2)

God is sovereign, holy, and pure. He calls us to that stature! Are we willing to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him? (Matt. 16:24) That requires on our part, a genuine humble and repentant submission, honouring his word, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, following his Commandments.

I am reminded by the apostle Paul that when a believer is unwilling to honour the ordinances of God, he is to be put out of the congregation until he repents of his rebellion and disobedience. The Church — to be viable and sanctified by almighty God — must remain steadfast to the mandate of God's word — the same yesterday, today, and forever.

To be called a child of God, one must of his own free will, acknowledge God as his/her Father (a free gift), and then follow through by accepting the ordinances and rules of the family. Otherwise, through rebellion and iniquity, the Father has the right to expel him/her from the family (the Kingdom). Consider carefully Matt. 7:21; and also 1 Peter chapter 2.

Let us all, at this time of turmoil within our church, remain faithful to the Word, and rebuke all deception, disobedience, rebellion and sin: following closely the Commandments of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Alan MacGowan
Red Bank

P.S. To Bob Brittan (September NB Anglican)
No. We do not want you to go away! We want you to have the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ — him crucified and risen — whereby one gains eternal life by a renewal of the mind and transformation of the heart; with the true infilling of the Holy Spirit.

Mr. MacGowan is an affiliate of the Zacchaeus Fellowship - <http://www.zacchaeus.ca>

DOG MATTICKS

by Doug Patstone



Christ asked us to be inclusive, not exclusive

Dear Editor,

I am comforted by the certainty that I am not the only Anglican who is deeply troubled by the report of Ana Watts, the editor of the New Brunswick Anglican, about some of the events of the 128th Synod in the September 2005 issue.

Our diocese repudiated General Synod's resolution to "Affirm the integrity and sanctity of committed same-sex relations." It is my belief that even the General Synod's affirmation is but a grudging bow to the goal of a prophetic, loving and inclusive Anglican faith — a faith that is shared by many other Christians who believe as I do, that inclusion

A Difficult Gospel Indeed

The term unconditional love, is time-tired and work-worn. We use it to justify ourselves and our prejudices; we tell ourselves that we can love the people we judge by an act of will. Whatever happened to the eleventh commandment, the only one Jesus gave? "A new Commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; even as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

Jesus models his love so we may model it for others. This demand for action is the most difficult part of the Gospel. Evidence of the difficulty is the absence of the outside world acclaiming: "See how these Christians love one another."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, believes just such a difficult Gospel and implies that until and unless we come to believe that God gazes upon us all with an unfettered acceptance, we cannot begin to see others as God sees them. Because we limit the capaciousness of God, we restrict our own capacity to love.

rather than exclusion is what Christ asked of us.

The Diocese packed the clergy delegation to the 2007 General Synod with supporters of New Brunswick Essentials: so much for representativeness.

One delegate went so far as to ask all delegates to the Diocesan Synod submit their curriculum vitae setting out their beliefs; if they should stray from the "Party line" they would be ineligible for election as delegates.

To insist on conformity is breathtaking in its audacity and I am proud to acknowledge the proposal was defeated.

An additional reason for distress arises from the motion

The adult formation groups at St. John's, Oromocto, studied Mike Higton's book *Difficult Gospel, the Theology of Rowan Williams*. We have been challenged by the animator of the study, Canon Jim Irvine, to follow the archbishop's lead and see everyone and everything everyday through the lens of the cross — to act and live in a way that demonstrates God's character to the world.

It is my privilege to sit with these lay people as they mature in faith. No small wonder religious studies programs in the United States use Canon Irvine's study resources in their prayer and spiritual development classes. Carol Gross

The Rev. Carol Gross is honorary assistant at St. John's, Oromocto.

Commit public funds to restore historic headstones

Our ancestors paid respect to their deceased family members by burying them in consecrated ground and installing a

that there be "A review of the purpose, vision and editorial policy of the New Brunswick Anglican." I would want to avoid any journal of opinion that confines itself strictly to one viewpoint. Such a policy is reminiscent of events in Europe in the 1930s.

It is any wonder that all too often this Anglican despairs for the church he has tried to serve all his long life?

Shalom,
Gordon Fairweather
Rothesay

Mr. Fairweather was the first Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission and the founding chair of Canada's Immigration and Refugee Board.

headstone. These cemeteries ensured their descendants could also pay their respects in years to come and are now our Heritage Graveyards. Unfortunately they have been allowed to deteriorate, many stones have fallen or been knocked flat and eventually whole graveyards will look like flat ground again.

I believe a campaign to have public funds made available to make repairs to these older stones is reasonable. There are those who believe the descendants of those in the graves should shoulder these costs. This is ridiculous, especially since many of those buried in these heritage graveyards have no descendants.

If the Federal Government can find the money to preserve cenotaphs dedicated to those who were killed in service to their country, it seems only fitting and proper that some public money be set aside to maintain the memorials of those who, in many cases, founded this country.

Yours truly,
Eric L. Teed

DIOCESAN NEWS

Refreshing rejuvenating retreat for Mothers' Union members

BY HAZEL MACKENZIE

Mothers' Union members from branches around the diocese met overnight in Hampton recently to work, worship and play.

National MU president Kathleen Snow offered a well-prepared, informative and moving presentation on her trip to the UK in July. It included a meeting with MU Provincial presidents from around the world at a retreat house in Wydale, England; the Make Poverty History Campaign and Campaign March in Edinburgh; and a meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury. She says Archbishop Rowan Williams considers Mothers' Union the fifth instrument of unity in the Anglican Communion. The most moving moment of her trip was a cacophony of prayer at Wydale as each MU member prayed the Lord's prayer in her



Diocesan MU literature secretary Debbie Jarvis of Hampton offered Advent program ideas to members gathered for a weekend retreat.

own language. She said it was like hearing the unity of Christianity in the diversity of native tongues.

We also watched a thought provoking video presentation on the stages of life prepared

by the Rev. Dr. John Claypool. He challenged us to "seek out the children who aren't loved and accepted and be to them a delight-giver. To be to them what God is to each of us."

Our MU diocesan president

Elaine Robichaud and members of the St. Paul's branch in Hampton warmly welcomed us to the Baptist Bible Camp on an equally warm September evening. The camp's pastoral setting was perfect for our meeting and included welcome extras like horses, a swimming pool and a pond for canoeing. It was a treat to have our meals catered because it left us more time for our business and other activities, like the Advent presentation.

These overnight meetings are valuable opportunities for renewal in our Mothers' Union work. It is a pleasure to spend time with old friends and be blessed with new ones. Our worship reinforces that we are a Christian group and that prayer is the foundation of all we do. In our business meetings we are reminded that we are members of the largest

women's organization in the world — with nearly four million members — and we can be proud of the work we do worldwide.

Special thanks to our chaplain, the Rev. Peter Mills, for the spiritual guidance he so generously offers. We were pleased to have Peter's family with us too.

When we left late Saturday afternoon we felt we had been blessed with great weather, plentiful food and committed leadership. Questions had been answered, decisions made and plans formulated. We were inspired and rejuvenated in the time we spent together — time spent sharing, suggesting and supporting.

The price of gas may be high but the trip was well worth the expense. We left with full tanks, ready to motor in our branches as we do the work of Mothers' Union.

Teachers take home crafts and musical grace

Continued from page 1

students and youth group participants, and smaller, simpler ones for younger Sunday school students. Participants at the conference were each given a lantern to take home and construction details will be included in the next Christian Education mailing from Ms. Harding.

Bonnie Hunt, Christian Education Director for Christ Church (Parish) Church, member of the Christian Education Committee, and faithful assistant to Ms. Harding in the organization of the workshop day, taught the workshop participants a simple singing grace at lunch time. With the help of some of her

youth group members, who were also on hand to help during the event, she sang:

Thank you God for
peanut butter
And thank you God for
jelly jam;
Thank you God for the
food we're eating
And thank you God for
who I am.

Lutherans included in social justice conference

Continued from page 2

For three days, about 40 of us, representing 25 Canadian dioceses, shared our concerns and ideas. For two of our three days we were joined by half a dozen representatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada who had also come to

Winnipeg for a regular meeting of their national leaders in social action. They participated in our worship and took part in our small group discussions.

Those discussions focused on definitions of social justice, the reasons Christians undertake it and the reasons we support it.

In plenary sessions, we heard details of current Kairos and PWRDF campaigns, the justice work of the Lutheran church, and an outline of the on-going projects and work of the National Church's EcoJustice committee.

ACW meeting inspired by stories of faith

Continued from page 1

Theme of the conference was Women Along the Way and included the updating of the group's motto to The Love of Christ Calls Us as well as presentations from many women's groups.

Kathleen Snow, president of the Canadian Mothers' Union and also from the Diocese of Fredericton, presented details on a recent trip to the United Kingdom where she met with the Archbishop of Canterbury. She and Ms. Carr also enrolled four ACW members into MU.

Montreal Bishop Barry Clarke who spoke about the journey he and his wife have taken through MS and breast cancer. "He spoke with great compassion of a God who is seeing them through it," said Ms. Carr.

Elizabeth Hutchison and National Council of Women president Catherine Laidlow-Sly offered an update on their work, and Alice Medcalf offered an update on the International Anglican Women's Network.

Outgoing ACW president Sally Harrison led an emotional and compassionate discussion on same-sex blessings. The Rev. Joyce Sanchez, ACW chaplain, congratulated the group on the mature tone of the discussion. She also blessed and anointed the new executive at a service at the Sisters of Saint Bridgette retreat centre where the meeting was held. Formal installation from the ACW Manual was performed by Dean Michael J. Pitts during a service of Holy Communion at Christ Church Cathedral in Montreal on Sunday, Sept. 18.

MU celebrates the things that hold the church together

Continued from page 1

children in the faith and life of the Church; maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians, united in prayer, worship and service; promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children; and help those whose family life has met with adversity.

"We recognized that there are many differences in our cultures, the ways we express our faith, and our approaches to membership in the organization. We recognized that these differences can cause us pain. But over all, we celebrated our unity, our shared vision and mission. We affirmed that our belief that the things that hold us together are greater than the things that divide us."

She returned to Canada convinced that the Mothers' Union in this country needs to attract more members to help it play the role in the unity of the Anglican Communion identified by the archbishops, and to help Make Poverty History for countries to the south and in the Canadian north.

The Mothers' Union Canadian Council commissioned an original bracelet to sell in support of the travel fund. They are available for \$69.95 (no tax) from Susan Goguen, 237 Killam Drive, Moncton E1C 3S6

The executive council of the Canadian Mothers' Union resides in one diocese for a four year term. The current council consists of members from the Diocese of Fredericton. They were installed at the beginning of 2005 and will serve until the end of 2008.



STORIES OUT OF AFRICA



At a recent meeting of the ACW Fredericton/York Deanery, Michael and Anna Caines spoke on the year they spent with the Rev. Canon Paul Jeffries at Bishop McAllister School in Uganda, Africa. They are seen here at the Cathedral Memorial Hall with the ACW's executive members following the meeting. Left to right: Betty Adams, secretary/treasurer; Beverley Ward, vice president; Lois Baker, president; Michael and Anna Caines.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Summer 2005 . . .

Yet another great Choir School

BY MARJE HARRISON

Summer 2005 and yet another great Choir School experience. This year I had the privilege of being the House Mother and had the time of my life. I was able to see the school in a totally different light. It was wonderful to get to know the choristers better and see what made them "tick". It was fun to inspect the rooms everyday with nurse Charlene Belyea, we were royally "bribed" (mostly by girls) for a high mark and we learned how to keep a room clean by some very devious methods. (Don't look in the closet.)

The school ran smoothly as usual and was made more interesting with a lot more young first-timers. What a joy it was to see their faces in chapel, many of them had never been in a church before, it was most uplifting.

This year's music was very challenging, but the choristers worked hard and the Thursday evensong showed the stamina and the keenness of them all. A ferry ride from Gondola Point took us to the Kingston Peninsula on a beautiful summer evening. We were welcomed warmly by the Rev. Bonnie LeBlanc of Trinity Church and fed a wonderful supper provided by the Trinity Kingston choir. Later, in a packed church, the choristers gave their all in a very moving evensong.

The Festal Evensong at Trinity Church, Saint John the following Sunday was equally well attended and received by an enthusiastic congregation. Bishop Claude Miller was in attendance to give the blessing and we hope that he was as impressed by the choristers as the rest of the assembly was.

This year we sort of said good-bye to the Rev. Peter Campion of Rothesay Netherwood School, where Choir School is held. Peter has

This year's music was very challenging, but the choristers worked hard and the Thursday evensong showed the stamina and the keenness of them all.

taken a teaching post in Dublin, Ireland. I say sort of as he has promised to come back to be our chaplain again next year. He is a wonderful asset to the school and has introduced some amazing ideas. His sermons at chapel every night are a real learning experience and most entertaining. This year focused on miracles and we had everything from magic to myths. Please come back Peter.

We also said good-bye to Liz Hadfield, a long-serving chorister and counsellor. She is off to Humber College, good luck and God Bless Liz. She was the last Hadfield counsellor, we still have Alec and Ann — alias Mum and Dad.

A big thank you to all the Choir School staff, the Rev. Chris Hayes, John Hudson, Spencer Belyea, Michael Capon, Cindy Dutton, Jean and Robert Taylor, Lynn Mills, Heather Harrison, Eleanor Hopkins, Linda Pitman and Evelyn Backa.

A big thank you as well to the hard working counsellors, Jennifer Beal, Liz Hadfield, Heather Harrison, Dani Gautreau, Nigel Harrison, Heather Keirstead, Amy Purdy, as well as CIT's Hilary Cole, Loren Fawthrop, Jon Gouchie, Brent Harris, Jessica Sears and Joanne Beal.

We are now planning for next year, and watch out for our 50th anniversary celebrations coming in a couple of years.



CHRIS HAYES
The junior choristers from Choir School go over some last-minute details for the service of Evensong which took place at historic Trinity Church, Kingston this past July.



CHRIS HAYES
Some of the staff of this past summer's Choir School practice their smiles before the group photo; back row (l to r): Charlene Belyea, Eleanor Hopkins, Linda Pitman, Evelyn Backa. Front row (l to r): Jennifer Beal, Liz Hadfield, Heather Harrison, Dani Gatreau, Amy Purdy, and Heather Keirstead.

CONFIRMATION

On Sept. 14, Holy Cross Day, Bishop Claude Miller confirmed four candidates at St. Luke's Church, Parish of Portland, in Saint John. At the same service he received two from the Roman Catholic Church and two parishioners reaffirmed their confirmation. A reception followed in the church hall and principals in the service gathered for the photo on the right. They are, left to right: the Rev. Gordon Thompson, rector; Chris Mason, James O'Brien III, Tabitha Eagles, Karie Ouellette, Bishop Miller, Natalie Cunningham, Pat Warner, Rory Penny and Shirley Irvine (the bishop's sister).



Confirmand Chris Mason tried the bishop's mitre on for size.



PARISH NEWS

People at St. Philip's make pies, friends and money for the parish



Apple washer Zachary McKillop



Apple peeler Kevin Borthwick (the rector)



Dough mixer Rhona Williston



Pastery rollers Cathy Borthwick, Keitha Sobey and Liz Belyea



Trimmer/crimper Cathy Borthwick

STORY AND PHOTOS BY NOELINE ALSTON

The people of St. Philip's, Moncton, made and sold 2,800 apple pies this year. It was a lot of work, a lot of fun and raised a lot of money for the parish. It also reinforced connections among other churches and the community as a whole.

The fundraiser began five years ago with a goal of 200 pies. In fact, they made and sold 800 that year. With this fourfold achievement in the first year, and driven by demand and willing bodies, the bar has been raised each year since.

The pies are made from scratch during the first week of October each year. The congregation has developed an assembly line process that makes it possible to produce the necessary numbers. Apple peeling, coring, and slicing

takes place at one end of the kitchen; and pastry making happens in the at the other end., Pastry rolling and pie completion is accomplished on tables in the hall. Bowls of peeled apples and pastry balls are rushed to the tables in the hall, where the apples are mixed with a sugar-spice mixture and piled into rolled-out crusts, dotted with margarine, then topped with another pastry layer, crimped, packaged, and labelled. Instructions, prudently covered in plastic, guide participants at every stage. Volunteers deliver pies, or customers come to collect them.

The assembled pies are not baked. Customers can freeze and bake them, with instructions provided on the labels for this end stage as well. Special customer

requests even manage to be accommodated: no sugar, no margarine, or requests for particular spices – or none at all. Every shift has its quota, and from time to time someone makes a count: "Only 75 more, folks..." Somehow there's always time for a mid-shift break, tea and coffee, along with a cookie or maybe a sliver of cooked apple pie, a time to sit and rest aching feet and tired muscles before it's back to the assembly line again.

Hard work aside, pie-making week has become known as an enjoyable annual event for members of the congregation, both sexes and all ages. Children wash apples, and male teenage muscles are invaluable for lugging boxes of apples, assisting with institutional deliveries, and helping mix bowls of dough.

Most participants who try one shift, initially, willingly put their names down for more the following year; friends and neighbours, along with visiting family members and house guests, have happily joined the effort, and this year volunteers from St. James Anglican Church have generously joined us.

St. Philip's pies have become known in many parts of Moncton. Many customers have bought one or two pies, and then come back with orders for many more the next year, often having taken orders in their workplace or among their friends, or simply having decided they need a stack in the freezer for the winter. The church produces posters in two sizes for bulletin boards. As a St. Philip's member remarks, "All I have to

do is put up the poster on our work bulletin board, and in no time I've got orders for 60 pies." Stacks of pies are also delivered to food banks and to shelters for the homeless.

Boost to the church budget aside, St. Philip's experiences an annual boost to its community building during apple pie week. This takes several aspects: first, and obviously, within the congregation itself and out to the customers in the community, including the outreach with donations. But also ties with other churches are refreshed as orders are taken in their congregations - and in a special way this year, with helpers from St. James assisting on the assembly line - and with friends and neighbours of the St. Philip's congregation and the church itself.



AUTUMN GLORY

Archdeacon Stuart Allan and theology student Constance Whitaker - Soulikas assumed responsibility for adding autumnal beauty to the sanctuary of Trinity Church in Saint John. Among their helpers in this pleasant task were Harry and Mary Louise Belyea, children of Spencer and Cindy.

DAVID GOSS

INDUCTION



DAVID WATTS

The Rev. Elaine Hamilton, centre, was inducted as priest and rector in the Parish of Prince William on Sept. 20, the 24th anniversary of her ordination to the diaconate. She was the first woman ordained in the Anglican Church in Newfoundland and Labrador. Seen with her above are parishioner Judy Ingraham (left) and Casey LeBlanc of Canadian Idol fame who sang Amazing Grace during the service. Ms. Hamilton invited her to sing because she was such a beacon of hope for the people of the region around the parish, which includes the town of Nackawic, where the pulp mill has been closed for a year.

ARCHIVES CORNER

Earliest women's ministry

The Women's Aid Association was founded on March 15, 1886 at the Church Hall in Fredericton with the goal of furthering home missions. Margaret Medley was the first president. By 1892 there were 18 branches of the Women's Aid Association in this diocese. They worked diligently in the parishes, raising funds to build and repair churches and rectories, facilitate Sunday Schools and other projects. The WAA was a fore-runner of the Women's Auxiliary (W.A.), established in 1903 in this diocese. The W.A., in turn, was the fore-runner of today's ACW (Anglican Church Women).



Margaret and Bishop John Medley

This W.A.A. report came to the archives as part of the records of St. Paul's (Valley) Church, Saint John, in 2004. It joins only one other Women's Aid Association record in the Diocesan Archives, a financial ledger for the St. Mary's (Fredericton) group.

For more information of the Women's Aid Association in the Diocese of Fredericton, see: Gillian Liebenberg, "Handmaiden of the Church: Church of England Women of the Diocese of Fredericton, 1880-1904."

The Archives Corner is prepared by Twila Buttimer, twila.buttimer@gnb.ca, (506) 453-4306 and Frank Morehouse, frankm@nbnet.nb.ca, (506) 459-3637. Contact them with your questions, comments and/or suggestions.

The Girls' Branch, Fredericton, has 30 members. By money received from fees, donations, needlework and entertainments they have been able to make the following grants to Churches in country missions:—

Rev. Mr. Millidge	\$ 25.00
Rev. Mr. Hopkins	25.00
Rev. Mr. Scott Neales	30.00
Rev. Mr. Parkinson	30.00
Rev. Mr. Hickson	20.00
Total	\$ 130.00

KINGSCLEAR. — In this parish the members have been able to contribute more than \$100 towards paying off the debt on the parish, and are now trying to raise funds for putting a new roof on St. Peter's Church.

LUDLOW AND BLISSFIELD. — In this large mission there are four branches of the Association. At Ludlow the members realized \$28 by a sale of needlework which enabled them to defray some church expenses. The members at Lower Ludlow are working hard for the completion of the mission room, and have contributed \$20 to pay what was owing on the work.

The windows, doors, and inside work have still to be provided for. The Branch in New Brandon has deposited \$30 in the Savings Bank for a Sunday School at that Settlement. At Donktown the members were able last summer to hand in a considerable sum for the new church, and through the kind aid of friends the church for which they have laboured so long was consecrated on the 24th May.

STANLEY. — In this Parish a Branch was formed in May 1891, with twenty members. There are now twenty-six. From the proceeds of a sale and picnic the sum of \$117.00 has been realized, which has been devoted to needed repairs on the Rectory, and improving and fencing the grounds. The members are now anxious to aid the building of a church at Cross-Creek, an important part of the Parish. Not only the people of Cross-Creek, but those living in the adjacent settlements of Williamsburg and Maple Grove will be greatly benefitted by this Church. The Secretary, Mrs. Howe, writes:—

"In conclusion, I may say that since this Association was formed in Stanley, the women of the Church have shown a far greater interest in the work of the Church than they formerly did, and the interest is steadily increasing."

ST. JOHN. — The St. John Girls' Branch was formed five years ago, of girls belonging to nearly every Parish in the City. Mrs. Arnold, Vice-President, writes, that in November, 1891, she remitted the sum of \$25 to the Bishop-Coadjutor, being part of the annual donation of \$50 for the maintenance of the work in Ludlow. This payment completed the term of five years for which this donation had been promised. In April, 1892, the sum of \$20 was sent to the Bishop-Coadjutor for Home Missions.

ST. MARTINS. — A Branch of the Association was formed in this Parish a year ago. Since then two sales of needlework have been held, which realized \$138.94. The following sums have been paid:—

Balance due on Church Seats	\$ 25.00
Lamps for Holy Trinity Church	25.59
Repairs on Rectory	74.35
Interest due on Church Land	9.00
Total	\$ 133.94

Mrs. McKell, Vice-President. Miss Hodson, Sec.-Treasurer.

WOMEN'S AID ASSOCIATION

✠
DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON
✠

THE Annual Meeting of the Association was held in the Church Hall, Fredericton, on Wednesday, June 1st, Mrs. Medley, the President, in the Chair.

Prayers were said by Rev. Mr. Alexander. Reports were read from the various Branches, of which there are now eighteen in the Diocese.

BURTON. — In this Parish there are twenty-five members, Mrs. Hubbard, Vice-President; Mrs. Stanley Clowes, Secretary-Treasurer. A carpet has been purchased for the Chancel of St. John's Church, Oromocto, the cost of which was \$53.81. The Church has been supplied with lamps, for which \$9.63 was paid, and the insurance on the Church has been renewed for three years, the premium for which was \$15.

DOUGLAS. — A Branch of the Association has recently been formed in this Parish.

EDMUNDSTON. — In the village of Edmundston a Branch has been lately organized.

FREDERICTON. — In this Parish the quarterly meetings have been held regularly, and in March a public missionary meeting as well. There are 120 names on the roll. The Needlework Committee meet every week, and are glad to receive and execute orders for plain sewing. Donations of materials would be welcome. The Treasurer reports as follows:—

RECEIVED.	
Balance from last year	\$ 204.74
Members' fees and donations	97.15
Needlework Committee	26.00
Interest Savings Bank	5.00
	\$ 332.89
PAID.	
Rev. Mr. Hopkins	\$ 100.00
Church at Donktown	50.00
Church at Marysville	30.00
Church at Temperance Vale	25.00
Rev. Mr. Wilkinson, Bay De Vin Church	25.00
Church at Cross Roads repairs	15.00
Printing	5.50
	\$ 270.50
Balance on hand	62.39
	\$ 332.89

ST. MARY'S. — The Association in this Parish has at present 21 members. Mrs. J. Parkinson, Vice-President, Miss R. Ruel, Secretary. The members have been working earnestly to pay off the debt on the Church-Hall. As a result of their efforts, they have been able to contribute \$125 for that purpose. They have also paid \$80 for seats for the Hall, and \$15.75 interest on the debt on the building. In Marysville, in this mission, the members are working to add to the fund for the Church which is to be built. By a sale of work \$147 was realized for that object, to which \$60 have since been added and placed in the bank.

ST. PAUL, ST. JOHN. — Miss Murray, the Secretary of St. Paul's Branch, writes that the membership increases steadily, and there are now 77 names on the roll. The annual sale was postponed until July, and in consequence the receipts are not so large as usual. They are as follows:—

RECEIVED.	
Balance from last year	\$ 21.48
Members' fees and Subscriptions	69.75
Needlework	22.20
Knitting Society	20.00
	\$ 140.43
EXPENDITURE.	
Brass Kewer for Font	\$ 20.00
Vestment Chest for Vestry	43.00
Balance on hand	77.43
	\$ 140.43

The Junior Branch in this Parish is much interested in the work, and has succeeded in raising \$83. Of this sum \$10 have been given for Home Missions, and with the balance added to the money on hand, a piano has been purchased for the use of Choir and Sunday-School. A box of Easter presents was sent to the family of a country clergyman.

WATERFORD. — The Guild of St. Ann's was affiliated with the Association about six months ago with eight working members. They have earned by needlework the sum of \$30.55, which has been applied as follows:—

Payment on Organ and Freight	\$ 7.00
Clergyman's Stipend	5.00
Vessels for Holy Communion	6.00
Curtains for Sanctuary	6.55
Cards	2.00
	\$ 30.55

The Secretary, Miss Jeffries, writes:— "Next year we hope to make a small offering to the general funds of the Women's Aid Association. We ask your prayers."

WOODSTOCK. — Mrs. Dibblee, the Secretary, reports as follows:— "I have much pleasure in writing that there has been a decided improvement in our Women's Aid Association. Several members have been added, and we have now 32. The girls' branch numbers 30 willing workers. From a sale and dinner on the 1st July, we hope to realize sufficient funds to make our Hall fit for use. We have now \$86 on hand, of which \$13.10 are from members' fees.

Copies of the Rules and Annual Report may be obtained on application to Mrs. A. STREET, Fredericton, the Corresponding Secretary.

Subscriptions and donations for the work may be sent to the Treasurer, Mrs. FINLOW ALEXANDER, Fredericton, N. B.

PREPARING THE WAY

Help for seafarer's at Christmas

With Christmas approaching, our thoughts at the Saint John Seafarer's Mission turn to the seafarers who are far from home during a time when other people are enjoying their family and friends. As in the past, the Seafarers' Mission is glad to provide gifts for the seafarers who visit the port over the Christmas season. From mid-December through mid-January, the Mission distributes shoe boxes and shoe bags filled with thoughtful items. This program has been very successful in the past but not without the help and support of all who contribute.

The Mission accepts filled shoe boxes, shoe bags or individual items that can be put with others, to fill a box or bag. Items like playing cards, paperback books, film, international stamps, VCR videos, hard candy and toiletries are always welcome. Work gloves, toques, scarves and warm socks are especially useful. Use your imagination when filling a shoe box for a seafarer. Please don't forget to enclose a note with your name and address because some recipients will send a note to say thank you.

If the 'shoe box' approach is not for you, or if you are at a distance from Saint John and shipping is expensive, another option to consider would be to donate money, earmarked specifically for our Christmas program. Financial contributions are always welcomed and receipts will be issued upon request.

You may drop your shoe boxes at the Mission (92 Tilley Lane, Saint John) on weekdays between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. or you may call the Mission at (506) 635-1731. Arrangements will be made to pick up your items.

Also, if you have an interest in helping at the Mission (and we prayerfully hope that you do), please contact us by calling Bev at (506) 635-1731, or send us an e-mail at seaf@nb.aibn.com. Thank you and God bless!

The Saint John Seafarers' Mission exists to share God's love and to provide practical and spiritual help to those far from their own homes and loved ones any time of year.

It is with tremendous support from the community, the Saint John Seafarers' Mission provides spiritual and temporal needs — food, clothing, phone cards, Bibles, movies and e-mail — to the seafarers who visit our port. These seafarers have a lifeline with their families through the phones and Internet. The Mission is a vital part of the seafarers' lives and we thank all of you who support us in this ministry.

Coming Events

St. Peter's ACW Christmas Bazaar and Chicken Casserole Luncheon

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 12
St. Peter's Church Hall
2365 Woodstock Road
Fredericton
Luncheon \$6

Christmas on the Bend

St. John's Church
46 McNair Drive
Nackawic
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 18 10 am - 12:30 p.m.

- Downstairs in the hall:
- Bazaar with hand crafts and home baking
 - Coffee party (\$3) with coffee cakes, biscuits, muffins and jams.
- Upstairs in the church:
- Free display of Christmas trees and angels
 - Hot apple cider

Christmas Bazaar with Café au Bazaar

12:30 to 3 p.m.
Nov. 19
Christ Church (Parish) Church
Charlotte and Westmorland Streets
Fredericton
Amazing desserts at the Café
Christmas crafts, decorations, home baking, fudge, books, gifts.

Book Fair

Nov. 26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Bennett Room
Trinity Church
Charlotte Street
Saint John

- More than a thousand books for sale
- Including copies of the current Christmas Reflections booklet with memories from Trinity parishioners and others.
- 10 New Brunswick authors will read and utograph.
 - Snacks
- Display of Christmas Memorabilia amassed by David Goss



Advent Procession with Carols A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols

4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 27
Christ Church Cathedral
Church and Brunswick Streets
Fredericton

- Cathedral Adult Choir
- Cathedral Treble Choir
- Michael Capon, Organist and Choirmaster
- Paul Murray, Associate Organist
- Various Clergy Readers
- Dean Keith Joyce Officiating

While the Cathedral lighting gradually changes from darkness to light, the choir processes within the Cathedral, stopping at various stations for the Lessons and Carols. These elements of music, some sung by the choir and others by the congregation, and the readings from scripture, speak of the foretelling of the coming of Christ.

Carols and Treats from Round the World

7 to 9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 3
Bennett Room
Trinity Church
Charlotte Street
Saint John

- Carols accompanied by Jim McKenna
- commentary on commentary on how the popular carols came to be written, and how they spread, by David Goss.



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Fresh Revelations - About the Lights of December

Mondays at 12:15 - 1:00 p.m.

November 21 - December 12, 2005

Lord Beaverbrook Hotel, Fredericton

November 21

A Prophet - Who Never Made a Profit

November 28

A Census - That Changed the World

December 5

A Little Child - With Great Connections

December 12

A Love - That Won't Let Go

All Welcome



COLUMNS

On squandering and squirreling away . . .

An object lesson learned in the back yard at the rectory

Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. John 6:27

BY JOHN CATHCART

An anonymous story describes a woman walking through a meadow, meditating on nature. She comes upon a field of golden pumpkins. In the corner of the field stands a majestic, huge oak tree. She sits under the oak tree musing on the strange twists in nature which put tiny acorns on huge branches and huge pumpkins on tiny vines. She thinks to herself, "God blundered with Creation! He should have put the small acorns on the tiny vines and the large pumpkins on the huge branches."

The woman stretches out under the oak tree for a nap. A few minutes after falling asleep she is awakened by a tiny acorn bouncing off her nose. Chuckling to herself, she rubs her nose and thinks, "Maybe God was right after all!"

THE
WARDEN
WRITES

There's an old oak in the back yard of the rectory and the ground is covered in acorns. The squirrels are enjoying an extravagant feast as well as squirreling away the acorns in preparation for winter. It seems a simple and natural procedure, but it actually requires some thought. Squirrels have to make choices.

The main source of energy in an acorn is fat. Red oak acorns contain 18 to 25 per cent fat. White oak acorns contain only five to 10 per cent fat. Red oak acorns would appear the better choice. The squirrels wouldn't have to gather as many acorns and would have more time to do other important things, like build nests. Because they wouldn't have to go out for food so often, they would be less vulnerable to dogs, hawks and other

predators.

However, acorns also contain a toxic substance called tannin. It tastes bitter and makes it difficult for the squirrel to digest its food. Acorns from red oaks are six to 10 per cent tannin. Acorns from white oaks are less than two per cent tannin. In this case, acorns from white oaks appear to be the better choice. They require less of the squirrels' energy for digestion, leaving them time and energy to do fun things, like explore the forest.

However, as you may have guessed, there is even more to acorns than fat and tannin. Squirrels' lives are not easy. They also have to know which acorns to eat when.

Acorns from all oak trees fall to the ground in the autumn, when squirrels gather and hide them away so they will have food in the spring. White oak acorns sprout in the autumn so are not suitable for storage. They need to be eaten right away. Red oak acorns don't sprout until the spring so

keep well over the winter. Once again, the squirrels need to know the difference.

As dependent as squirrels are on oak trees, oak trees are also dependent on squirrels. The busy critters carry their acorns to other parts of the forest where they bury them. They carry so many acorns to so many different hiding places, that they lose track of some of them. The forgotten acorns buried in the ground in the forest sprout in the spring and eventually become beautiful new oak trees.

As I watch the little squirrel who lives in our back yard busily eating and burying acorns, it occurs to me that life is full of choices. Just like the squirrels, the choices we make can have positive and negative effects on our own lives and on the future health of the Diocese of Fredericton.

Reflecting on the first step of the Rule of Life (page 555 BCP), we as Christians must choose to be or not to be regular in our attendance at public worship, and especially

at the Holy Communion. When we take our place and our part in public worship we choose, like the squirrel, satisfying and nutritious food. Not all spiritual food has the same nutritional value. Some of what we find at worship will be stored away to be used sometime in the future.

Time is a commodity precious to all of us these days, we don't have any to waste on the consumption of empty calories. We need to choose our spiritual nutrition carefully, choose the food that endures to eternal life.

The Rev. John Cathcart is diocesan warden of layreaders.

Liz Harding's Christian Education column will return to this space next month.



Looking for happiness?

Reach out to others, build a loving community

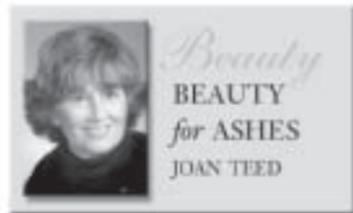
BY JOAN TEED

The London School of Economics led a global research study on happiness. In spite of creature comforts and conveniences, urban Europe and North America fared very badly. Residents of Bangladesh, one of the poorest nations on the planet, appear to be the happiest. The people of India, Ghana and the Dominican Republic are close behind. A recent Canadian survey showed Newfoundlanders to be the happiest people in this country, with Maritimers close behind.

In our race to compete and consume, most of us in wealthy and developed countries seem to have lost sight of what makes us happy and tend to suffer an emotional poverty caused by consumerism and breakdown of family life. Often our personal needs are not being met.

Loneliness, fear, despair — all the feelings of fragmentation leading one to unhappiness — are hell on earth. As John Milton said in *Paradise Lost*, "The mind is its own place and in itself can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven."

Love, and the feeling of being connected to something larger than oneself, overcomes



unhappiness. This "something larger than oneself" may be a friendship, marriage, team, school, company, favourite activity, country, set of ideals, belief system, community, religion, the grace of God. In marriage therapy there is nothing so sad as a couple, each desperately lonely, yet unable to connect. Each has suffered childhood injury to attachment and trust. Each withdraws. The connection is not made. Happiness and love are impossible.

In *The Revolutionary Art of Happiness*, therapist Sharon Salzberg says conventional transitory happiness carries subtle undercurrents of loneliness and fear, even when things are going well. We feel obliged to defend our happiness because it seems so fragile and unstable, in need of constant protection. We deny the very possibility of suffering. We cut ourselves off from facing our own suffering and that of the world because we fear it will undermine our own

happiness. In that highly defended state we cannot experience true joy.

The global survey shows this North American view of happiness as a commodity to be defended. This not only isolates us, it defeats us.

Our society certainly reinforces the idea of life full of constant pleasure. We are bombarded in the media from an early age with messages telling us how to avoid pain and maximize greed — reminding us that getting what we want when we want it is the route to happiness. Indeed, the "pursuit of happiness" is entrenched as an American right and freedom.

Feeling badly is frowned upon. Young boys especially are told to "deal with it", don't be a wimp — be a man. Girls and boys learn early on that to show feeling is a sign of weakness, a source of shame and humiliation leading to vulnerability and unhappiness that can become entrenched as a way of life, daily eroding our self-esteem. That kind of repression almost literally causes heartache.

The habit of pushing down feelings due to shame soon leads to an inability to recognize and truly feel emotions. The resulting separation and

isolation is extremely painful and lonely. Just when we need support at a vulnerable age, we build our own walls and cut ourselves off from the possibility of happiness and community.

Psychotherapist Craig Humphrey, PhD, uses a nice metaphor to explain deviations from happiness. Imagine you are standing on a concrete pad of truth. As long as you live on this pad you will be in either a pleasant or neutral state. But as you stray to the sides it becomes more unpleasant, you live in untruth — in the midst of a very toxic, negative mindset, for example. Off the pad of truth is a sandy circle of untruth and unhappiness, and even further off the pad of truth is the swamp of real despair. The further you get away from truth the more you suffer.

To find your way back you need to ask yourself — can I change my life events while not hurting another person? If you are powerless to change life's circumstances, but continue to hope for something else, then you are pointlessly wishing for something against the truth of your life. The solution is not easy, but found in the practice of acceptance found in the Serenity Prayer, the practice of peace in the midst of

events beyond your control.

In some circumstances it helps to develop a practice of loving kindness and compassion while keeping ourselves safe. When we hear the stories of those who are abusive to others we often discover they are very hurt small children on the inside who were also abused and never healed. It is also helpful to let go of our need to always be right, to be heavily defensive in argument.

If you want things to change but take no action, then the wishes alone will overwhelm your life with unhappiness and a longing for something else.

Meister Eckhart, the 13th century Christian mystic, said that if "thank you" were the only prayer we ever said it would be enough. It signifies that we have received the gift that creation is trying to bestow upon us, that we have allowed God's love and grace to become manifest.

When all is said and done, it sounds as if the way to turn around the poison of unhappiness in North America is to reach out to others, and build loving communities. To me, that sounds like an ideal job for churches.

Joan Teed is a vocational chaplain, social worker and counsellor in private practice.

We are unworthy heirs to a complete victory

BY JIM IRVINE

Silence envelopes cenotaphs across our nation. Cadets and poppies, aged veterans and wreaths attend the solemnity of the moment while families take pause. Names and dates etched in granite are all but forgotten. The chill autumn air catches a drop of moisture on a sniffling nose here and a teary eye there.

Since 1919 the fabric of our communities has been woven with the warp and woof of remembrance and prayer; a conscious embrace of the communion of saints publicly expressed. Some are reminded of forebears who died too young and too far away. Children held in parents' arms trace letters of names and stories are told that keep memory alive for another generation.

There is one name that cannot be traced, by letter or to antecedents. In the shadow of the National Cenotaph, within ear shot of the Peace Tower's carillon, lies a youth unknown and unnamed.

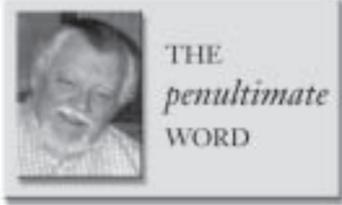
Men and women of position and power gather with faces, nameless faces, caught in a crowd to remember events they never witnessed. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier briefly arrests their attention before they return to their commerce and distractions.

There is another tomb, in another nation's capital where once lay a suffering servant who knew the cost of peace as well. His name is not unknown and his victory remains a focus of commemoration. We reverence the name into which we were baptized, having found in his death and resurrection the cost and victory of reclamation — from desolation to citizenship in a Holy City — the City of God.

In his death Jesus overcame death, not allowing a denial of mortality, neither allowing a diversion from the weight of cost. We stand Sunday by Sunday, shoulder to shoulder as citizens of another city, a heavenly one — drawn closer to an empty tomb each day.

Jesus' victory is given expression in a number of small ways, not unlike the seasonal poppy and wreath. Banners and hangings, antependia and icons feature monograms for Jesus — IC and Christ — XC (from the first and last letters of these words in Greek). Augmented with NIKΑ — Greek for "Victor," icons identify IC XC NIKΑ — "Jesus Christ, Victor." The shalom of God is the gift of those who find themselves in Jesus.

Zealous iconoclasts suffocate the reality of the remembrance of a victory



won on the heights of Golgotha. The swell of voices calling us to spiritual warfare is distressing — in a day when the alarming good news of resurrection and Jesus' saving sacrifice seems little more than an accomplishment by an unnamed soldier occupying a tomb in Ottawa.

The suggestion that Jesus did his best and now we too need to do battle in a world that will overtake unless we do, diminishes the victory accomplished once and for all.

I do not think for a minute that sin is a mirage. Neither is it a deceit. I see brokenness everywhere I look. I see brokenness in soup kitchen line-ups and Employment Insurance queues. I see brokenness kneeling in pews, and standing at altars. But I am first conscious of the struggles that beset us as they well up within me.

When I forget that I am by baptism a child of God, dark shadows overtake me. When I no longer consciously hold my place within the Body of Christ, I begin to crumble. When I fail to hold on to what God has accomplished in me from when I was regenerated in the waters of baptism, I am aimless and afraid, and in that fear flail feverishly at all comers — zealously seeking to save myself.

As maple leaves are caught in autumn eddies and find rest beside a tomb in Ottawa, I am reminded that I am an heir of that for which I have not laboured — I am not equal to what others have done for me.

We share an opportunity to witness each day. Such opportunities fill my days and excite me. Jesus' gracious invitation calls us to bear witness for him — and the victory that is his — beginning where we are and extending in the ever increasing circles of diminishing influence we enjoy. As we stand shoulder to shoulder shivering in the autumn air this month, so we engage others who need to learn how redemptive grace continually operates in our brokenness.

Tracing letters on a cenotaph on the one hand, tracing a cross on the other — each generation ignites anew the memory of what has not been witnessed but calls us to bear witness.

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Canon Jim Irvine makes his home in Fredericton.

INTERCESSIONS

NOVEMBER

¶16: Parish of St. Andrew's, Sunny Brae with Hillsborough & Riverside, the Rev. Robert Salloum; the Rev. Canon Elaine Lucas (retired). Consoler Anglican Mission, the Rev. Antonio Costa de Oliveira.

¶17: Parish of St. David & St. Patrick, the Rev. Canon John Matheson, priest-in-charge. Salvation Anglican Mission, Jeane G. Arruda de M. Coelho, lay minister.

¶18: Parish of St. George, the Rev. Mary Anne Langmaid. Saint Francis Anglican Mission Station, the Rev. Severino Abel da Silva, OSF.

¶19: Parish of St. James, Moncton, the Rev. Donald Routledge (on leave). Bethel Anglican Mission Station, the Rev. Evilásio Tenório da Silva Júnior.

¶20: Pray for the persecuted Church - clergy and people of the Diocese of Torit - (Sudan), Bishop Wilson Arop Ogwok Ocheng; Diocese of Wau - (Sudan), Bishop Henry Cuir Riak. Diocese of Recife, Mediator Anglican Parish, the Ven. Arthur Cavalcanti, the Rev. João Cância Peixoto coadjutor, the Rev. Gustavo Gilson, assistant, Bishop Robinson Cavalcanti & staff Diocese of Yukon, Mission Education & PWRDF Co-ordinator Rev. David Pritchard, Diocesan ACW President, Gloria Hockley and all ACW Members, Bishop Terry Buckle, Blanche and family. Claude, our Bishop, William, George and Harold, retired bishops, and their families.

¶21: Parish of Saint John, the Ven. Stuart Allen; the Rev. Garth Maxwell (retired). Saint Stephen Anglican Mission Station, the Rev. Carlos Alberto Tomé da Silva, OSE, ML. Frei Hélio Holmes, OSE, assistant.

¶22: Parish of St. Margaret's, the Rev. Canon Jon Lownds, the Rev. John Harvey, honorary assistant. Saint Luke Anglican Mission Station, Samuel Hansen, evangelist.

¶23: Parish of St. Mark (Stone) Church, the Rev. David Edwards; the Rev. Stephen McCombe (retired). Mount Zion Anglican Mission Station, the Rev. Sérgio Andrade, Adilson Ferreira da Silva OSF lay minister, assistant.

¶24: Parish of St. Martin's & Black River, the Rev. Dana Dean. Jesus From Nazareth Anglican Mission Station, the Rev. Fernando Acosta.

¶25: Parish of St. Mary, the Rev. Ian Wetmore; Kevin Frankland, student Atlantic School of Theology. Bethesda Anglican Mission Station, the Rev. Juciara Crasto.

¶26: Parish of St. Peter, the Rev. Dr. Ross Hebb. Martin Luther King Anglican Mission Station, the Rev. Israel Pereira Cardoso, OSF.

¶27: Clergy and people of the Diocese of Tuam, Killala, and Achonry, Ireland, Bishop Richard C.A. Henderson. Diocese of Recife, Saviour Anglican Parish, the Rev. Márcio Medeiros Meira, Cláudio Luiz Figueiredo de Brito, assistant lay minister, Bishop Robinson Cavalcanti & staff. Diocese of Yukon, those retired from the Diocese - 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, The Rev. Geoffrey & Rosalind Dixon, Marion Carroll, Edith Josie, licensed lay minister, Bishop Terry Buckle, Blanche and family. Claude, our Bishop, William, George and Harold, retired bishops, and their families.

¶28: Parish of St. Philip's, the Rev. Kevin Borthwick; the Rev. Paul McCracken. Nativity Anglican Mission Station, the Rev. Bruno Luiz Teles de Almeida, OSF.

¶29: Parish of St. Stephen, the Rev. Peter Mills. Ipojuca Anglican Mission Station, the Rev. Geison Vasconcellos.

¶30: Parish of Salisbury & Havelock, the Rev. William Morton; the Rev. Lloyd McFarlane (retired). Mount Moriah Anglican Mission Station, the Rev. Miguel Uchoa, Márcio José de Sousa Simões lay minister, assistant.

DECEMBER

¶1: Parish of Shediac, the Ven. Malcolm Berry, Capt. Hugh Bateman. Mandacaru Anglican Mission Station, the Rev. Jorge Aquino, OSE, Jocelenilton Gomes da Silva lay minister, assistant.

¶2: Parish of Simonds, the Rev. Wally Corey, priest-in-charge; Julie Golding-Page, student Wycliffe. Christ The Redeemer Anglican Mission Station, José Fernandes lay minister.

¶3: Parish of Stanley, the Rev. Dr. Ranall Ingalls. House Of Prayer Anglican Mission Station, Roberta Araújo lay minister.

¶4: Clergy and people of the Diocese of Vellore, India, Bishop Y. William. Diocese of Brandon, Bishop Jim Njegovan, Synod office staff, coordinators of Henry Budd College, Marion Jenkins and Paul Sotke. Diocese of Recife, Good News Anglican Parish, the Rev. Israel P. Cardoso da Silva, OSF, Eliane Cardoso OSF, assistant lay minister, Bishop Robinson Cavalcanti & staff. Diocese of Yukon, Whitehorse - Christ Church Cathedral, Dean Peter Williams & Barbara Williams, the Rev. Mary Battaja, associate priest, Lino Battaja & family. The Ven. Arthur Privett & Muriel Privett (honorary assistant), Bishop Terry Buckle, Blanche and family. Claude, our Bishop, William, George and Harold, retired bishops, and their families.

¶5: Parish of Sussex, the Rev. David Barrett, the Rev. Elaine Curtis assistant curate; the Rev. Reg. McKinnon. Burning Bush Anglican Mission Station, Josenaide Maria Lopes Pereira lay minister.

¶6: Parish of Tobique, (Vacant). Peace Anglican Mission Station, Solange Cristina Pereira lay minister.

¶7: Parish of Upham, the Rev. Philip Pain; the Rev. Brenda McKnight, (retired). New Life Anglican Mission Station, Marconi Alves de Oliveira lay minister.

¶8: Parish of Upper Kennebecasis & Johnson, (Vacant). Diocesan Office, Bishop Robinson Cavalcanti, Recife Brazil.

¶9: Parish of Victoria, the Rev. Canon David Kierstead; Steve Golding-Page, student Wycliffe. Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral, the Very Rev. Sérgio Andrade, Rev. Edmar Carvalho Pimentel, osf, auxiliary.

¶10: Parish of Waterford & St. Mark, the Rev. Allen Tapley. Emmanuel Anglican Parish, the Rev. Ian Meldrum, the Rev. Vera Nascimento, coadjutor.

¶11: Clergy and people of the Diocese of Wangaratta, Victoria, Australia, Bishop Ralph David Farrer. Diocese of Recife, Nativity Anglican Parish, the Rev. Jorge Aquino, OSE, Rodson Ricardo, OSE, assistant lay minister, Bishop Robinson Cavalcanti & staff. Diocese of Yukon, Fort Nelson - St. Mary Magdalene, Toad River, Alaska Highway mile 150-506, the Rev. Fred Carson, Marcia Carson and Matthew, Bishop Terry Buckle, Blanche and family. Claude, our Bishop, William, George and Harold, retired bishops, and their families.

¶12: Parish of Westmorland, the Rev. Rufus Onyewuchi, priest-in-charge; the Ven. Karl McLean, Archdeacon to Anglican Military Ordinariate of Canada. Resurrection Anglican Parish, the Ven. Luiz Souza de França.

¶13: Parish of Wicklow, Wilmott, Peel & Aberdeen, the Rev. Douglas Painter. Good Samaritan Parish, the Rev. Manoel Severino Moraes, OSE, the Rev. Fábio Vasconcelos coadjutor.

¶14: Parish of Woodstock, the Ven. Walter Williams; Betty McNamara, PWRDF co-ordinator. Holy Spirit Anglican Parish, the Rev. Miguel Uchoa Cavalcanti, the Rev. Geison Sávio de Holanda, coadjutor, the Rev. Fernando Acosta, assistant.

¶15: Parish of Andover, the Rev. John Mills. Saint Paul Anglican Parish, the Rev. Juciara Rodrigues.

¶16: Parish of Bathurst, the Rev. Roderick Black; Marian Lucas-Jefferies, postulant, Atlantic School of Theology. Redeemer Anglican Parish, the Rev. Vera Lúcia Lins Silva, interim rector, the Rev. Nadja Lins, assistant.

¶17: Parish of Bright, the Rev. Anthony Kwaw. Good Shepherd Anglican Parish, Dom Filadelfo Oliveira Neto, OSE, interim rector, the Rev. Bruno Luiz Teles de Almeida, OSF, assistant.

¶18: Clergy and people of the Province of York, England, Archbishop David Michael Hope, Diocese of Recife, Communion Anglican Parish, the Rev. Márcio Medeiros Meira, Bishop Robinson Cavalcanti & staff. Diocese of Yukon, Telegraph Creek - St. Aidan, Dease Lake, Glenora, Outreach from Watson Lake, Bishop Terry Buckle, Blanche and family. Claude, our Bishop, William, George and Harold, retired bishops, and their families. On-line at <http://anglican.nb.ca>

YOUTH

More Medley Memories

Photos by Carol Anningson



Recommended Resource

The Struggle

by Steve Gerali
(Colorado Springs: Think Books/NavPress, 2003): ISBN 1-57683-455-7
Available through Anglican House
\$14.50

Running through the many changes experienced by adolescents is the thread of sexual maturation. This can be both confusing and embarrassing for young people, and far too often they feel like they can't talk about 'that'. For many young people, sexuality goes underground and becomes part of a carefully guarded secret world.

There aren't all that many good resources out there to help Christian youth deal with these important developments in a positive way. The message is often very simplistic: Don't. When something more thoughtful and positive comes along it is a pleasant surprise.

Gerali's book is just such a surprise. While I don't agree with everything he says, and it is written primarily for guys, I recommend it to parents, adolescents, and those who work with them as a sane, balanced look at a sexual issue which still causes many young people a great deal of unnecessary confusion, guilt and shame: masturbation.

The book challenges readers to think through the whys and wherefores of this issue within the context of sexual maturation. As young people seek understanding and make choices about their sexuality, this is a resource that takes biblical teaching seriously, discusses historical developments, and respects differences. — George+

Growing Youth Ministries

GYM Classes

are up and running. They consist of a series of monthly Saturday workshops co-facilitated by Liz Harding (Christian Education Director) and George Porter (Youth Action Director). These are open to everyone who works with children or youth, and each one is an independent event so you don't have to attend every one. A brochure indicating topics, times and locations is available by clicking on the Growing Youth Ministries Brochure tab under 'What's New' at <http://anglican.nb.ca>

I'm curious, George ...

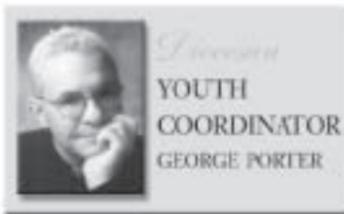
How do secrets have power? [Part 1]

Secrets. Everybody has them. They are usually a normal, healthy part of life. However, some secrets can be harmful to our emotional, spiritual and sometimes even to our physical health.

The writer of Psalm 19 prayed that God would give freedom from "secret sins" or "hidden faults" (in Hebrew, sathar — things that are hidden). The primary thought of the writer seems to have been that there are some faults in us of which we ourselves may be unaware — that may be hidden even from us.

It's not too great a stretch, however, to include things we keep secret from others. Most of us wrestle with hidden sins, temptations or habits which continuously frustrate us. We just can't seem to overcome them. They seem to have a tenacious power and rob us of the joy and freedom we are meant to know in our relationship with God and with our sisters and brothers in God's family.

This is why I often say that more acting goes on in churches on Sunday mornings than in all the theatres in the world. We fight our secret, hidden



battles alone, unwilling to risk letting anyone else know what's really going on within.

It seems that because we believe that no secrets are hidden from God, it should be enough that God knows. And often it is. Sometimes we think that because we ask forgiveness, both in private and in a general confession during worship, that should be enough. And sometimes it is.

But sometimes it isn't. Sometimes these things just don't lose their grip, and peace, joy and freedom give way to feelings of shame, guilt and fear. The power of this emotional trinity rests in the very secrecy of the secret.

The biblical writers knew this very well, as did our ancestors in faith. That's why, when James urged people to seek the prayers of the elders, he encouraged them to confess their faults not just to God but to one another. There is

tremendous, often untapped, power in the sacramental discipline of confession.

An amazing thing happens when one risks opening these secrets to another trusted person — including in the safety of confession to a pastor. When the secret is spoken its power is broken. We're free to hear the words of forgiveness and restored relationship with God. These words penetrate beyond our ears and minds to pierce our hearts. Guilt, shame and fear begin to lose their stranglehold and are replaced by the joy of freedom, joy and peace — with the confidence that, as Paul wrote, "there is now, therefore, no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

It has been said that when it comes to sacramental confession that "all may, none must, some should." When we find ourselves alone in a losing battle with hidden sin and crouching temptation, we should. There is no need to fight on alone.

The Rev. Canon George Porter, DPhil, is Diocesan Youth Action Director.

Cathedral Youth

Service
Sunday
Nov. 20
6:30 p.m.

Speaker
Mike Amirault
the Cathedral's
new Pastoral
Assistant

Everyone
Welcome

Christ Church Cathedral
Fredericton
Info 450-8500
office@christchurchcathedral.com

"Remember now the Creator
in the days of your youth..." —Ecclesiastes 12:1

emergent

