



## Re-inventing an inner-city ministry

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Bonnie Hunt knows she is exactly where God wants her to be, and that is running Inner City Youth Ministry in Saint John.

"Everything just fell into place," she said of the hiring process. "This is the job I was called to do."

Her seven-year job with a Red Deer, Alberta Anglican church, as assistant minister for youth and young families, ended a year ago, but the job hunt was not going well.

"I applied and applied, but all doors closed," said Bonnie. "I just had to trust that something would come."

She was hired last August and arrived in Saint John with no place to live, "but even that fell into place."

### Progress

It's been a challenging six months rebuilding ICYM, but she's finally seeing progress. A new inter-denominational youth group will start in the south end after March Break and the Lunch Connection programs at three local schools are thriving.

She's also tried an event called Family Connection. In November, she invited the congregations of Trinity, Stone and All Saints to a hoedown — chili, pizza and square dancing.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Bonnie Hunt, director of Saint John's Inner City Youth Ministry, has spent her first few months organizing the ministry and implementing programs for kids. One that keeps her busy several noon hours a week is Lunch Connection. ICYM helps run and fund lunch programs for three schools in vulnerable neighbourhoods in the city.**

"About 100 people came out and we all learned to square dance," she said, adding there will be more Family Connection nights in the city.

She'd like to start a south-end program that teaches people

to cook and plan meals using produce and other fresh foods. And she's just received the OK to proceed with an Alpha parenting course at Hazen White/St. Francis, one of her Lunch Connection schools.

"Over Christmas I watched 20 hours of parenting videos and I'm not even a parent!" she said, adding the program will probably begin in March.

"I have to re-invent the inner city ministry," said Bonnie. "My

struggle is a lot of programs are working well. Kids are programmed to the hilt.

"My challenge is finding things no one else is doing and working on that. What aren't they getting?"

### Lunch Connection

What hundreds of kids are getting each week in vulnerable neighbourhoods is a hot meal.

At Portland United Church, the original Lunch Connection location, it's a happy noise as 64 kids from Centennial School storm through the door on a chilly Thursday.

Feeding so many students requires a team of dedicated volunteers, and the lunch-hour regimen runs without a hitch.

The kids sit as quietly as they can while Bob Fairweather, program co-ordinator, chooses a table. Then he invites the four or five kids from that table to the front and they say grace:

*"Centennial School lunch program.*

*God bless our friends and family.*

*God bless our food. Amen."*

It's a simple blessing, with as much overt Christianity as they are allowed to inject into this ministry for hungry children.

See "Several" on page 2

### A visit from the bishop



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Atlantic School of Theology students Falen McNulty and David Peer enjoyed a visit from Bishop David Edwards recently in Halifax. Both students are from the diocese.**

### Diocese wants - and needs - you

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

A simple exercise in demographics has produced some stark results for our diocese. Recently Bishop David Edwards asked for a list of existing clergy who would reach the age of 65 by 2030.

"In 15 years, if we have no new clergy and nobody leaves, there will be 13 people left standing," said Bishop David. "That would be a challenge, wouldn't it?"

That's putting it mildly! That means 78 per cent of the diocese's active clergy is on track to retire within 15 years.

As the baby boomer generation reaches retirement age, the effects will be felt in all sectors of society, and the church, unfortu-

nately, will not be spared.

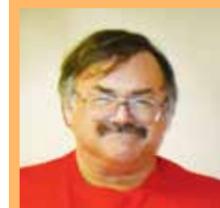
"I think it's not inconsistent with the demographics in the rest of the western world."

But in typical fashion, Bishop David sees this more as a catalyst for change than a looming disaster.

"This gives us an opportunity to review ministry in the diocese and how we shape ministry going forward," he said. "It may mean we have to look at more flexible ways of providing mission and ministry."

He refers to the example of Wickham, in Queens County, which has a church service every Sunday, but a priest only once a month. Lay people do everything else. That story is found on

See "Actively" on page 2



**Who's going to Honduras? Answer on page 5**



**What do you know about Ho? Find out on page 6**



**Read all about Quincy the church dog on page 8**

## DIOCESAN NEWS

# Several churches, denominations lend a hand for lunch

Continued from page 1

The kids know that coming across the street to lunch is a privilege, and to misbehave means they lose the opportunity. Consequently, they are almost always well-behaved.

If they want more water, they raise their glass; more food, they raise their plate; more of something else, they raise their hand. A fleet of volunteers responds, talking to the kids and making sure they're well-cared for.

### Churches in action

Bob, a member of Portland United Church, has been here for the entire seven years of the program and acts as on-site coordinator. He has a team of helpers, including his wife Penny, who do the cooking. The menu rotates: pancakes, apple slices and crackers; chicken burgers; grilled cheese; Kraft Dinner and chicken nuggets; rotini and sauce; and the absolute, hands-down favourite, sloppy Joes.

"I love it here," said Bob. "I love the kids. I love the program. It's tremendous. This is the north end of the city. The kids need this."

Bonnie agrees: "These kids eat! They're hungry and they know that sometimes, this is their only hot meal of the day."

Bob and volunteers from United, Catholic and Anglican churches, plus staff from Xerox,



GISELE MCKNIGHT PHOTO

Ada McNamara of the Parish of Milledgeville is one of several kitchen helpers at Lunch Connection.

are feeding the kids three days a week.

Ada McNamara of St. John the Baptist (Mission) and St. Clements Anglican, along with her friend, Shirley Miller of St. Pius Catholic, began volunteering three years ago.

"This church and our church work well together," said Ada. "We do a lot of things together."

"I just inherited it," said Bonnie of the team at Portland United. "It runs so well. I can just show up and interact with the kids."

It's truly a mission of Christian unity and Christian gen-

erosity, with funding for this particular program from Portland United and ICYM. All that's required of parents is a signed permission slip.

### Other schools

Hazen White/St. Francis School on Sandy Point Road serves the north-end neighbourhood of Crescent Valley. The ministry serves three meals a week at the school.

When ICYM pays for the meals, they have 170 students; when the parents have to pay \$2 a meal, they have 70 kids. It's clear that money is tight in this

neighbourhood.

At St. John the Baptist/King Edward School in the lower south end, the Kindergarten to Grade 8 students are fed twice a week by Lunch Connection. About 205 of the 235 students at the school participate.

Local chef Holly Singh designs the menus, orders the food and does the cooking with a team of volunteers to help set up, serve and clean up.

"Every other Tuesday a group of retired firemen comes to help," said Bonnie.

This is ICYM's 25<sup>th</sup> year, which began out of the old St. James Anglican Church on Broad Street in the lower south end, where Safe Harbour youth shelter is being built. When Bonnie arrived last summer, Lunch Connection was the only program ICYM was running.

### Forging friendships

Lunch Connection at Portland United Church is one of the few times Bonnie actually gets to interact with the kids, largely due to the methods of distributing the meals, so she cherishes that time.

"That's what I want — to come alongside kids, be their friend, build a relationship," she said.

She's doing that with a knitting club at Hazen White/St. Francis School and she hopes for more

opportunities. This year, 25 Centennial School kids will go to Camp Brookwood, near Florenceville-Bristol, as was the case last year. Bonnie will be there with them in June. It represents another opportunity to forge friendships with vulnerable kids and give them a week they'll probably remember for many years.

### Back to N.B.

Bonnie is no stranger to New Brunswick. Although she's from Northern Ontario, she spent five years at St. Luke's in the Parish of Portland, first on an internship from Church Army (now Threshold Ministries), which led to a job. Then she spent five years as Christian education director at Christ Church (Parish) Church in Fredericton.

"It's nice coming back to a community where I was known," she said. "Having that in this job is really important."

She's thankful for the co-operation she gets from the schools and other churches, the volunteers who help make the programs run seamlessly, and for the board of directors at ICYM, who, she says, have been fantastic.

"We all want what's best for the kids," she said.

The Anglican Diocese of Fredericton provides an annual operating grant to Inner City Youth Ministry.

## Safe Harbour opening postponed

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Safe Harbour, the shelter for at-risk teens in Saint John, has had its opening date pushed back to the first of March. It was to open in February. Weather has been partly to blame.

"It's progressing nicely," said the Rev. Paul Ranson. "It's pretty much done inside."

Staff training has taken up the last few weeks of February, as

has adding any finishing touches to the building that sits on the site of St. James church on Broad Street in the city's south end.

Residential director Lindsay Gallagher has been busy through February interviewing potential staff. Paul expects there will be 8-10 full and part-time staff in place at opening.

Gallagher has also been doing an inventory of what is still needed, which includes a large kitchen

table. The plan is to build one from reclaimed wood, but they're in need of the raw material.

"If anyone has any long lengths of old barn boards, we'll take them," said Paul.

Safe Harbour will have rooms for five boys and three girls, with one flex room for either.

Until now there was no place for homeless teens to stay in the city, which gravely affected the welfare of young people there.



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

## Actively encourage others, says bishop

Continued from page 1  
page 8 in this edition.

"We need to take a more active role in encouraging people

who we believe might have a further ministry to pursue," he said. "It's time to tap people on the shoulder."

If people feel a calling to a

vocation, Bishop David says they should contact Archdeacon Cathy Laskey, his executive assistant, at the synod office in Fredericton at 506-459-1801.

Number of active clergy in the diocese, all ages, in 2015: 58	
Clergy already over 60:	15 (26 %)
Clergy between 55-60:	16 (28 %)
Clergy between 50- 54:	14 (24 %)
Clergy between 40- 49:	6 (10 %)
Clergy under 40:	7 (12 %)

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THE BISHOP'S PAGE

# Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good

On too many occasions we fail to give thanks for the goodness of God, whether it comes directly from him by working out a situation; or via someone else.

So often in The General Thanksgiving, on page 14 of the BCP, we rush over the piece in italics: *particularly to those who desire now to offer up their praises and thankings*. How often is there a silence at that point for us either quietly or aloud to say thank you to God for his goodness?

Personally I would rather it was aloud. My reason for this is the encouragement everyone can receive from knowing that God is working amongst his people.

I recently had the opportunity to visit our students in training at the Atlantic School of Theology (AST). It was good to see



them and catch up on what they are doing.

In addition I was asked to teach a class in the Anglican Formation program. One of the things we spoke about was telling our story. This is an effective way of communicating God's Good News. To speak out loud about the goodness of God is

encouraging for each other and is part of the tale we have to tell others.

My question for each of you is the same as I ask of me: what is there to thank God for?

During this time of Lent we very easily fall into the idea of noticing the things we have to say sorry to God for and those we have to try to lay aside. Yet I would suggest that part of our Lenten discipline should be thanksgiving.

What has God done to make his presence known to us in recent times? How has he drawn us closer to him? In addition, we should perhaps examine the things we do not feel grateful for and ask what in these might be God's provision for us? If we do this we can celebrate God's goodness.

As your bishop I want to

express my thanksgiving to God for your generosity during the last year. I am delighted to say that 94 per cent of the money requested for our Shared Ministry Budget was received by the Synod Office. I give thanks both to God and to you for this.

It allows us to continue with our mission and ministry within the diocese. I fully appreciate that during these difficult economic times for many of us that we have stretched to do this. Thank you.



David Edwards is Diocesan Bishop of Fredericton.

PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS

**MARCH 1**  
PARISH OF THE  
NEREPIS AND ST. JOHN

**MARCH 4-5**  
WYCLIFFE COLLEGE

**MARCH 10**  
DEANERY OF  
WOODSTOCK  
CLERICUS

**MARCH 14**  
WARDENS' DAY

**MARCH 15**  
PARISH OF  
MILLIDGEVILLE

**MARCH 17**  
DEANERY OF  
KINGSTON/  
KENNEBECASIS  
CLERICUS

**MARCH 18**  
ARCHDEACONRY OF  
FREDERICTON  
CLERICUS

**MARCH 22**  
PARISH OF  
NEWCASTLE-NELSON-  
HARDWICKE \*

**MARCH 24-25**  
DIOCESE OF NOVA  
SCOTIA AND PRINCE  
EDWARD ISLAND

**APRIL 3-5**  
EASTER

**APRIL 10-11**  
DIOCESAN  
DEACONS' RETREAT

**APRIL 13-17**  
HOUSE OF BISHOPS

**APRIL 19**  
PARISH OF ST. PETER'S,  
FREDERICTON \*

**APRIL 25**  
MOTHERS' UNION  
RALLY

\* DENOTES CONFIRMATION

# Teach, baptize and nurture new disciples

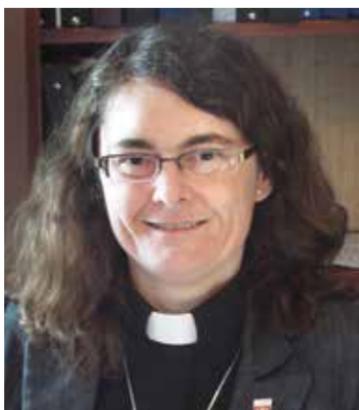
When I was working with Michelin Tire in Nova Scotia, I remember well the baptism preparation which I participated in as a parish sponsor. It was a five-session preparation program.

We all met together — the infant candidates, their parents, Godparents and parish sponsors. We did not meet in the hall or the church building, we met in the various homes of the people participating. The sessions were a wonderful experience during which I learned more about the sacrament of baptism; Jesus; Christian formation history; the church and each other.

It was a time of intentionally engaging in conversations about our faith and learning how to live within the Christian community.

I had been a Godparent before; however, the preparation was nothing like that. This time, as a parish sponsor, I really began to understand what I was committing to. I was promising to help make a disciple!

Actually, we all promise this as a congregation when asked during the baptism, "Will you



who witness these vows do all in your power to support *these* persons in their life in Christ?" (The Book of Alternative Service, page 155)

My column last month began a reflection on living the Second Mark of Mission. For me, this mark of mission is very serious, very intentional.

As noted, it is a summary of the Great Commission in which the disciples of Christ are told to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to

the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

I wondered what others thought about the intentional preparation we experienced well over a decade ago. So I asked Venessa, one of the Godparents. She was in her early teens back then and now is married and working as an LPN. Did this intentional approach make a difference?

Her Facebook reply said, "I agree with my whole heart about the importance of fostering relationships with other church members from the very beginning... Being part of this baptism really was my first introduction to my religious life and I am so grateful for it... Going through the lessons taught me so much.

"As someone new to church I really knew nothing except the few children's stories my mom told me when I was a child and the lessons kick-started my learning and spiritual journey."

She is still a member of the parish, is an altar server and has taught Sunday school. When she lived in Vancouver for a short period, it was the church community there that provided her

the supportive relationships she needed.

"I joined a church group for newcomers," she said, "and started going to the classes that the group offered. Through these classes I again learned so much and I then had the support of friends to adjust to my new city life. Attending worship at the cathedral was a spiritual awakening for me. Without the love and support that the Church has given me throughout the years, from the very beginning, I would not be the woman I am proud to be today."

The very serious approach and intentional relationship-building in the context of the teaching and nurturing that Venessa received has made a mark on her life of faith. The first two Marks of Mission have enabled and supported her to live out the next three!

Recommended reading: *Entering the Household of God: Taking Baptism Seriously in a Post-Christian Society* by Claudia A Dickson.

Archdeacon Cathy Laskey is the executive assistant to the bishop and secretary of Synod.

**WHEN YOU ... listen with all your heart • honour your elders • encourage young people to take over the church often and loudly • choose good over evil • welcome the stranger • write the government about the issues that matter • INVITE A CO-WORKER TO CHURCH • help your dad do housework • get messy with your Sunday school kids • say "Thank you Lord" and mean it • Tweet your blessings one by one • introduce your grandchildren to nature • READ AND SHARE GOD'S WORD • ...THEN YOU ARE LIVING THE MARKS OF MISSION [www.anglican.ca/marks](http://www.anglican.ca/marks)**

# Meet your bishop

*This is the second in a series of interviews with the Diocese of Fredericton's bishops. This month, we feature Bishop Claude Miller, who served from 2003-2014.*

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT



Bishop Claude Miller

Bishop Claude had it all — a diploma in architectural and civil engineering technology, a successful career and a booming consulting business, plus a pleasant and full life with a wonderful family. So why wasn't he happy?

"I discovered that the enterprise and pursuit of wealth led only to personal emptiness," he said. "Something had to change."

He took a leap of faith and sold his business to follow God's calling, which "left many of my friends and business associates wondering if I had lost my mind."

That was 30 years ago. Some of his employees bought the business and it's still in operation. Having reached the age of 70, Bishop Claude retired last year as the diocesan bishop and archbishop in the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada.

But in that time he earned a Bachelor of Theology from Atlantic School of Theology and a Doctorate of Ministry from Bangor Theological Seminary. Recently he was honoured by BTS Alumni as Distinguished Alumnus of the Year.

That's quite a list for a boy from the Parish of New Bandon who really just wanted to work with his hands.

## Priestly career

Bishop Claude was ordained a deacon in 1988, a priest in 1989. He spent his first three years in the parish of Kingston, learning so much that "I believe this experience confirmed my call."

At the Bishop George Lemmon's request, he moved to his home region of Bathurst, where he also became an archdeacon. He found the dual jobs taxing because of the many miles spent on the road visiting the parishes and priests.

He thought he'd spend his priestly career "in a rural area, and I'd be happy with that," he said, but new Bishop Bill Hockin came calling with a request that he prayerfully consider becoming his executive assistant.

After a few weeks of discernment, he accepted the offer and began his duties in Fredericton in January 2000.

Unsure of what it involved, he told those who asked that his job was "to make the bishop look good."

## 1,500 letters

The three years as executive assistant helped shape his own time as bishop. Projects begun under Bishop Bill continued under Bishop Claude.

One example from Bishop Bill was having each child about to be confirmed write a letter to the bishop.

"Every one of them wrote me a letter and I'd talk to them about their letter when I met with them," he said, adding there were about 1,500 letters during his 11-year tenure.

Looking back on the highlights of his experience as bishop, he cites not the role, the policies or the changes, but the people.

"Meeting and having dialogue with our young people, also the seniors and their wise council," he said. "A great joy was the hospitality of the parishes when I visited. One cannot forget that easily."

## Legacy

There are four other projects — Bishop Claude is hesitant to call them legacies — that stand out for him.

After a series of workshops meant to set ministry priorities, seven teams were formed to report to diocesan council. They are still in place today and help advise and govern the diocese: administration, stewardship, spiritual development, youth, episcopal, mission outreach and parish support.

After parish consultation, an archdeaconry commission produced eight reports on the future of ministry. Bishop Claude hopes that dialogue will continue.

The third is Camp Medley. It was there as a boy in the 1950s that Bishop Claude had what he called his first personal experience with God.

During his time as executive assistant, it became clear that

something had to be done because the 60-year-old camp was crumbling.

"The buildings were worn out," he said. "We had 14 fundraising dinners. Now we have a brand new camp."

With the \$2.2 million retrofit, the camp is still planting seeds of hope, salvation and maybe even future careers in hundreds of children every summer.

Finally, there is Safe Harbour, the homeless shelter for teens that's about to open in Saint John's south end. It sits on land once occupied by St. James church, Bishop Claude's home church during his career days in the city. The uncle of his wife, Sharon, was the rector, and Bishop Claude was the assistant Scoutmaster there.

After he and his family moved to Rothesay, he saw one of his former Scouts who said to him, "Mr. Miller, you left us."

Those words stung a bit, and after St. James had been deconsecrated, "I felt the church had abandoned the south end."

He sent the Rev. Paul Ranson to do street ministry in one of Saint John's most vulnerable neighbourhoods. Paul met Colin McDonald, now the diocese's director of youth and intergenerational ministries. They both have a passion for the welfare of children.

They found some government and private sector funding, used money from St. James' trust and the project became a reality.

"It was because of my faith in their hard work that I had no reservations about this project," said Bishop Claude. "I think the government and the community are to be given a huge thumbs up for sharing the vision. If it can help our children, it's worth it."

## 'It's the people'

It's easy to see Bishop Claude's passion for youth.

"They need to be in touch with their spiritual side," he said. "The best the world seems to offer is not working. We have to continue to invest in our young people."

Above all else, he sees his vocation quite simply: helping people get closer to God.

"We are in rapidly changing times. We have to be creatively, imaginatively ready to explore how the faithful can deepen their relationship with God," he said.

"The future is dependent on God's grace through the faithful — not necessarily bishops and priests. It's the people under grace-filled leadership."



GISELE MCKNIGHT PHOTO

Charles Davies and others have been pewtersmiths at Cathedral Memorial Hall for decades, but the operation is for sale.

## Pewtersmithing operation at cathedral hall ends

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

For more than two decades, Cathedral PewterSmiths has produced beautiful works of art in the basement of Cathedral Memorial Hall in Fredericton.

In a shop the size of two small Sunday school rooms, there are workbenches, boxes of magnesium patterns and metal, stacks of round vulcanized rubber moulds, a melting pot, a vulcanizing machine, a centrifugal casing machine and grinding tools. But it all sits idle.

It's been a good run, but it's over. With changes to the hall planned and the members largely inactive, its president, Charles Davies, believes the time is right to sell the operation.

"We don't have too many that are following in our footsteps," he said. "If we can find someone to take it, I'd like to sell it."

The price is negotiable and the operation has to be moved to the new owner's location. Included in the deal will be expertise and training from Charles, who was taught by Dr. Ivan Crowell, considered the father of pewtersmithing in Canada.

Cathedral PewterSmiths came to fruition largely because of the generosity of Dr. Crowell and Canon Hubert Drillen. Dr. Crowell supplied the instruction; Canon Drillen supplied the money.

Dr. Crowell "offered to help us raise money for the cathedral," said Charles. "He gave us a half-dozen original designs."

At first, the designs — earrings, medallions, pendants and such — were cast off-site by local

artisans, and Charles and his group finished the rough pieces and sold them.

"Then Hubie (Canon Drillen) said, 'What would it take to bring it in-house?'" said Charles. "He offered to buy the equipment. I'll never forget the day he took me down to his bank on Queen Street and said, 'Here's a cheque for \$10,000. Buy all the equipment you need.'"

That seed money has increased by 10 over two decades, to the cathedral's benefit.

"We solemnly pledged that we would give at least \$7,500 towards the Cathedral restoration," said Charles. "Here we are 20 years later having given over \$100,000. It's turned out well."

There was a time when every child being baptized was given an ornament, and the group went to craft fairs to sell their pieces. But rather than have the shop sit idle, Charles believes it's best to sell the equipment, tutor the new owner and use the money as they always have — for the betterment of the cathedral.

According to Charles, the skill of pewtersmithing isn't difficult and it doesn't demand artistic ability so much as the desire to work with your hands.

"I'm willing to pass on the skills. That would help the person to make a proper job of it. We've looked after everything and improved on it."

"It's been a labour of love, and it's been a very good thing to raise money," he said.

Those interested can contact Charles Davies by email <cjw-dav@rogers.com >.



## FEATURE STORIES

# Local support sends 14 to Honduras

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Roatan is one of the Caribbean's best kept secrets. With its white sandy beaches, turquoise waters, warm temperatures and low cost of living, tourists have begun flocking to the island off the coast of Honduras — in airplanes, cruise ships and yachts.

Fourteen people from New Brunswick are spending the first week of March there, but the trip isn't for sightseeing and lounging at the beach. They are there to work in an area of the island tourists don't always see.

"Holy Trinity in New Maryland started thinking about this in 2013," said Canon Bruce McKenna, adding a mission team went to Honduras in 2009.

St. Mary's in Miramichi heard about it and offered financial support. Then a couple of people from St. Margaret's in Fredericton joined. And the group grew by two more from Hanwell Community Church.

On the other side of the river, John Galbraith, self-described head troublemaker and youth and senior pastor at St. John the Evangelist, was working on a missions trip to Roatan as well.

"When I discovered St. John the Evangelist had been working on this, we started a conversation and prayer," said Bruce. "We decided it would be better to have one large group than two small ones."

For the month of February, there was the final fundraising and of course, a lot of planning, packing and anticipation. The team has two main jobs in Roatan: run a vacation Bible school, and finish building the



MARCIA LANDRY PHOTO

The team is already in Honduras. Front row from left: Marcia Landry, Pat Mosher, Peggy Boucher, Katelyn Thomas, Sarah McDonald, Emma MacKenzie, John Galbraith. Back row from left: Bob Boucher, Riley Creaghan, Dylan Nicoll, Bill MacKenzie, Jesse Galbraith and Mary Robinson. Missing is Jeanne Sayre.

walls of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Coxen Hole, Roatan, plus any other ministry opportunities that come up, said Bruce.

"We're playing it by ear," said John. "We'll do what we're told. We're going down to be manual labourers."

The 14 travellers range in age from 15 to 60 and include five high school, community college and university students. The trip is through SAMS Canada, the South American Missionary Society which operates under the Anglican umbrella.

Honduras is the second poorest country in the western hemisphere, "but the people are incredible," said John, who has one Honduras mission trip under his belt, back in 1986.

The group will work closely

with Kara and Nelson Mejia. Some will know Kara's parents, the Rev. Gordon and Bell Thompson. Gordon is priest and rector of St. Mary's and St. Paul's churches in the Parish of Chatham.

The ordained couple, Nelson from Honduras, Kara from New Brunswick, married 13 years ago. They have two children and continue to dedicate their lives to God's work in Honduras.

"They are evangelists in the best sense of the word," said Bruce. "Where they have gone, the church has grown. Their ministry has been significant for so many people who are poor."

Their church, which the team will help to construct, will be hurricane-resistant, and will act as a community shelter for people all over the island should

disaster befall.

John is in awe of the support the group has received to fund the trip, which costs about \$2,000 per person for flights, lodging and meals while onsite. John recalls an elderly woman who handed him a bag of change — \$220 in all. She didn't want public acknowledgement or praise. She just wanted to help, said John.

"I'm constantly blown away by people just giving us money. They just hand me \$20 bills," he said. "We've done some fundraising and done well with it, but I've had people come up to me and give me cash and wads of Canadian Tire money they've saved for years."

The Canadian Tire money has bought household goods and tools for Karen and Nelson — a gift of sorts for their hospitality.

Other fundraisers have included community breakfasts, a turkey soup lunch delivery, spaghetti dinner, auction and the Buy-A-Brick for \$10 program for the Roatan church. Buyers were invited to write a prayer for Roatan and the mission group is tucking those prayers into the bricks as they build the church walls.

"Where would we be without the support from our community and our church?" asked John.

His prayer for the group is that they will return home after 10 days with a change of perspective.

"I hope they will see things through different eyes," he said. "To get to know another place, to realize there's more to life than ourselves."

The 14 team members include John, Peggy & Bob Boucher, Katelyn Thomas, Sarah McDonald, Dylan Nicoll, Marcia Landry, Riley Landry, Pat Mosher, Mary Robinson, Jeanne Sayre, Emma MacKenzie, Bill MacKenzie and Jesse Galbraith.

Even though he's sitting this one out, it's obvious Bruce is excited for what the team will experience, recalling his own trip to Honduras in 2009.

"The Holy Spirit is at work. So many different churches are involved and he's knitting so many together," he said.

Both John and Bruce ask for your prayers for a successful trip.

**NOTE: Kara and Nelson Mejia will be in our diocese April 7-July 5 and would love to share their experiences with your group. To book a visit to your parish, contact Holly Galant at hbgall@hotmail.com .**

## News from around the diocese

### Spring ACW meeting planned for May

The spring diocesan ACW annual meeting is set for Fredericton May 5-6 at Christ Church Parish Church, 245 Westmorland St.

Registration begins at 9:45 on May 5th with the church service at 10:30. The theme is "I am the bread of the world."

Dinner on May 5 will be at Cathedral Memorial Hall, Church Street, at 6 p.m. There is free parking on streets and meters after 5 p.m. around the Cathedral and hall.

On May 6, registration continues at 9:30 a.m. with the church service at 10 a.m., followed by special speakers and

lunch.

Look for more information via E News and bulletins coming soon.

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### Did you forget?

At the parish wardens' request, the promotion for the 2014/2015 Foundation for Life Appeal was printed in the NB Anglican in the fall, rather than sent out in pamphlet form. Very little money has come in and no requests for funding have been received as yet.

Foundation for Life has offered some 30 parishes small grants since its inception, enabling many innovative and

parish-building projects. The request is for \$25 per Anglican adult or \$5 per child. Please check out the diocesan website to give or to request a grant. [www.anglican.nb.ca](http://www.anglican.nb.ca). Every donation counts!

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### Vestry members retreat to Taylor College

On Nov. 1 the wardens, vestries and clergy of Trinity, Stone, and All Saints churches in Saint John gathered at Taylor College for a Leadership and Quiet Day led by Fr. J. Laporte SJ of the Jesuit Centre of Spirituality in Halifax. They learned that spirituality (personal and congregational)

must be at the heart of all we hope to achieve.

Without God front and centre our efforts will be in vain. They prayed the morning, midday and evening prayers (BPC), had quiet times, and were able to talk with others during lunch and breaks. At the closing Fr. Laporte gave each person a card with the prayer of St. Ignatius Loyola.

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### Got plans for Victoria Day weekend?

Are you 16-21? Got questions about life and spirituality?

Want to explore this away from everyday pressures and a

judgmental society?

Have a closer look at Jesus at the 23rd Teens Encounter Christ NB weekend. The weekend includes informal worship, talks by other youth and spiritual advisors, small-group chats, good meals and playing time.

Teens and adults are already preparing to meet you, pray for you, and share Jesus' love with you.

TEC is at Camp Medley beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 16, until around 4 p.m. on Monday, the Victoria Day holiday. Participants are expected to stay for all three days.

Already been to TEC? Encourage a friend or sibling to attend.

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

# Speaking the same language

COMMENTARY  
BY IRENE ADAMS

Many years ago, I was fortunate to work in Canada's far north and be part of the creation of a new territory — Nunavut.

This was a humbling experience, but also an enlightening one. I had to learn how to communicate when English was not the primary language, with a lot of my work being accomplished through interpreters. Simple ideas in the English language are challenging to share when the words or concepts didn't exist in the other language, especially when it came to accounting terminology. It made for some interesting miscommunication moments.

One of my most vivid memories came from being referred to as a "bag-lady." The person really meant to say that I was a "bean-counter," but had his terminology mixed up due to the language difference. But whether bag-lady or bean-counter, his kindly inference was that my way of looking at things was different from his. He was right, and it caused me to realize that communication is critical to full understanding and acceptance, regardless of the issue or the language.

This was the objective when Synod staff took to the road in

late 2013 to explain the proposed new approach to parish support for the diocesan shared ministry budget. One of the promises made was that we would not budget for failure. The request made of the parishes for support would not be higher than was realistically needed to deliver programs and services for the parishes.

But at the same time, the expectation was that the parishes would totally support that shared ministry budget. This was a bit of a risk, but we were confident that if the parishes understood how this budget worked on their behalf, they would be fully supportive. The fact that this new approach was completely endorsed by the delegates to the 2013 Synod was encouraging.

At the Wardens and Treasurers Day last March, attendees were given the breakdown of the 2014 diocesan shared ministry budget and how it was used to support their own endeavours in mission and parish ministry. This was also part of ensuring that parish officers understood and accepted the new approach and the budget they were asked to support. And when the year-end results were tabulated, there was much joy to be found in the numbers. (Only an accountant would say that!)

The parishes had provided 94

per cent of what they were asked to contribute to the diocesan shared ministry budget. This was in a year when many parishes were facing challenges with their own budgets, but also recognized the role of the bishop's and Synod staff in the general ministry of the diocese.

This 94 per cent level of support far exceeded that of recent years, and perhaps it was, in part, due to the communication of the approach and the desire of the parishes to support the diocesan budget, which is truly for shared ministry for the entire diocese.

It is also uplifting that some parishes have made extra contributions over the past few years to help maintain that ministry on behalf of those parishes who may perhaps be less fortunate. Indeed, several not only maintained their current contributions, but also provided added support by contributing towards amounts they could not pay from previous years. Whether this is indeed a result of improved communication and understanding or not, it is encouraging that we are all speaking the same language when it comes to our shared focus on ministry in the diocese and beyond.

*Irene Adams is the diocesan treasurer.*



HEATHER MILLER PHOTO

St. Michael and All Angels in the town of Worawora, Ghana

## Getting to know Ho

BY HEATHER MILLER

The Diocese of Fredericton has had a companion relationship with the Diocese of Ho in Ghana, West Africa, since 2007. This means the two dioceses support and pray for each other, form relationships and even visit.

This is the first in a series of articles about the various churches and parishes within Ho. I have visited five of the eight parishes in Ho. The three not visited were in another country, Togo, that I did not have a visa to enter. Togo has a large Ewe population (Ewe is the major cultural group in the Diocese of Ho) and therefore was made part of the Ho diocese.

The first church I will introduce you to is St. Michael of All Angels. This parish is paired with the Moncton Archdeaconry. Being paired with a parish means we pray for them as well as Bishop Matthias and the Diocese of Ho.

St. Michael and All Angels is located on a little hillside in the town of Worawora, Ghana. The church is 80 years old and is situated next to a compound where the mission house (rectory), a school and a corn mill are found.

Worawora is a town of approximately 25,000 people about 80 kilometres north of Ho. It is on the shoreline of the Volta River so fishing is one of the local industries. Corn, cassava and cocoa trees are important crops. Many people in the town work in the service industry.

The priest at St. Michael's is the Rev. Father Richardson Justice Macarphuy. He is also responsible for the subparish of St. Luke's in Hoho and the subparish of St. Paul's in Jasikan. (A subparish is a parish without a church building, usually meeting in schools.)

Rev. Macarphuy also oversees an outstation in Tokoroano.

## Walk with the bishop this spring

BY CHERYL JACOBS

This spring, Bishop David will start what he hopes will be an annual event in the diocese — a walking pilgrimage across an archdeaconry.

For this year he has chosen the Archdeaconry of St. Andrews.

On May 31, following a confirmation service in the Parish of the Nerepis and St. John, David will begin walking, passing through parishes in west St. John and Charlotte counties, arriving in McAdam two weeks later.

He will even visit the island parishes, though he does not plan to walk on water, but make use of ferry and sailboat.

Why is he doing this? In his words, "because it is important for the bishop to be seen in the diocese and to visit and pray in different parts of it; and it gives me an opportunity to slow down."

Want to join the bishop? There will be many opportunities to participate with David in this endeavour.

Plan to walk with him for a day, a week, or two. Bring some

friends to say hello along the way. Be part of a local parish hosting team or the chase team. Or sign up to support him in prayer.

More details will follow in the next edition of the New Brunswick Anglican and on the diocesan website, including a route guide and directions for those who wish to walk with Bishop David.

In the meantime, you can pray for David's preparation and training, and that of the parishes he will visit.

## Creation *does* matter: share your love for a healthier planet

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

How do you care for creation? Do you take an active interest in trying to better our physical world?

The diocesan Stewardship Team is on the hunt for just the right people to form an environmental group within the diocese.

"We're looking for people who are water and energy conscious, care about our energy footprint, involved in community gardens, social enterprises, care and appreciate creation and the environment we live in," said Archdeacon Cathy Laskey, who is spearheading the effort.

"Would you like to see your parish and other parishes seek to have less impact on the environment?"

At the 2010 General Synod, a resolution was passed to take a more active interest in the Fifth Mark of Mission — **To strive**

**to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.**

Specifically, it calls for the dioceses to establish and support Creation Matters local groups.

"The hope is to have a group of people already passionate about creation care to come together to consider how we can establish a diocesan Creation Matters initiative," said Cathy. "This may be as simple as sharing ideas, not necessarily meeting."

Eventually the diocese will need a representative on the Creation Matters Working Group of the Anglican Church of Canada. Cathy anticipates that person will come from the new group.

Interested people should contact Cathy via telephone (459-1801, extension 224) or email (cathy.laskey@anglican.nb.ca).

The Mabel C. Dean Memorial Bursary is awarded to assist in the post-secondary education of children of clergy in good standing in the Diocese of Fredericton. Applications are available on the diocesan website (anglican.nb.ca) under resources/financial assistance. Deadline is March 31.

**Audrey Straight** of Trinity Church in Saint John received a certificate of recognition and a personal letter of commendation from Sharron Callahan, chief commissioner of the Girl Guides of Canada to acknowledge 75 years of dedicated service to Guiding in Canada. Congratulations, Audrey.

The Diocese of Fredericton extends heartfelt condolences to the family of the **Rev. Don Routledge**, who died Jan. 13. He leaves to mourn his wife, Charlene, and their three daughters, Stephanie, Jennifer and Seana. The funeral was held Jan. 16 from St. George's church in Moncton.

# Jars of Clay keeps it simple 20 years on

Note: Over the next few months, this column features a series called *The Songwriters*, focussing on musicians known for their depth of lyric-writing and meaning they put into their songs. This month, we feature 42-year-old Andrew Peterson, who already has a career-and-a-half's worth of experience behind him!



Like many groups, Jars of Clay has released its share of greatest hits compilations. 2008's "Greatest Hits" release was a collection of the group's most popular and chart-successful songs.

Jars is one of a relatively small number of groups to transcend the Christian market into the mainstream market; the hit, "Flood" was a popular post-grunge song on radio stations of all kinds. Many listeners will know songs such as "Crazy Times," "Worlds Apart," "Work," "Love Song For a Saviour," and many more.

But this is not all the band is. As such a close group of people who are friends, mentors, and band mates, they have come to a sense of greater purpose in their music.

While they do not wear their



faith on their sleeve, it certainly speaks through their music.

Dan Hastletine, lead vocalist, says they don't write songs about faith, but because of their faith. "The words 'Christian band' are almost non-descriptive," he explains. "It can mean everything from Bono [lead singer of the band U2] to a televangelist. They have so much baggage..."

Due to marketing pressures thrust upon it by its music label, Jars of Clay formed its own label, Gray Matters, in 2009, and has never looked back. The members make the kind of music they feel they are supposed to make, stripped of expectation, formula and sense of packaging.

"20," celebrating their 20th

anniversary as a band, is their most recent compilation, wherein the fans of the band got to choose 18 of the 20 tracks, or two from each of their 10 studio albums.

These songs were given new acoustic treatment for the record, but it was not a casual affair, (as so many acoustic albums are) as if they simply turned on a microphone at a coffee shop. The new recordings came along with new arrangements, orchestral elements, and guest musicians.

Because the songs were picked by fans, the record represents the songs fans most connect with, and the disc is therefore a little more introspective in nature. But what a treasure trove it is. The lyrics get the kind of spotlight they deserve, and you will be pondering them for days after hearing them.

Most recently, in 2014, the band released its latest studio album, "Inland." It is described as a journey of renewed discovery, and appreciation for the people God made us each to be, for ourselves and for each other.

You will not find a "hand-clapping for Jesus" song on this

album, nor will you find other stereotypical clichés either. You will find songs that sing of the importance of real community, songs that speak of loving one's neighbour, songs that regret the mistakes of young love and more.

Provocative lyrics are found throughout, such as these from "Human Race:" "Our jeans have become complicated / The promise of love is downgraded / Faith in available excess / Proof we were destined to care less / It's life on the wrong side of rapture / Dismiss what we can't manufacture..."

Jars of Clay has never coasted. Every album is something new, with something a little different to listen to and think about. In all that they sing, God speaks, it seems. They are one of the most honest bands out there, and this honesty has paid off in the close connections their fans feel they have with the band.

How refreshing to hear in a world that packages so much.

*Rev. Chris Hayes is a musician as well as a priest serving in the Parish of Salisbury and Havelock.*



This month we launch a new element in the New Brunswick Anglican called Testify. It's your chance to share what God has done in your life — an amazing miracle or an everyday event that had God written all over it. It doesn't have to be long, in fact, it shouldn't be more than 250 words. Send them in and they'll appear, with you name and parish, right in this spot.

This won't work without your help, so don't be shy.

Sharing our awesome God's works and wonders is a wonderful way to inspire and uplift others. Send via email: [gmcknight@diofton.ca](mailto:gmcknight@diofton.ca) or via post: Gisele McKnight, 115 Church St., Fredericton E3B 4C8. Here's my example, to kick things off:

A few years ago I was in Vancouver at a newspaper conference. On the night before I was to fly home, the news was announced that Air Canada pilots were about to go on strike.

I was immediately sick with worry — so sick that I left the

festivities and went straight up to my hotel room. I had to work this out, but what was I going to do?

How would I get home? How long could I stay in the hotel? Who would pay? Should I try to get to some of my relatives a few hundred miles away? Should I alert them? Should I call my husband?

I am embarrassed to say I spent about 15 minutes in a panic, going over all the options I could think of. And then it hit me — this is not my problem. This is a problem for God. He's got my back. He can work this out. He will, above all else, take care of me.

The relief was instantaneous, and I prayed with great gusto, but I was so ashamed that it took me 15 minutes to literally remember I am a Christian and I am never alone, never abandoned.

It turned out there was no strike, and I flew home in the morning none the worse for wear, but with a good lesson in my heart: God is always there for me. I never need to be afraid.



*Kara Ann Thompson de Mejia, priest and rector of Saint Peter's by the sea in the diocese of Honduras*

*Favourite book of the Bible – Jeremiah Birthplace – St. Quentin, N.B.*

*What you love most about God – Sending his son to die for us, not because we are unworthy, but because we are worthy. He could not conceive of the idea of being separated from us. He loves us so much!*

*Farthest you've been from home – Asia: Indonesia, Philippines, China*

*Favourite meal or dessert – Cheesecake*

*Biggest fear – Not being in the centre of God's will*

*Hidden talent – I have recently discovered a passion for inner healing. God wants us whole, but because of past hurts we are unable to arrive at our full potential of what he has in store for us.*

# Second debut

## Tiny St. Peter's in Wickham has a will to live

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

They do things a little differently at St. Peter's church in Wickham.

Quincy, a pointer-Bernese mountain dog mix, is kept company by a couple of other dogs during the Sunday morning service.

Joining them are six or eight people on a usual day. That's up from two a few years ago. There were 10 there on a recent Sunday morning.

Layreader Pam McKay does the Morning Prayer, and her husband, Gary reads a sermon that's been emailed to him by the Rev. Chris VanBuskirk in Moncton.

There is no music, so they sing their favourite hymns a cappella, and yes, they take requests from the floor.

Most Sundays, there is no offering taken up. A prayer for a sick community member can turn into a 15-minute conversation.

And after a scripture is read, "we often stop and talk about it. And the Lord always has somebody there who can explain it," said Cathy Upshall.

This is church in Wickham, and that handful of people is making it work.

While other near-empty churches in the diocese and across Canada are facing financial challenges and closure, St. Peter's has a claim to fame no doubt envied by many: it has no debt. In fact, it has money in the bank.

"For all the little churches — and there's a lot of them — this is a possible model," said Chris.

### The money mystery

Gary McKay is what some describe as the backbone of the church. Retired from a career in transportation, he maintains it, gets the stove going on Sunday mornings and acts as its treasurer.

He says the church is financially sound for two reasons: "We heat with wood, and the wood is donated, and we don't have water. Water needs power."

The electricity bill is \$15 in

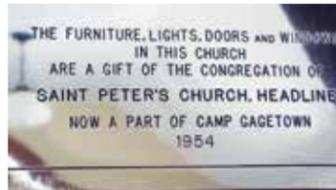


SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Top: St Peter's in Wickham after the ramp was built last summer.**

**Left: This plaque inside reminds us of the origins of the little church**

**Right: Gary McKay and Quincy inside St. Peter's.**



GISELE MCKNIGHT PHOTO

the summer, and \$40 in the winter, when they use some baseboard heaters. They align themselves with the Church of Nerepis in Grand-Bay for insurance purposes, one of their few bills.

Eight years ago, when Pam McKay came back home with her husband, Gary, they went to church to, as Gary said, meet their neighbours and find out what was going on in the community.

They found three people at church — Chris, Mary Robinson and Bertha Jackson. Chris was there once a month to do Holy Communion.

The women were overjoyed to have their congregation double. Soon after, Gary and Pam took over the church finances and others began to attend.

The church's sound finances are something of a mystery to its tiny congregation. People hand over money on a regular basis — and not just parishioners.

At Bishop David Edwards's visit last fall, there were about 25 people in attendance and \$500 in the offering plate. When the new roof was being installed, a man came to the site, had a chat, and returned with \$200. "I like what you're doing," he told Gary.

During the beginning of 2014, St. Peter's had about \$2,000 in the bank, donated about \$3,000 throughout the year, and still has \$3,000.

"Every year we fill a stable at Christmas for World Vision," said Cathy. "We give a lot of money away, but for the life of me I don't know where it comes from."

Donations include support for the local volunteer fire department, and recently, a \$500 cheque to a couple who were destitute as the husband's terminal illness impacted the household.

Cathy told her fellow parishioners about their plight. "What a joy! Nobody said, 'oh, let's think about this.'"

"There's a giving attitude," said Cathy. "The Lord just keeps providing — there's not that many of us!"

It's clear God is blessing this little church.

"What we receive is more than what these people are giving," said Gary.

### First bride

Bertha Jackson has watched her little church grow and change for its entire 60-year history. She was the church's first bride in 1956 and these days she's there every Sunday.

"If I missed church it didn't make any difference, but now I just can't miss it," she said. "Some Sundays it was just Chris, Mary and me."

She admits to being leery at one point about her church's future, "but everything came together. It's just wonderful. I love that church so much. We all do."

Years ago, it was Canon Buckland who had a soft spot for the little church. Posted in Gagetown, he came to Wickham as often as possible to



GISELE MCKNIGHT PHOTO

conduct services.

"He drove in all kinds of weather, and even across the ice (of the St. John River)," she said. Now it's Chris who has filled those shoes.

### Payment in pickles, jams

It's clear the parishioners have a soft spot for their part-time, unofficial pastor.

"We love Chris," said Cathy. "I don't know why he loves us so, but he does. We can't even give him any gas money. If we do, it mysteriously reappears as a donation."

They often pay him in homemade pickles and jams.

Chris became involved because of his family's cottage in Wickham. After several churches closed in the area in the early 2000s, St. Peter's managed to carry on monthly with Chris doing Holy Communion.

After Gary and Pam became involved, a few more people started coming and the congregation took over the other Sundays. Even Chris's father, Cecil, comes up every couple of months to help out.

### Upgrades

The church wasn't so much built as cobbled together in 1954, literally from pieces of St. Peter's in Headline, a community lost during the construction of CFB Gagetown. The new St. Peter's got the furniture, lights, doors and windows.

But the church had been growing derelict in the past decade, and parishioners decided on some upgrades. They have the new roof, a new chimney, new electrical panel, had the

beautiful historic doors renewed (by Gary), were given a bell from the church in Public Landing — the only bell in the community — and built a wheelchair ramp to accommodate the mother of the bride at last year's wedding.

Gary sought help from his brother, and with donations, they built the ramp for just over \$1,700. But a \$1,700 ramp for one person might be judged extravagant.

"Well, I'm not getting any younger, and neither is anyone else," said Gary, who views it as an investment.

### A church in action

So why do a handful of people pour their hearts and souls into a church that will probably never be full, and never have a full-time pastor?

"I care about this place and I care about the people," said Gary. "This is a very intimate, caring place for the congregation and the community."

For Cathy, it's simple: "You feel you're part of a family that cares."

And for Chris, "It's really about the people there. It's the church in action."

St. Peter's will never be a church filled to overflowing every Sunday morning. There just aren't enough people in the community, particularly in winter. So it's unlikely it will ever need an expansion, or even a priest. But for now, it's thriving in its own way, bringing a tiny community together, making do with what it has and generously donating to the needy.

"It's completely a mission church," said Chris.